

Highnam C of E Primary Academy



@HIGHNAMACADEMY

CHILDREN WITH CONFIDENCE

1ST FEBRUARY 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have had an exciting and thoroughly enjoyable January at school. The pupils have been cooking, dancing, exploring, building bridges and diving into their new topics which include China, Pirates, Morphing Materials, Creative Construction and Eco-Warriors. We are all looking forward to Reception's first Collective Worship in a couple of weeks time.

Learning in the Great Outdoors

This month I had a great time with some Year 2 pupils on a Welly Wednesday afternoon. The pupils were busy creating a natural tree collage and exploring the wild area.

The pupils collaborated well during the lesson and made some not so tasty mud pies! My thanks to Mrs Hayes for taking the session with the pupils. It was lovely to see the increased sense of excitement when learning outside.

"I enjoyed exploring the bug hotel," commented Chloe.

"The best bit for me was decorating the tree collage with grass and leaves," said William.

Exploring during Welly Wednesday!



Thank You to our helpers

It is wonderful to see the large numbers of helpers around the school on a regular basis. The staff and I would like to thank parents and friends of the Academy who give their time so freely to support the teachers and pupils. Your help is very much appreciated.

If you are able to help out for an hour or so in school please see your child's class teacher.

Highnam Academy APP

The Highnam Academy APP is now available to download. This is available for Android and Apple devices. Please search in the APP store for Webanywhere Ltd and find Highnam Academy (towards the bottom of the list of schools). Communication is important to us and we will be developing the use of the APP over the coming month. Currently, newsletters, the school diary and latest news will be available along with a few of the latest photo galleries. Please feel free to pass on feedback as we are constantly working with developers to improve the end user experience.



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New Kitchen Room Ready for Action

We are nearly ready to open our new Kitchen area and Key Stage 1 library space. We are very grateful to the work of the PTA in supporting this new learning space for pupils. The name of the new room will be 'The Hub' although this will be hard to remember as it is known to many as the 'Old Year 2 Classroom.' Reception pupils have already been baking tasty fortune cookies in there and Miss Coldrick is also getting used to her new desk space. Lego workshops, booster sessions and meetings will also take place in the room so it undoubtedly becomes a very multi functional room.



Kiri, Freddie and Jessica enjoying their cookies

This year **Safer Internet Day** will be celebrated globally on Tuesday 7th February. The theme this year is 'Be the change: Unite for a better internet.' Last month Years 5 and 6 had a special internet workshop with PC Peters to raise awareness of internet safety.

Next month Year 4 pupils will be hosting the 'In the Net' theatre show which also focuses on staying safe online.



SAVE the DATE
Safer Internet Day
2017 | Tuesday
 7 February
www.saferinternetday.org



'Unite for a better internet'

Attendance Update

85 pupils had 100% attendance for the Autumn Term — well done to all those pupils. Please can I remind parents of the government expectations of **90% and above** introduced in the last academic year as a small number of pupils are just below or very close to this figure.



House Update

This term pupils are preparing for house music. We look forward to hearing all the pupils in each house contribute to the music spectacular. Currently, Oakridge are leading the house point overall leader board with 2471 but there is still time for the other houses to catch up!

It has been a privilege to hand out so many Headteacher Awards and Housepoint Cards. There are three awards: 50 house points = the bronze award; 100 house points = the silver award; and 200 house points = the gold award.

Girls win GPSFA Indoor Tournament

The league football fixtures have come to an end but the cup competitions are keeping us very busy. This year we have A and B team fixtures and indoor and outdoor cup matches for the girls.

Last week the girls got us off to a great start by winning the GPSFA indoor tournament at GL1. The team won through the group stage on Tuesday evening and won the finals night on Friday with a convincing 3-0 victory over Elmbridge School. This week saw them crowned champions of the Forest of Dean. Well done to Mrs Townsend and the girls.



Well done Freya, Fran, Felicity, Alice, Amber Sienna and Alice

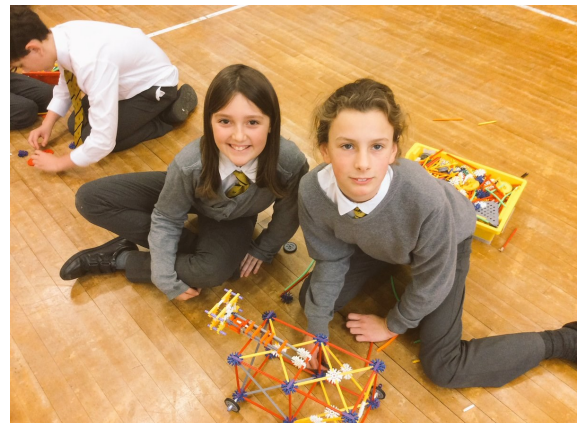
K'Nex Challenge

Well done to Megan and Ruth for winning the school K'Nex challenge. They will go on to represent the Academy in a County K'Nex construction challenge in March.

Accelerated Reader In Key Stage Two

It is fantastic to see the renewed enthusiasm sweeping through the Year 5/6 classrooms following the introduction of this new programme. Pupils will read a book and then take a quiz in school. Further information is available under the parents link on the school website.

Pupils in Years 3 and 4 will have the opportunity to read their first Accelerated Reader book later after half term. Please can I take this opportunity to remind parents of the importance of reading at night. Twenty minutes most evenings makes a real difference. Thank you for your support.



Open Classrooms

A reminder that Open Classrooms will take place for this term on **Wednesday 8th February** between 3:20-4pm.



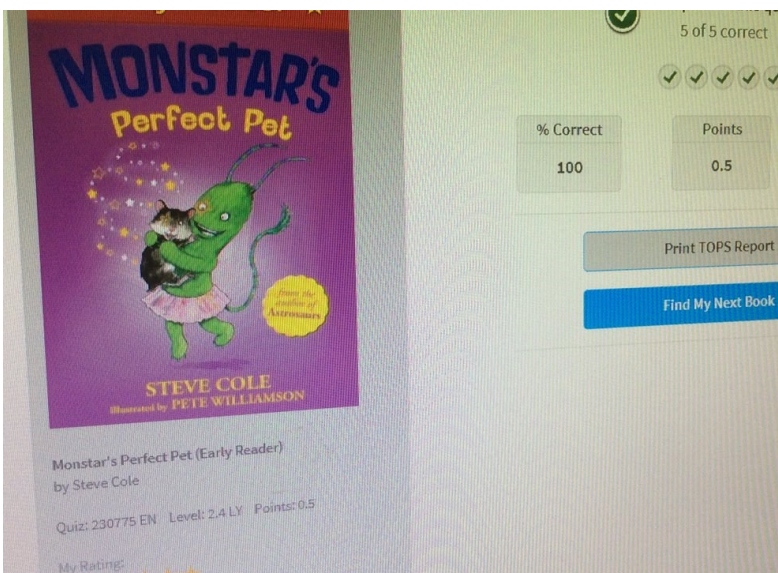
Question of the Month

Why do we need eyebrows?

There were lots of answers this month. Thank you to all the pupils who took part. Jasmine in Year 2 wrote: 'We have eyebrows to stop water from getting in our eyes like sweat and rain.' Other answers spoke about the importance of eyebrows in non-verbal communication — good answers!

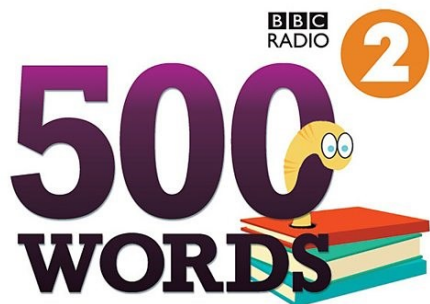
The new question for February is:

Why do we have pancake day?



500 words

Pupils have been working hard to produce a story in just 500 words. A number of classes watched the BBC Live Lesson to help inspire their story ideas. I am looking forward to reading the stories once they are all completed.



Bench of Honour — January:

A big thank you to the pupils who have been keeping the school smart and tidy, supporting our new pupils and putting other pupils' first.

On the bench this month were:

Megan, Fran and Freya in Year 6

Megan and Hattie in Year 4

Harrison, Jay, Jessica, Oliver, Gethin and Dylan in Year 3

John, Oliver and Olivia in Year 2

T.E.A.M.S

This year for our whole school project we are going to be hosting a **T**echnology, **E**ngineering, **A**rt, **M**aths and **S**cience Week. This will take place between Monday 22nd May and Friday 26th May. More information to follow over the next few months.

Primary QuEST Cathedral Special

Please see the letter attached outlining the initial plans for Friday 17th March 2017.

Henson the Pig Competition

Congratulations to Rebecca in Year 6 who was chosen as the Highnam entry for the Gloucester Citizen Henson Pig Competition. The Gloucester Old Spot Trail is being prepared for the Three Counties Show this Summer. Well done to all pupils who designed a pig.



PTA Update

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 22nd March at 8pm — please see a member of the PTA for further details.

Quiz Night

The quiz night will be held this Friday. Doors open at 7:30pm for an 8pm start. There will be a licensed bar and snacks on tables. Please come along and join us. The price per ticket is £2.50 per head. Please book your team in with Mrs Honan today!

Can you beat the teachers?

Term 3 ends at the normal time on Friday 10th February.

Term 4 begins for pupils on **Monday 20th February.**

And finally, we are collecting Sainsbury's vouchers and will be stocking the new Hub room with the token received.

Kind regards,

Stephen Dean, Headteacher