



HIGHBURY NEWS...

Keeping Parents in Touch



Hello everyone,

January felt like a rather long month with dark mornings and darker nights but it now feels like spring is on its way! We have had a busy term to start 2024 and lots of exciting learning opportunities.

All classes in Key Stage 1 and 2 have enjoyed visits to Cosham library this half term and Maple class were luckily enough to be filmed as part of the local BBC news regarding the D-Day exhibition. They spoke so confidently and were such amazing Highbury stars!

It has been wonderful to have parents and family members in school to watch the class assemblies. The children have loved sharing their learning and performed with great confidence, even though it feels a little scary to speak in front of an audience.

Year 4 stepped back in time on their visit to Fishbourne Roman Palace. They became archaeologists, dressed in Roman costume and enjoyed discovering the Roman mosaics. This has helped to motivate the pupils with their homework as I have seen some wonderful Roman shields! Year 2 have settled well into their swimming lessons, embracing this important life skill. Year 3 enjoyed an African Mask making and dance workshop. The children have had great fun at the Mini Professor Science workshops and Year 5 have shown safe and careful riding skills during their Bikeability week. A selection of pupils in Years 2, 5 and 6 had great fun at UTC and ALNS taking part in the city wide ICT opportunities and Key Stage 2 joined with 4000 pupils across the city as part of Safer Internet Day!

It was wonderful to see so many children dancing the night away at the disco. A huge thank you to the PTA for organising and we hope to see many new parents at the meeting to grow and strengthen this amazing team.

I hope you all have an enjoyable half term break and we welcome the lighter evenings when we return.

Take care, Mrs Watson

Respect, Resilience, Confidence, Kindness, Inclusive, Aspiration

Forest Schools



What a whirlwind start to the New Year! The children across the school have fully engaged and embraced the New Year and changes around the school site. Some year groups have been on scavenger hunts, some have begun germinating seeds to plant and trying new foods, whilst the older years have wanted to take an active part in learning new tool skills by using loppers and other hand held tools. The whole school are looking forward to planting and growing their own plants and vegetables over the next few terms so we can start to become more self-sustaining and build a better understanding about where our food comes from.....watch this space!!

Learning News, Curriculum Highlights...

Ladybirds and Crickets

This term the Ladybirds have been looking at Amazing animals. The children have been exploring the outside environment visiting the local park and Foxes Forest to feed the ducks. The children have been collecting up natural materials to make bug hotels and went on a mini beast hunt in our woodland area. The children enjoyed naming farm animals and making the noises, singing Old McDonald and playing with sound animal puzzles. The children using senses to explore sensory trays set up animal themed and mini beasts.

Caterpillars

This half term in Caterpillars we have been looking at Amazing Animals! We have talked about all different types of animals, looking at where they live, what they eat and what they like to do! We have finished off the half term with talking about Chinese New Year! We have looked at the different years and found out that this year is the year of the Dragon! We have spoken about Chinese culture, what's different from ours, what they eat and how they celebrate Chinese New Year!

Cake Sale raised a massive - £160.00 Thank You!



In **Year R** this half term we have been learning about Amazing Animals. We were very lucky to have lots of different pet visits. The children learnt how to care for different types of pets and handled the animals confidently. We made bug hotels using natural materials and learnt about Chinese New Year. The children had the opportunity to taste some Chinese food and finger painted cherry blossom. In maths we have compared different amounts, learning to use the language of 'more' and 'fewer'. We also explored and sorted odd and even numbers. The children have been practicing all of the letter sounds we know and have been confidently reading longer words. We hope all of the children in Bumblebee and Butterfly class have a wonderful half term!

This term in Year One we have had lots of fun exploring our theme 'What can we do to stay healthy?'. The children have enjoyed learning all about how to keep our bodies and minds healthy through a wide range of activities. During DT we have learnt all about the importance of eating five pieces of fruit and vegetables a day and used our knowledge and skills to plan, design and make our own delicious fruit salads. We have also been Confident Coby's in Science smelling and trying new foods, experimenting and finding out what each of our senses can detect. In Computing we have introduced the children to early programming concepts and explored using commands to control beebots. The children have also loved our 'My Happy Mind' lessons which have helped us learn more about our mental health and how to keep our brains healthy through resilience and happy breathing. We hope all our children have a lovely half term and we can't wait to see you in a week's time.

This half term, **Year 2** have been amazingly brave and confident with their swimming lessons. The children have been progressing very quickly. Year 2 have also been trying very hard within English lessons producing some fantastic instructions and poems based on our theme of habitats. In art, we have also enjoyed learning about primary and secondary colours and using this information to mix paint to create some impressive scenic artwork based on the works of Henri Rousseau. In science, the children have learnt about living things and their habitats. We explored the life cycles of animals and looked at how animals adapt to the habitat they live in. We have also explored microhabitats and even had a go at creating our own.



Learning News, Curriculum Highlights...

This half term in Year Three, we loved exploring the theme of 'Amazing Africa.' Through our Geography lessons, we learnt more about the world's second largest continent, including its countries, climate and how it differs to the UK. In English, we have written some amazing setting descriptions of an African savannah and are finishing off with a travel brochure to persuade holiday-goers to take a trip to Africa. During Art, we experimented with oil pastels and silhouettes on a sunset background. In Science, we learnt about Animals Including Humans, helping us to better understand nutrition, animal skeletons and how muscles help us to move. The children have enjoyed joining Akimbo on his African Adventures in our class reading text.

This term, Year 4 have immersed themselves in everything Roman. In our history lessons we have looked at the Romans and followed their journey to becoming an empire and finally settling into Britain. We spent an amazing day at Fishbourne Roman Palace which then went on to inspire the children to design and make their own mosaics. In English, we have been learning how to write diary entries using the book 'Escape from Pompeii' and writing a recount about our trip to Fishbourne. We continued our Roman theme in guided reading, reading a book called 'My family and other Romans' which has helped develop their knowledge of the Roman language Latin and more about the myths and legends of Rome. In science, the children have been looking at the different states of matter and how they can be changed from one state to another. We also looked at the water cycle. Overall we have had a lovely half term spent doing all things Roman because as they say, 'Rome wasn't built in a day'.

Wow! What a fabulously busy start to 2024 for Year 5, filled with lots of glorious trips to the 'Golden Book' and celebrations of our achievements in our weekly assemblies. We have continued to excel with our excellent English work, producing some amazing Victorian character descriptions and turning our hand to writing delightful diary entries for Auggie, the protagonist in our Guided Reading text. As Mathematicians, we have impressed with our delightful divisional skills and the continued, successful mastering of our times tables. We have also ridden our way to safety in our bikeability, created charcoal masterpieces in our Art, became experts in all things Queen Victoria, donned our 'lab coats' for a Science workshop and learnt how to describe and discuss our pets in our fantastic French lessons. After all of that superb learning, we are very much ready for a well-deserved break to relax and recharge, ready for a host of new exciting achievements after the half-term break.

Learning about the Vikings has been a hair-raising experience! The children have loved the blood and gore of the Beowulf stories; we have had some interesting answers during our guided reading sessions. During history lessons, the children have had to consider whether Alfred should be called the great or should be known by another name. Glockenspiel skills were tested during the playing of, 'You've got a friend' where the children had to learn how to pause during a slower song. This was filmed to share with our music leader as the children persevered and produced an amazing piece. In science, we have been investigating the cardiovascular system and how what we put into our body has an effect on it. Our clay coasters were some of the best Viking designs that we have seen and the children were very proud to take these home to share with you.

We are looking forward to the residential week after half term, which will be fun for all and moving on to our World War 2 topic.



Celebrating Wonderful Achievements...

Dancing awards - Dexi D, Alba D, Sydney W

Swimming awards - Jasmine W, Daisy R, Joshua R, Jack T, Susanna T, Isabella S and Evie E (North Sea gala - 2nd place)

Gymnastics awards - Jasmine W, Alanna D

Junior Sportswoman of the Year (gymnastics) - Minnie C

Karate - Alanna D (yellow belt), Evie E

Winter Reading Challenge - James H

Blue Peter Badge Reading - Isabella S

Speech and Poetry Competition - Susanna T

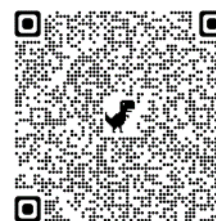


What super stars
you all are - well
done!



We are pleased to announce the Book Fair will be arriving at school on Tuesday 12th March. The children will have the opportunity to look through the array of exciting new books and have the chance to purchase their favourite after school.

You will be able to pay using cash or the new QR code. Please follow the QR code to find out more.



Huge congratulations to Mr and Mrs Debono on the safe arrival of Baby Barney who was born in December. Baby Barney is just gorgeous and Mrs Debono is enjoying her new addition.



Mrs Silver has started her maternity leave and wish her every happiness on the safe arrival of her new baby.



We welcome Miss Derrick to Highbury and Hedgehog class. She has enjoyed getting to know the children and families in Year 2 as she works alongside Mr Partridge.

Cyber Choices for Parents & Carers

SOUTH EAST
ROCU
REGIONAL ORGANISED CRIME UNIT

Why attend?

This session will introduce the Cyber Choices programme, led by the National Crime Agency, and delivered locally by SEROCU (the South East Regional Organised Crime Unit).

The aim is to help parents and carers to understand what cyber crime is, what the risks to young people are, to recognise some of the indicators that young people may be involved in committing cybercrimes, and how the Cyber Choices programme supports at-risk individuals.

You are invited!

All you need to do to sign up is scan the QR code and fill in the form for your preferred time.



February 8th,
9:30am



February 8th,
8:00pm

PORTSMOUTH
EDUCATION
PARTNERSHIP

The Digital
City Project

Technology for children, technology for adults, technology for all

Diary Dates

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

February 2024

19th - Back to school

19th - Year 5 & 6- Little Canada, Theatre Week

19th - Year 2 Titanic Dress up Day

27th - PTA Join Us Event

28th - Year 4 - Mini Professors



March 2024

1st - Badgers Class Assembly

5th - PTA Mother's Day/ Someone Special Gift Sale

6th - Hedgehogs Class Assembly

7th - World Book Day - *Character Dress Up Day*

11th - Science Week

12th - Year 4 Fort Purbrook

12th - Book Fair Arrives

13th - Robins Class Assembly

20th - Year 2 Titanic Museum

21st - Rabbits Class Assembly

22nd - Rock Steady Concert

27th - Year 3 and 4 Easter Service at St Philips

27th - PTA Easter Egg Hunt

28th - Beech Class Assembly

28th - Break for Easter

Further dates to follow...



CONTACT US

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INSET DAYS

15/4/24 3/6/24. 8/7/24

Parking

We continue to ask that you try and park in the neighbouring roads to the school. We need to be considerate towards local residents and not block their driveways.

Also the children are arriving at school from many different directions and this can make it rather dangerous for them crossing the road. We are working closely with colleagues at Portsmouth City Council to try and resolve the challenges faced in Dovercourt Road. If you have any concerns or a near miss occurs please report this via the link below.

Near miss [reporting tool](#)



Uniform

Please can we ask that children continue to wear the correct uniform to school. Black trainers can be worn and black cotton leggings. Just a polite reminder that jewellery should not be worn and we ask that nails are not painted. Also please label all uniform to avoid it turning up in lost property.

Thank You

Start something new at the Teach Portsmouth Jobs and Opportunities Fair

Want to work with children, young people and families? The Teach Portsmouth Jobs and Opportunities Fair returns to Portsmouth Guildhall on Monday 26 February from 10am - 2pm.

Come along and meet 24 exhibitors including schools, academies and colleges who have teaching, support and site vacancies. Watch presentations inside the Opportunities Room on trending topics and sign up to taster sessions to build confidence in the classroom.

For more information and to get your free ticket, visit: www.teachportsmouth.co.uk/jobsfair