

Thursday 19th October 2022

Highfield Newsletter

A message from the Head of School

Dear Parents,

Firstly a warm welcome to all of our new families who have joined us either as your child has started Reception or from further afield.

We have had a very busy start to the new academic year. Our children have settled back well into school life and have had a very productive and enjoyable half term at Highfield. In school parent workshops have returned and it has been a pleasure to welcome so many of you to support your children in the workshops that have happened for Y2, Y3 and Y5 this half term. Please look out for correspondence about your child's up and coming workshops this half term in Reception, Year 1 and Nurture Group

Attendance continues to improve, which is great, but we do still need to make sure that all children are coming to school on time and every day.

A reminder that we break up this Friday the 21st October for a week. Have a wonderful half term break—see you all again on Tuesday 1st November.

Best wishes,

M Knibbs

NUT ALLERGIES We are aware that some pupils have come into school recently with snacks/packed lunches that contain nuts or nut products. Please can we remind all parents that we are a nut free school and so **we do not allow** any nuts or nut based food items on site.

Y7 Secondary Applications A reminder to the parents of all Y6 parents that the deadline for secondary school applications is the 31st October. If you have not yet made your application, please see a member of SLT who will be more than happy to support you with this.

WANTED - Reading Volunteers!!

Can you spare a few hours a week to become a reading helper at our school?

We are working with a charity called Coram Beanstalk to recruit and train volunteer reading helpers who can commit to an afternoon or two a week to come in to school. As a reading helper you will support at least 3 children on a one to one basis outside of the classroom environment. You will be sharing and talking about books, helping them to grow in confidence and develop a lifelong love of reading.



For more information or if you wish to apply, visit the website at www.corambeanstalk.org.uk or call 0207 729 4087.



SEN Coffee Morning



We are holding an informal coffee morning for the parents of our SEN pupils so we can have a chat and listen to your views about the SEN information we provide for you. We would like to use your feedback to make it even better. Translators will be available, so please come as it would be lovely to see you all on Wednesday 16th November at 9am.

Reception

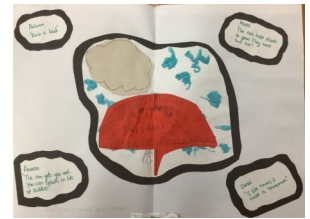


The children have settled very quickly into reception. They are beginning to build excellent relationships with the adults and becoming independent learners within the environment. In Maths, the children are beginning to say numbers in order. They are beginning to count the correct number of objects and compare amounts using 'lots', 'more' or 'same'. For Writing, the children have been writing for different purposes. These have included labelling, writing a shopping list and also name writing. The children are beginning to use their knowledge of phonics to identify initial sounds in words as well as giving meaning to the marks they make. For Understanding of the World, the children have developed their understanding of past and present. The children have identified similarities and differences between life as a baby and life today. For Expressive Arts, the children have developed their drawing skills using different tools. They have used chalk, crayons, chalk and pastels to create lines and shapes. Using the skills they have learnt, the children created a self portrait. The staff are pleased with the independent learning that takes place and the communication and language developments with the classroom. We look forward to seeing the progress the children make throughout the year!



Year One

Year One have settled in really well and we can not believe that the first half term is almost over! Staff have been really pleased with how the children have started this new year and all the hard work that the children have shown. This half term, the children have enjoyed the story 'Naughty Bus' and creating their own naughty vehicle. The children have learnt about the four seasons and have created beautiful art pieces based on different weather types. It has been lovely to see the children explore their creative side. In addition, the children have been able to explore different chopping techniques in our DT lessons. They have explored different vegetables and had the chance to design and created their own vegetable pasties using various tools. The children have worked extremely hard this half term and we look forward to the fun and adventures of next half term. We would like to also thank you for your support.



Year Two



This half term year 2 have enjoyed learning about Samuel Pepys and the Great fire of London. They began by creating the Tudor houses from the past using cardboard boxes and paint. They then mixed paints to paint their own fires in Art, using different skills such as mixing tones and shades. In Writing we have been looking at writing instructions on how to make bread. The children have enjoyed making their own bread and then written about these using skills such as conjunctions and sequence words in their writing. In Maths the children have been looking at place value and securing their knowledge in this and have also begun looking at column methods. We look forward to next half term and moving onto new areas of learning.

Year Three

Year 3 have settled well into their new classes. They have been enjoying learning about the Stone Age across all subjects. In Writing, we have been using different skills of fronted adverbials and conjunctions to retell the story of 'The Stone Age Boy'. In Reading, we have been practicing retrieval skills and in Maths we have been looking at securing their place value knowledge. Throughout Science and Geography, we have explored where rocks have come from and experimenting in making rocks. We have been using clay to create Stone Age sculptures replicating Andy Goldsworthy. We are super excited for our trip to the cinema next term.

Nurture Group

Nurture have settled well into their new environment and activities within the class. We have been learning all about Minibeasts. We have looked at where they live and have been on a minibeast hunt around school. In Writing, we have looked at a different book each week about a different minibeast and have been writing about the story. We have started doing Forest Schools on a Friday, we do Yoga outside and then read a story about nature in the wooden hut. We have done a sensory hunt, where we closed our eyes and thought carefully about what we could see, feel, hear, smell and taste. We have also started a recycling project across school which is linked to our PSHE and Values. We are learning about respecting our environment. Each Friday we collect paper from each class and put this in a special bin ready to be recycled.

Year four

We have had a fantastic start to the term. Children have been excited with all the learning and activities that is taking place in year 4.

Children have immersed into learning our new topic 'The Romans'. We are looking at who Romans are and where they came from. Children used atlases and maps to locate continents, specifically Europe. Children then identified Italy (Rome) and compared Rome to London. We looked at aqueducts and how it improved the lives of Romans.

In Art, we are looking at the famous renaissance artist 'Leonardo Da Vinci'. We are exploring his style of art particularly looking at tone and tint. Children will create a picture in his style. For our class text we are reading 'Romans on the Rampage'. Children are really enjoying using the text both in reading and writing. Children are learning about place value including rounding numbers, comparing and ordering as well as negative numbers. In Science, we are learning about 'Teeth'. We carried out experiment to learn about tooth decay and which liquid causes tooth decay.

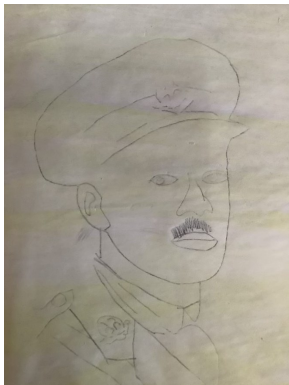
In June, all children will be expected to take times table test. There will be 25 questions and children will have 6 seconds to answer. As a year group, we are doing everything we can do to teach and increase their knowledge of timetables. Please can you ensure that your children are learning them at home.

Year five

This term, the topic in Year 5 has been Vikings. In Geography children have been doing lots of work on the Viking homelands and their settlements. This includes comparing different types of maps. In Science, they have learnt about space and the different planets in our solar system. In Writing, children have been learning about the features of a film narrative and myths and legends where they have been taught the skills of descriptive writing, writing to create different moods, using short sentences to create suspense and using speech punctuation accurately. In Maths, children have learnt about place value, negative numbers and rounding. In Reading, children have learnt how to retrieve information from the text to answer questions and how to infer feelings and thoughts from different images and texts. In DT, children have made some great Viking longships with moving oars using a cam mechanism, which they have built themselves also. In Year 5, children learn how to speak Mandarin. This was a great success last year and we have continued with it this year again. In Music children have learnt how to create different rhythms using glockenspiels in sync with the music.



Year Six



The children have settled into their target groups for Year 6 extremely well. This term, our topic is World War II. In history, we have been learning about Axis and Allied Powers as well as how children were evacuated. In Literacy, our class book is Goodnight Mister Tom, which has inspired us to write a diary entry showing the thoughts and feelings of one of the characters in the book using powerful description and emotive language. Our Reading lessons have also been based on the class book and we have been using this text to answer retrieval questions. In our Math's lessons, we have been looking at place value, negative numbers and addition and subtraction of numbers up to seven digits. The Science topic for this half term is Light and we have carried out lots of investigations into how light travels and learning about reflection using mirrors. In our Art lessons we



have been learning about the artist Eric Kennington, who is known for his paintings of soldiers during World War I. We have learned about his life and how he used tone and colour to create a mood then we applied this to our own work.