

Highnam C of E Primary Academy



@HIGHNAMACADEMY

CHILDREN WITH CONFIDENCE

3RD APRIL 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

March has been an incredible month. So many great learning opportunities and some amazing successes for the school: winners of the Science and Engineering Challenge, winners of the GPSFA football cup competition, winners of the Large School Swimming Gala, iSingPOP Cathedral Project, Talent Show, Big Pedal, Theatre Shows, House Music, House Art, Gloucester Old Spot Art winner, Skillzone visit, squash training, film making, county and national cross country runners and an inspiring visit from Dr Tom Robson. This is an action-packed Newsletter - have a good read over the Easter holidays!

Primary QuEST Cathedral Special

Well done to the pupils of Highnam Academy for their excellent performance at the iSingPOP concert. It was a fabulous experience to sing in Gloucester Cathedral alongside pupils from Redmarley and Staunton and Corse Academies. Throughout the day the pupils listened well and sang with such enthusiasm and passion. It was lovely to see pupils from Reception to Year 6 enjoying the experience and to see the great audience participation as well! My thanks to all staff who were present on the night and supported the pupils behind the scenes. Finally, thank you to the iSingPOP team for their support during the week — it was a wonderful evening.



Behind the scenes at Gloucester Cathedral... Jasmine, Chloe, Ffion and Ria enjoying spending time together. The performance - a fabulous experience to sing new songs together in an old, magnificent building.

Highnam Win Large Schools Swimming Gala

Well done to the pupils who represented the Academy at the large schools' final last week. A special mention to the individual winners who go through to the grand final in May. Congratulations to: Nathan B, Joseph, Sam, Megan, Alana, Eleanor, Martha and Hannah. A number of relay teams also qualified so well done to those swimmers as well. The final result saw Highnam overall winners with 595 points.

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Gloucestershire Online Survey

Every other year Highnam pupils contribute to the Gloucestershire Online Pupil Survey which has been running for a number of years.

Here are some of the headlines received:

Highnam pupils are significantly more cheerful at school according to the 2016 survey compared to the rest of the County. Having happy pupils is one of our aims and we are pleased to see this reflected in the results.

Highnam pupils are more confident about the future and are more interested in trying new things compared to the rest of the County's pupils.

All pupils questioned have at least one good friend with 90% saying they have 2 or more good friends.

The only 'below County' response in the summary was around whether pupils wash their hands before eating. We will continue to encourage this and your help is appreciated.

Big Pedal update

Thank you to all the pupils, siblings, parents and grandparents who have been riding their bikes and scooters to school over the past fortnight. We had a great Bikers' Breakfast (sponsored by CaterCater) to start the Big Pedal off and finished with the Be Bright, Be Seen day on Friday. Highnam finished in 21st place overall. Feel free to continue to ride and scoot to school now the weather has improved.



Yum, Yum. Thank you Cater Cater for our breakfast!



Head Lice

Last week we had a reported case of head lice in school. Please check your child regularly so we can eliminate these unwelcome visitors.

Messy March

Our thanks to Reverend Helen and her team for hosting our recent Messy March after school club. Those present were learning about being good friends and used the story of the four determined friends who carried their friend to see Jesus.

The next two Messy Church dates are:

Monday 22nd May and Thursday 6th July.



Eliana and some of the great artwork

The Science and Engineering Challenge

On Saturday 25th March 2017, me and my fellow classmates, Evan, Caleb and Ollie had an amazing opportunity to represent Highnam Academy at the science and engineering competition at the King's School. Our engineering challenge was to make a marble roll down a wooden board in the slowest time possible. We had lots of resources to use like paper, dowels, Blu Tack and pipes. After a lot of discussion, we settled on using paper straws. We put them at such an angle that the ball was very slow, but, still, it was too fast. Quick, we had to think. Maybe we could use speed bumps? We searched all of our resources for something that would work and finally we tested Blu Tack and it worked! We then combined all of our ideas to make one awesome track. We had 15 minutes left, time to get timing. Our best time ended up as 17 seconds. We nervously sat down for the places 3rd...2nd...and for 1st our schools' name got called out. My entire body went into sweat mode, apparently we were first by about 8 seconds!

It was a fantastic day and I hope this inspires all of you young engineers out there to give it a try!

Written by Tom B in Year 6

House Art Winners

Thank you to all the pupils who entered the House Superheroes Art competition. The winning entries were selected by the house captains and Mrs Hazelden and will be on show on the Wall of Fame soon. Wetherleigh house was the overall winner.



Well done to Libby, Tatiana, Ruth, Josh, Elsie, Noah, Daisy and Freddie.



Ollie, Tom, Caleb and Evan with their winning medals and the trophy.

Thank you to Miss Spry, Miss Read and Miss Owen who supported the team on the day.

Highnam Has Talent

Last Friday, pupils contributed to the bi-annual talent show in aid of Comic Relief. It was fantastic to see the wide variety of talents on show from pupils in Reception all the way through to Year 6. From tap dancers to magic tricks, from musical instruments to roller skating dancers. Thank you to all the pupils who shared their talents. In total, the school raised £187.63 for Comic Relief.



Seb from Year 2 started off the Talent Show

Gloucestershire Wildlife Quiz

Well done to Duncan, Joseph, Zoe and Calum who won the first round of the Wildlife Quiz vs Deerhurst and Apperley School. Today they beat Twynning School and are now through to the semi-finals.

Pupils run in County Cross Country Race

Well done to Martha and Nathan B who represented the Forest of Dean in the County Cross Country race on the 11th March. Both qualified to represent the County but unfortunately Martha being in Year 4 was too young. Nathan took part in the National race finishing 121st. A superb effort on a very hilly and muddy course.



Nathan Competing in the Nationals

Key Stage Two SATs Week

Pupils in Year 6 will be taking their SATs during the week beginning 8th May. Please avoid making appointments for eye tests, dental checks etc. that week.

Visit from Dr Tom Robson - The Gems Project

Last Monday we had a visit from world-renowned education specialist and OFSTED inspector Dr Tom Robson. He spent time working with each class and led a staff twilight after school. After his time with us he couldn't help but mention how 'amazing' he felt the school was and commented on the positive atmosphere and dedicated staff. In his words 'I would love to be a pupil in this school'. Thank you pupils and staff - a wonderful endorsement of your daily efforts. During the day he supported our Growth Mindset project which began at the start of the year and spoke to the pupils about being good learners and that 'practice makes progress'. Further information is available on his website <http://www.tredu.co.uk/the-gem-project/> and we look forward to developing this further over the next few years.



Highnam Girls Football Team

Girls' Netball Results

Well done to the netball team for performing well during the netball season. They have now completed the league matches and finished in 3rd place. Thank you to Miss Spry for running the netball club this year.

Cup Final Success for Girls' Football Team

On Friday 24th March Highnam played Upton St. Leonards in the Gloucester Schools' Cup Final. The girls won the match 3-2 with two goals from Felicity and one from Sienna. The team have had a superb season winning three trophies and were County Finalists. My thanks to Mrs Townsend and the fabulous parent support for the team.

Maidenhall Win House Music Competition

Earlier in the month we held one of the most eagerly anticipated house events. We welcomed Mrs Humble, Mrs Smith and Mr Slinger to assist with the judging of the competition alongside Mrs House.

This year there were 5 parts to the competition: Individual song, individual instrumental, Key Stage 1 group, Key Stage 2 group and whole house performance. Following some superb individual performances came the whole house song. This year the song choices were: I'm on top of the world, You've got a friend in me, Let's twist again and You can count on me.

It was a memorable event and the final results were extremely close. Lassington were in 4th place, Oakridge 3rd, Wetherleigh 2nd and this year Maidenhall won overall.

Well done to every pupil in the school for contributing to such an enjoyable event.

Easter Services

We will be holding two Easter Services on Friday 7th April. Parents are welcome to join us. The Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 Collective Worship will be led by Reverend Helen at 9am.

The Key Stage Two Collective Worship will be held at 2:45pm and will be led by the Worship Council.

Feel free to come along and join us for these special services.



William playing the Bugle Horn and the KS2 Wetherleigh group

School Trips

Year 2 had a lovely afternoon at Gloucester Cathedral recently and Year 5 have visited Hartpury College for an outdoor learning morning and Skillzone. Year 1 are looking forward to their trip to All Things Wild this week.



Bench of Honour — March:

It has been wonderful to see so many pupils demonstrating positive character traits. On the bench this month were:

Zariah and Emily in Year 1, Daniel in Year 5 and Megan, Taran and Jack H in Year 6.

PTA — We Need Your Help!

The PTA have organised a number of great events this year and we thank them all for their planning and dedication to the role. We will be losing a number of the team at the end of this year and need new people willing to help the school in this way. The PTA raise around £5,000 each year which we rely on for new books and school improvements such as the much used Hub Room. Please see me if you could help out next year.

PTA Lido Event

Last year this was a great event and the PTA is hosting it once again at Cheltenham Lido on Saturday 10th June. Remember the Early Bird offer finishes on the 26th May — tickets just £3.50 per person.

Finally, a warm welcome back to Mrs Trotman and a big 'thank-you' to Mrs Duan for working in Year 2 over the past year.

Kind regards, Stephen Dean, Headteacher

Dates for your diary - Term 5

Monday 24th April	Term 5 begins	8:55am
Tuesday 25th April	Year 4 Squash Visit to Riverside	9:30-11:30
	Year 4 Highnam Tag Rugby Festival	1-3pm
Wednesday 26th April	Year 6 Cricket Coaching	1-3pm
Thursday 27th April	Tag Rugby Match v Hempsted (Away)	After school
Friday 28th April	Year 1 Collective Worship	9am
	Year 4 Brass Lessons Begin	1:30-2:30pm
	Swimming starts for Years 1 and 2	PM
Mon 8th-Fri 12th May	SATs Week	All week
Tuesday 9th May	Reception trip to Perrygrove Railway	All day
Mon 15th May-Fri 19th May	National Walk to School Week	All week
Monday 15th May	Reception visit to Highnam Church	AM
Tuesday 16th May	Class Photos	AM
	Tag Rugby Match v Shurdington (Home)	After school
Friday 19th May	Ledbury Tag Rugby Festival	All day
	Year 5/6 Mountain Biking	PM
Mon 22nd May-Fri 26th May	TEAMS Week	All week
Monday 22nd May	Messy May	After School
	Year 4 Cake Sale	After School
Wednesday 24th May	Open Classrooms	After School
Thursday 25th May	Tag Rugby Match v CVJS (Home)	After School
Friday 26th May	End of Term 5	3:15/20pm

Dates for your diary - Term 6

Monday 5th June	Start of Term 6	8:55am
	Tag Rugby Match v Kingsholm (Away)	After School
Tuesday 6th June	Year 6 Leavers Service at Gloucester Cathedral	PM
Wednesday 7th June	Bell Boating Experience for Year 5	All day
Thursday 8th June	Fizz Pop Science Club begins	After School
Friday 9th June	Year 5 Collective Worship	9am
	Cricket Festival	All Day
Saturday 10th June	PTA Lido Evening	7:30pm
Monday 12th June	Girls Cricket Festival	All Day
Thursday 15th June	Tag Rugby Match v St Mary's (Home)	After School
	New Reception Parents Meeting	7pm
Friday 16th June	Year 3 Collective Worship	9am
	Years 4-6 Trip to Three Counties Show	All Day
Saturday 17th June	Prince of Wales Athletics Festival	9:30-12:30am
Friday 23rd June	Year 4 Collective Worship	9am
Mon 26th - Fri 30th June	Year 6 Residential / Year 5 Bikeability	All Week
Thursday 29th June	Year 5 Bell Boating Championship	All Day
Tuesday 4th July	Key Stage 2 Sports Day	1:30pm
Thursday 6th July	Messy Church	After School
Friday 7th July	Year 2 Collective Worship	9am
	PTA Summer Fayre	After School
Monday 10th July	Year 5 Cheltenham Cricket Trip	10-2pm
Tuesday 11th July	Key Stage 1 Sports Day	1:30pm
Wednesday 12th July	Year 2 Transition Meeting	2:45pm
Friday 14th July	Reception Collective Worship	AM
Monday 17th July	Move Up Monday (new classes)	AM
	Leavers' BBQ	After School
	Years 5/6 Cake Sale	After School
Wednesday 19th July	Open Classrooms and Collect Work	After School
Thursday 20th July	Leavers' Service	2pm
Friday 21st July	End of Year	2:30pm