



Highbury Primary School Newsletter

Week Commencing 23/07/18

Dear Parents and Carers,

I have just been sitting in the sunshine reflecting on this year at Highbury. I have just read back through the newsletters and proudly remembered all the achievements this year.

So much has happened just in the last few weeks. Firstly, our amazing SATS results. At Key Stage 2 the children achieved above the national average in Reading, Maths and Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling and well above in Writing at the expected standard. There was significant improvement in Reading, Writing, and Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling - these were the best results for Highbury! Similarly, at KS1, attainment was above the national average in Reading, Writing and Maths; with significant improvement in writing. Our Y1 pupils showed significant improvement in phonics too. Our YR children achieved the national average in their good level of development. Lastly, but not least, our Nursery children have made brilliant progress across their core areas of learning. Our strong writing results show that Challenge Partners assertion that writing is an area of excellence at Highbury is correct and we will be helping to support other schools in Portsmouth and the Trust next year.

Our Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths week - 'Plastic not so Fantastic,' was a great success. The children all attended Beach School led by our talented Forest Ranger (except those on Yr3/4 residential). Many of you supported this event and the feedback from all was very encouraging.

Attendance Champions:

This year's winner is Hedgehog Class with 97.18%

- Hedgehogs— 97.18%
- Squirrel— 95.71%
- Rabbit— 96.57%
- Robin - 93.98%
- Ladybird— 96.85%
- Bumblebee— 94.72%
- Bluebell— 95.62%
- Snowdrop- 92.92%
- Sunflower— 95.79%
- Daffodil— 94.38%
- Mint— 96.12%
- Lavender— 95.59%
- Ivy— 94.07%
- Holly— 94.81%
- WHOLE SCHOOL— 95.3%





At the end of the week, during Collective Worship the children shared their findings about plastic good and bad (mostly bad!). Much recycling had been achieved, making boats from plastic bottles, designing Lego bricks to recycle plastic and using plastic bottles to create air-propelled rockets. Additionally, the children designed plastic sea dredgers to rid the ocean of plastic rubbish. Hopefully we have much more discerning children now when it comes to plastic bags and bottles!

Our Y5/6 production of the Jungle Book was incredible! As ever the children rose above the searing heat to perform their best in onesies. They sang their hearts out, danced fantastically and acted with great humour, making us all well up with pride.



Lastly our Sports Day, this was timed to perfection by our able Miss Sadler. The children demonstrated such determination to do their best for their team. The young sports leaders supported the staff admirably and the whole school pulled together as the superb team they are. The signatures on the lists showed that 369 of you attended. I was especially pleased to see so many Dads pop in during their lunch break. As ever we appreciate the support you give your children and they can't wait for you to arrive!

Again a huge thank you to the hardworking PTA for the disco, performance and sports day refreshments and a personal thank you for sorting the lost property.

I hope you will get an opportunity to thank your children's teachers personally for all their hard work, dedication, attention to detail and amazing teaching. Over to you now for six weeks! Don't forget to look at the website for ideas if you run out and pop to the library for summer reading material. Daily practice makes perfect and helps make progress with their reading and helps them with their writing as it develops their vocabulary and their story writing skills.

A fond farewell to Y6, and see you on the next INSET day!

Regards,

Mrs. Sadler

Reflections from our Pupil Parliament

"As Prime Minister I have represented the school to receive the Tidy Schools award and the Enable Me award after our British Values day. I also attended our School Improvement Day to give my ideas about the things that have gone well and ways to make things better. I have really enjoyed my time at Highbury and especially Year 6."

John Luke
Prime Minister

"At Highbury I have enjoyed finding other ways to learn in fun and interesting ways. I have attended a Governors meeting to give my ideas of how we can make the school even better. I have enjoyed all of the trips and opportunities I have had during my time at Highbury."

Meesha Begum
Minister of Education

Leavers

All of our fantastic Y6 students will head off to secondary school after the summer in their brand new school uniforms! If they have any Highbury uniform that's still in good condition, could you please donate it to the office so we can use it as spare as we often have trouble finding spare clothing to fit our older pupils.

Come and Read With Your Children!

Calling all Parents, Grandparents & Carers!

We are looking for more parents, grandparents, and carers to volunteer and help our KS1 children with their guided reading. Any time that you have spare in a morning or afternoon on a regular basis would be greatly appreciated, and would be such a huge benefit to the children.

If you'd like to volunteer, please contact the office.



INSET Days

All of us are looking forwards to the Summer Holidays, and then starting the new school year in September with brand new teachers to start learning brand new things.

This year, the school year will start a week later on 10th September because we are having 5 INSET Days on 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th September - what would have been the first week back. These INSET Days are a brilliant time for your family to go on a last minute late holiday just before all the hard work begins!

Online Payments

You can now pay for dinners, trips, After School Club and Breakfast Club online!

If you have not yet received your letter home with unique online codes to set up online payments for your child or children with our school's cash office then please contact the school office. We will be able to print one out for you so that you can make a start with it in the new school year.

Your Data at School

We as a school are no longer required by the Department of Education to keep data about yours or your child's nationality and country of origin. All data of this kind that we have will be deleted and otherwise destroyed.

PE KIT

Our PE teachers would like to remind parents that children **must** have long black tracksuit-type bottoms and a sweatshirt in their PE kits so that it is appropriate for all weather as outdoor PE will continue as long as there are dry conditions.

The correct PE Kit consists of a red t-shirt or polo shirt, black shorts or trousers, and black pumps/plimsolls. All of the information about correct uniform can be found on our website.



Volunteering

Have you ever wanted to work in a school? We are looking for some parents to donate their time to help some of our children in classes who are struggling or might need that extra little bit of help. If you are interested in helping out in a classroom, please come to the school office and let us know.

Paracetamol

We are aware that coughs, colds and bugs are persistent all year round, and that your children might need some paracetamol during the day. However, we would ask that paracetamol please be given at home if your child requires it in the morning.

Dinner Money/After School Club Fees

Please make sure you are up to date with all dinner money and after school club fees to ensure your child can access these services. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Absence

Could parents please call the school on each day of their child's absence.

We also ask that parents provide medical evidence such as doctor's appointment cards, hospital letters and packaging from prescribed medicines so that we can verify any absences.

Office Opening Times

The school office is open from 8.30am to 4.00pm Monday to Friday. Please walk around the school for Breakfast and After School Club and ring the bell on the door at the rear of the school if you are in need of assistance outside of these times.

Parking

Dovercourt Road has been getting worse with hazardous and dangerous car use. The staff car park should only be used by staff and parents with special permission to park in it. Whilst we understand that we are all busy and have places to go, there are over five hundred children entering and leaving the campus on a daily basis. Can we please ask that you park away from the school and walk the remaining distance? Also please be mindful that you do not park on the double yellows near the lollipop man as this is where children cross over to and from the school.

Please do not park on the yellow zig-zags outside the school.

Please avoid driving down Dovercourt Road for the safety of all our children.

