

Highnam C of E Primary Academy



@HIGHNAMACADEMY

CHILDREN WITH CONFIDENCE

16TH APRIL 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

March was full of excitement. It was great to see the variety of learning opportunities across the classes. We enjoyed our first Reception class Collective Worship, Year 1 enjoyed their Victorian trip to the Almonry Museum, Year 2 enjoyed a visit from a fire engine, Years 3 and 4 had some specialist training from Gloucester City Football, Year 5 visited Skillzone and Year 6 have been busy preparing segments for the first school radio show. Along with this we have enjoyed the House Quiz, bedtime stories, a visit from Dr Tom Robson and visited BBC Radio Gloucestershire. An action packed month - a big thank you to all involved.

Exciting Adventure for our Reception Pupils

It has been thrilling to see the progress being made by our Reception pupils. It is always special to see them grow in confidence and engage in their vibrant curriculum. Reception had a busy final week to their term. It began with a special trip to Highnam church to meet Reverend Helen and to learn all about christenings. A big thank you to Mrs Watts, Reverend Helen and our team of parent helpers. They ventured up to Lassington Woods for a special bear hunt all of their own. After the bear hunt they enjoyed an exciting Teddy Bear Picnic with their own bears and in the afternoon had a visit from Shy Bear! Thank you to the Early Years team for such a wonderful learning experience.



Highnam Healthy Living

We are delighted to announce Highnam has just been reaccredited with the Gloucester Healthy Living and Learning Award. Thank you to Miss Thomas and the team for preparing the information needed for the award. It is super to see the field track being used by so many pupils each day. Please can we encourage pupils to bring in healthy snacks into school - a piece of fruit is provided for all our Reception and Key Stage 1 pupils every day. Another way is to take part in the Big Pedal...more details on page 2!

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Well-Being Playground Zones

Last month we were delighted to unveil our 5 ways to wellbeing zones on our playground. Pupils are encouraged to 'Connect, Be Active, Take Notice, Give and Keep Learning.' Over the next week we will be talking about wellbeing and how we can make a difference in our own lives and in the lives of those around us.



A place to 'connect' with friends

Oakridge Win the House Quiz

Congratulations to all the contestants who represented their houses in the House Quiz 2018. There was a round for Reception, Year 1, Year 2, Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6, plus a picture and general knowledge round for the house captains.

The scores were very close throughout with good topic knowledge evident from those who were answering the questions. The final scores were: Lassington - 19.5, Wetherleigh - 22, Maidenhall - 23 and Oakridge scored 24 points. A super effort - well done to all involved.



Big Pedal 2018

In previous years we have done very well in the national Big Pedal competition. This year it runs from the 23rd April - 4th May.

All you need to do is ride or scoot to school. It would be fantastic to see the bike shed full and pupils cycling from various places around the village. If you (along with younger siblings) are able to join them there are additional points as well. This is also a good way to use the 5 minute walk zone around the village. We look forward to seeing lots of pupils cycling and scooting to school over the next few weeks.



Join in the Big Pedal this year. Cycle or scoot to school.

Messy Easter

Our thanks to Reverend Helen and her team for hosting our recent Messy Easter after school club. Those present were learning about the lead up to the Easter week for Jesus and his followers.

The next two Messy Church dates are:

Wednesday 16th May and Wednesday 20th June.



Pupils enjoying the Messy Church activities

Bedtime Stories with Staff

On Thursday 22nd March the school stayed open a little later than normal to welcome back pupils in their pyjamas to enjoy a bedtime story with staff. The great PTA helpers provided pupils with a tasty cookie and hot chocolate to enjoy during the reading experience.

Whilst this was going on Miss Coldrick was providing parents with reading updates in the hall. This included a helpful list of age appropriate books which could be read and a list of questions parents could use to support their child at home. A big thank you to all staff who stayed to read to the pupils and to parents who came along to the workshop.

Finally, thank you to Miss Coldrick for providing the reading workshop update. We were delighted to hear so many pupils loved their storytime in school...

"I just wanted to email to thank you all for the brilliant bedtime stories/reading information evening last night. My child was so disappointed after it was cancelled the first time and has been looking forward to it ever since. He really enjoyed his story and hot chocolate."



Thank you to all who supported this event.

Supporting Sport Relief

During one week in March we followed the fitness challenges from Joe Wicks in our classes. On Friday we were also able to wear our own sporty clothes to support this worthy charity. Over £170 was raised for Sport Relief. A big thank you to all who donated and a special mention to Mrs Trigg-Hogarth who baked a delicious cake to mark the occasion. Some of our pupils were part of a variety of Sport Relief challenges including roller skating 250 laps!



Sport Relief (and disco day!)

National Cross Country Championship

Martha, Woody and Nathan all headed up to Loughborough to take part in the national cross country championship. The three Highnam pupils had all finished 7th in the Gloucestershire races and therefore qualified to represent the county in the national race. Despite very tricky conditions under foot, the pupils performed superbly... Martha finished in 43th, Woody 129th and Nathan 91st. Such a great achievement - well done!



Martha, Woody and Nathan - top effort!

Year 1 Visit to the Almonry Museum

Pupils in Year 1 had an exciting learning experience at the Almonry museum in Evesham. All this term the pupils have been learning about the Victorians and dressed up to mark the occasion. The pupils were joined by staff and parent helpers (who were also in Victorian outfits) as they experienced a range of Victorian scenarios including being in at school. They even had the opportunity to try out some traditional Victorian pastimes including the Cup-and-ball challenge.

A big thank you to Miss Spry and the Year 1 team for organising the trip.



Henry dressed up as a Victorian

Key Stage Two SATS Week

Pupils in Year 6 will be taking their SATs during the week beginning 14th May. Please avoid making appointments for eye tests, dental checks etc. that week. If you would like further information about national testing for Year 2 follow this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dVlrdqh_J6Y. For information for Year 6 testing follow this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=532MUvA81tM>.

Visit from Dr Tom Robson - The Gems Project

Last month 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. Pupils, parents and staff had a fabulous day with Dr Robson who had just returned from a lecturing tour in the Far East and New Zealand and enjoyed working in every classroom in the school. He helped the pupils develop their resilience, independence, empathy and ability to make the 'right' choices.

On this visit Dr Tom was also accompanied by his therapy dog Jed. He visited every classroom and even our Collective Worship time. After school the staff had a special Science training session with Dr Tom and in the evening parents attended his workshop called 'Helping Children Sparkle'. If you were unable to attend the workshop information is available on the school website:

<http://www.highnam.gloucs.sch.uk/links/parents/dr-tom-robson-feedback>



Year 6 pupils meeting Jed the therapy dog.

'Helping children SPARKLE' available to download from the Highnam School Website.



5G Visit Skillzone

On the 12th of March 2018, Year 5 went on a life changing trip to Skill Zone. We arrived at the centre at 1:00pm to warm welcomes from the volunteers. We were then guided to a meeting room where we were all given a pebble-like gadget to take a safety quiz. One of the questions was: if your mate dared you to jump in a lake what would you do? The safest answer was to refuse to do it! After a while, we were split into groups of seven and eight, accompanied by a responsible adult guide and off we went into the centre! First up was the dark alleyway. The guide asked the pupils present if they would walk down a dark alleyway alone for a shortcut, so they wouldn't be late to meet their friends. Next we all entered the alleyway to the sight of loads of graphic art. We soon realised it would not be a good idea to take a shortcut down a dark alleyway. It was an important lesson to learn for us. Finally, we went inside a double decker bus and we learnt what to do if someone was harassing us on a bus. These skills will hopefully never be needed but will help us in the future. We had such a great time at Skillzone we asked Mr Dean if we could go back the next day!

Visit to BBC Radio Gloucestershire

Written by Lucia and Tiella

On Friday 16th March six competition winners visited BBC radio Gloucestershire to meet the presenter Nicky Price and Sean (one of her support team) to create jingles for the Highnam Academy radio station - High Tunes. Over the past month pupils have been sending in auditions to be presenters on the show and sending in logo suggestions. Gia, Annabel, Grace, Izzy, Noah and Dexter visited the studios to meet the team.

After a quick tour of the studios we got to work recording our voices. Firstly we had to say 'High Tunes' in a variety of ways. Next we had to read part of a jingle which will be set to music. It was a quick visit but we found out so much about how radio shows are broadcast and all the effort the teams go to make their shows so entertaining.



Year 5 on their Skillzone Visit



Sean and Nicky with Gia, Annabel, Grace, Izzy, Dexter and Noah



Congratulations to Izzy from Year 5 who won the 'design a school radio' logo competition. The new radio station, which is called High Tunes, now has a smart new logo adapted by a local graphic designer. Well done to Izzy for such a great entry and well done to all pupils who took part...it was a tricky decision to pick just one!

PTA News:

A big thank you to the great PTA team who helped to host the disco last term. The disco raised £642.66. The cake sale raised £77.50. Please note the PTA Summer Fayre will be held on **Friday 22nd June** this year.

GPSFA News

Well done to our B team and Girls teams who reached the GPSFA finals weekend. The girls got off to a great start with a 4-1 victory against Waterwells. This meant that Highnam has won the competition for 4 years in a row. This is a great achievement and much thanks must go to Miss Philips, Mr Holmes and FC Highnam. The B team played Hempsted and after a close game lost 2-0 - thank you to all who supported the teams over the season. The girls team also were crowned Forest of Dean indoor winners. Such a great season; well done to all involved with the team!



Girls celebrating their GPSFA success



The B team before their knock out final

Highnam Super Savers

Thank you to the team of staff, parents and pupils who are providing the Year 1 bank on a Friday morning before school. It is very important to educate pupils in financial management from an early age and it has been fantastic to work on this Lifesavers project.

Year 2 pupils are able to use this banking facility from this Friday. However you do need to sign up before using the bank so please follow the information provided by Miss Spry on the letter sent out before Easter.



Some Highnam Super Savers

Highnam Clubs

Staff led clubs will begin next Monday 23rd April. Thank you to all involved in leading these extra curricular clubs. There is such a variety of exciting activities on offer for the pupils of Highnam Academy.



Hot Cross Buns

There have been some wonderful, tasty creations made in the Hub recently. Thank you to all staff members who have been providing these important opportunities and skill development for our pupils.

Worship Teams

A big thank you to the Worship Council for leading our reflective Easter Service on the final day of last term. Our thanks to Reverend Helen and the Thursday team for leading our Collective Worship so thoughtfully every Thursday...it is much appreciated.

Kind regards,

Stephen Dean, Headteacher

Dates for your diary - Term 5

Monday 16th April	Term 5 begins	8:55am
Thursday 19th April	'In the Net' - Year 4 Theatre Show	AM
Friday 20th April	Year 4 Brass Lessons begin	PM
Monday 23rd April	The Big Pedal begins	AM/PM
Tuesday 24th April	Higham Tag Rugby Festival	1-3pm
Thursday 26th April	Newent Swimming Gala	1-3pm
	Tag Rugby v Churchdown (Away)	After school
Friday 27th April	Extra Swim for Pupils in Years 3 and 4	1:30pm
Thursday 3rd May	Tag Rugby v Shurdington (Home)	After school
Friday 4th May	Primary QuEST Lego Challenge	1-3pm
	Years 1 and Year 2 Swimming begins	1:30pm
Thursday 10th May	Tag Rugby v St Mary's (Home)	After school
Friday 11th May	Year 5 Music Project begins	1-3pm
Monday 14th—Thurs 17th	SATS week	
Wednesday 16th May	Messy Church	After school
Thursday 17th May	Tag Rugby v Innsworth (Home)	After school
Friday 18th May	The Family Big Brekkie	7:30am-8:30am
	Primary QuEST PE Event (Rec, Year 1, Year 2)	AM
Tuesday 22nd May	Primary QuEST '24' Challenge (Years 5 and 6)	1-3pm
Thursday 24th May	Tag Rugby v Hempsted (Away)	After school
Friday 25th May	Year 2 Collective Worship	9am
	Ledbury Tag Rugby Festival	All day
	End of Term 5	

Dates for your diary - Term 6

Monday 4th June	Inset Day (no pupils in school)	
Tuesday 5th June	Pupils back to school	8:55am
	Key Stage 2 Sports Day Practice (PE Kits needed)	PM
Wednesday 6th June	Pulse Games	AM
	Key Stage 2 Sports Day	PM
	Year 2 Trip to Cadbury's World	All day
Thursday 7th June	Year 6 Leavers' Service at the Cathedral	1:30pm
Friday 8th June	Newent CC Girls Cricket Festival	All day
	Year 3 Archaeological Dig at St Oswald's Priory	PM
Monday 11th June	Open Cricket Festival at Newent CC	All day
Wednesday 13th June	Years 3 and 4 visit to Caerleon	All day
Thursday 14th June	Year 5 Bell Boating Experience	All day
	New Reception Parents Meeting	7pm
Friday 15th June	Years 4-6 Visit to Three Counties Show	All day
Tuesday 19th June	Primary QuEST TRAC Day for Years 3 and 4	All day
Wednesday 20th June	Messy Church	After school
Friday 22nd June	PTA Summer Fayre	After school
Saturday 23rd June	Prince of Wales Athletics Festival	9:30am-12:15pm
Monday 25th June	Year 6 Residential	All week
	Year 5 Bikeability	All week
Thursday 28th June	Bell Boating for Year 5	All day
Friday 29th June	Year 4 Collective Worship	9am
Thurs 5th / Fri 6th July	Newent Year 6 Induction Days	All day
Friday 6th July	Reception Class Collective Worship	9am
Tuesday 11th July	Key Stage 1 Sports Day	1:30pm
Friday 13th July	Year 1 Collective Worship	9am
Monday 16th July	Year 5 Cheltenham Cricket Day	All day
	Leavers' BBQ	After School
Wednesday 18th July	Year 2 to Year 3 Transition Meeting	2:45pm
	Open Classrooms and Collect Work	After school
Thursday 19th July	Leavers' Service	2pm
Friday 20th July	End of the Academic Year for Pupils	2:30pm