



# HIGHBURY NEWS...

## Keeping Parents in Touch



Hello,

It feels like the term has flown by and Christmas is almost upon us. The children have had a very exciting term and it has been wonderful to see so many children who have visited the Golden Book. There are some great displays around the school showcasing some brilliant artwork and writing.

Year 6 had a fantastic time visiting the Natural History Museum even though the journey home was a little longer than expected. The Year 3 children braved the rain and had an immersive experience at Butser Ancient Farm. Some pupils from Year 6 took part in a STEM activity day at UTC, making robots and designing and we were thrilled to be placed 1<sup>st</sup> and were winners of an impressive trophy!

Our recent INSET day with the Trust allowed us to work collaboratively in specific teams, focussing on curriculum developments, SEND provision and administrative duties across the schools. It was a great opportunity to work with colleagues and share good practice.

The nativities have been a particular highlight and it was wonderful to see so many of you at the church and at school. The children performed so well and looked so wonderful in their costumes. Thank you for all your support.

I hope you all have a wonderful festive season and enjoy Christmas with your families.

Take care and stay safe, Mrs Watson



### Pupil Activities

We have had a great term engaging in variety of activities for lots of the pupils. The Pupil Parliament attended the Unloc day, working with other groups of pupils from local schools. Some Year 4 pupils worked hard in their own time to create Christmas cards and gifts to raise money for the Ukraine appeal, they managed to raise £65 and it was such a thoughtful opportunity.

Year 6 represented Highbury at the STEM day and secured 1<sup>st</sup> place - well done to you. The Cricket team had a great time at the tournament and won all their games. In other sporting news we have had success at the following tournaments, gymnastics festival and the netball - we are super proud of your achievements.

All classes have visited Cosham Library and they have enjoyed choosing a variety of books and sharing stories. It has been a great chance to broaden their reading for pleasure.

Some Year 5 and 6 pupils had the opportunity to visit Fratton Park and take part in activities relating to diversity and equality - the children really enjoyed learning something new.

Year 2 had super time at the Guildhall taking part in the music festival and were excellent ambassadors for Highbury School.

**Well done to all the children for representing Highbury so positively.**

## Learning News, Curriculum Highlights...

This term the children in **Ladybirds** have been looking at different celebrations. The children were interested in lots of birthday activities, party games and crafts. The children also practiced blowing candle on a cake. The children wet the baby's heads with water when looking at christenings. The children enjoyed winter walks around the nursery and school, splashing in puddles and getting dirty! Last week and this week we have been celebrating Christmas getting into the Christmas spirit having lots of fun listening to music, singing Christmas songs, craft and having party.

This half term in **Caterpillars** and **Crickets** class we have been discussing all things Celebrations! We have learnt lots of interesting facts about all the different celebrations from around the world and got our creative minds on to make things! We have made, diva lamps for Diwali, poppies for Remembrance Day, and ending in on some lovely Christmas crafts! What wonderful half term we've had!

In **Year R**, this half term we have been learning about different celebrations and special occasions. The children made diva lamps as we learnt about Diwali, we were Respectful Ruby's as we thought about Remembrance Day and we learnt about how Christmas is celebrated in different countries around the world. The children worked hard to practice for our Nativity play, where they did a wonderful job retelling the story of Jesus' birth. The children have impressed us with the letter sounds that they know and with their improved hand writing. In Maths, we created our own number stories to show one more or one less. The children recorded in their own way using numbers and lovely drawings. We hope all of the children in Butterfly and Bumblebee class have a wonderful break!

This term in **Year 1** we have had lots of fun exploring our theme 'What is Diversity?' The children have enjoyed learning all about diversity, how we are all different and how important it is to celebrate our differences. In our English lessons the children have created acrostic poems all about Diversity which were made into a wonderful book for the reception children to enjoy. During Art and DT we have learnt all about the Diwali Festival and created our own diva lamps to help us celebrate the Diwali story of Rama and Sita. We have also been Determined Darby's during our Computing lessons where we learnt how to make pictures using digital paint. The children produced some wonderful self-portraits and created pictures based on Kandinsky's artwork 'Squares with Concentric Circles.' Finally, we have been learning all about the Christian celebration of 'The Christmas Story' and practiced singing our songs ready for the Nativity. We hope all our children have an amazing half term and we can't wait to see you back in two weeks!

It's been a great pleasure to work with the children in **Year 2** this term. The children have worked really hard on our Nativity show and have enjoyed all the singing and dancing fun. In English, we have been learning all about newspapers and used our historical knowledge of The Great Fire of London to write our own. In science we have learned about different materials and their properties through lots of experiments and testing. The children have also enjoyed researching, designing and making Tudor houses. The children were also able to show off their learning through some end of term tests where they were incredibly resilient and hard working. All the adults in Year 2 are very proud of the children's hard work and progress.



### Learning News, Curriculum Highlights...

This half term, **Year 3** have been studying the topic of Stone Age to the Iron Age. We have enjoyed a trip to Butser Ancient Farm where we put ourselves in the shoes of people from ancient civilisations by engaging in activities such as: digging for artefacts; creating our own jewellery and cordage using traditional methods; and wattling fences. In our Reading lessons, we have immersed ourselves in the story of Stig of the Dump and continued to develop our reading skills using the VIPERS techniques. For English, we have practised the necessary skills to write our own recount of the trip to Butser Ancient Farm, and will use these to inspire people who would like to visit Butser themselves. In Maths, we have begun to work on our multiplication and division using arrays, sharing and grouping. To support children in this learning, please encourage them to practise on Times Tables Rockstars.



This half term, **Year 4** have been studying the topic of electricity. In history, the children have looked at who discovered electricity and how it has evolved over the many thousands of years. They have also looked into more sustainable and renewable ways of generating electricity. In art, the children created some wonderful pieces inspired by electrical art we had looked at. In science, we have looked more closely at circuits and their components. They spent a whole afternoon making their own circuits including lights, buzzers and motors. Fun was had by all. They are developing those skills by creating their own light up Christmas cards with their own hand made circuits. In computing, the children have become podcasters and are continuing to create their own podcasts about school life. The children have used a programme which has allowed them to edit, slice and overlay tracks. They have even learnt how to add sound effects. In English we have looked at setting descriptions and instructions, which the children have produced some amazing pieces of written work. Maths has been very multiplication based but they are now becoming masters of numbers, looking specifically at the 3,6 and 9 times tables and how they can work together. We have been very lucky to be able to visit the library this half term, where the children listened to a story and were able to pick their own books to bring back to school. PE has been spent outside, learning how to play the sport of cricket. The children have had a great amount of fun playing this game. Finally, we have got into Christmas by enjoying Christmas Around the World, where the children have looked at four countries' traditions and festivities. They were able to take part in many different activities related to those countries including wreath making, designing their own gingerbread men, making shoes to keep the trolls away and making peppermint creams.

It has been another fabulously busy half-term in **Year 5** and we have all worked amazingly hard. In English, we have shown our journalistic prowess and produced some amazing newspaper articles before getting creative with our fabulous portal stories to share in our school library. Our Maths journey has seen us decimate those decimals, while our undertaking in D&T has seen us use our very best team work and oracy skills to create safe 'carriers' for our special 'tomato'. The focus of our theme has been to explore the impact of extreme weather and we even had our very own real life storm to start the half term! Now time for a magical Christmas and new year break before the spring term.

This term **Year 6** have had a wonderful time learning all about earthquakes and volcanoes. Our trip to the Natural History Museum was a fact finding success, if you ignore the traffic on the way home. It has supported our children to create fabulous fact files. Our ten weeks of swimming have come to an end and all of the children have been successful in achieving a swim level from the centre. We are exceptionally proud of how hard the children have worked both in school and at home and hope they have a great break and a Merry Christmas.

## Celebrating Wonderful Achievements...

Dancing awards - Renae W, Alba D, Dexi D, Sydney W, Hattie D, Ella T

Football awards - Albie M, Levi C, Taylor W, Amy C, Henry T, Josh R, Amy C

Swimming awards - Jack T, Emily U, Tamsin P, Amelie B, Sebastian B, Jack GN, Susanna T

Gymnastics awards - Lana C, Amelia A, Amalie B (Gold medal), Thomas C, Amber H (Youngest winner)

Tennis awards - Susanna T

Aerial Competition - Harri M

Karate - Evie E

Snooker Champion - Joseph H

Cheerleading - Berry W

Musical Theatre Award - Fraser W

Theatre Performance in London - Mila N

Matilda Production - Willow T, Renae W, Fraser W, Beau H, Ava B, Lorena S,

Go Ape - Emily W, Bethany W

Pompey Mascot - Jack GN

Starlight Walk - Brooklyn S

Panto - Jesscia C, Hanna D



What super stars  
you all are - well  
done!



The choir have been fantastic this year with a performance at St.Philips Christmas Fayre, singing a medley of songs.

They joined us at the Guildhall to take part in the Schools Annual Christmas Carol Concert and then participated in carols around the Christmas tree at our Carol Concert.

The children and staff sang beautifully and it certainly made us feel very festive.





## Diary Dates

Please be sure to make a note of these important dates in the school calendar. Thank you.



### January 2024

2<sup>nd</sup> - INSET day

3<sup>rd</sup> - Back to School

4<sup>th</sup> - Open Day tour - New to Year R 2024

8<sup>th</sup> - ND Parent Workshop - Sleep

8<sup>th</sup> - Year 3 African Dance Workshop

9<sup>th</sup> - Parent Workshop - Year R Story Books

11<sup>th</sup> - Maple Class Assembly

12<sup>th</sup> - Year 2 Swimming

15<sup>th</sup> - Year 5 Science Workshop

17<sup>th</sup> - Year 4 - Fishbourne Roman Palace Visit

18<sup>th</sup> - Oak Class Assembly

22<sup>nd</sup> - Foxes Library Visit

23<sup>rd</sup> - Key Stage 2 Author Visit

24<sup>th</sup> - Otters Library Visit

26<sup>th</sup> - Beech Library Visit

29<sup>th</sup> - Ash Library Visit

31<sup>st</sup> - Rabbits Library Visit

### February 2024

1<sup>st</sup> - Otters Class Assembly

2<sup>nd</sup> - Maple Library Visit

6<sup>th</sup> - Oak Library Visit

8<sup>th</sup> - Foxes Class Assembly

9<sup>th</sup> - PTA -Disco

12<sup>th</sup> - Break up for Half term

Further dates to follow..

The Pupil Parliament have worked hard and contributed to the success of our fundraising efforts for Children in Need. We managed to raise an impressive £548.41 - thank you so much. Also Year 3 sang beautifully for The Children in Need music video collaborating with many local schools.

In addition, we were blown away with the massive **£2629.50** that the children raised through the Bearpees' challenge. All 71 children raised significant amounts and were hugely generous with their sponsorship.

**A special thank you and well done to you all!**



A huge thank you to you all for supporting the school by bringing in smaller bags. This has made a huge difference in the corridors and ensured that they are much clearer.

Thank you for your continued support, it is much appreciated.



**INSET DAYS - , 2/1/24,  
15/4/24 3/6/24, 8/7/24**

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