



"Making learning an adventure"
Newsletter 20th July 2018

Our value for this half term is Confidence

Dear Parents/Carers,

High Beeches News

Yet another year has flown by at High Beeches. I think they always fly by so quickly because we have such amazing, fun times at this wonderful school. This week, year 6 performed their fabulous production of The Adventures of SuperStan. It was so entertaining. We also enjoyed our HBGT final. All the children were brilliant, but a special mention to Raphaëlle, Sophie and Daisy for compering the show. And Mr George and his band..... what more can I say? His incredible performance is on the website! Thank you also to Mr Edney for his creative genius!

We were lucky enough to have an assembly led by our Y6 "Girls Can Do" group, comprising of Ella, Olive and Freya. They prepared an informative and well-resourced assembly about empowering and encouraging girls to work in traditionally male jobs. They had invited Tysie, a women's England boxing champion, into school and asked her some really interesting questions. It gave us lots to think about and has inspired us to continue with this theme next term. Well done girls!

Bertie, Archie and Alex also led a great assembly on Harry Kane and how he lives all of our school values and is an excellent role model. Well done boys!

I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to all of the staff at High Beeches. They all work extremely hard to give our lucky children the very best provision. We are an incredibly supportive team and coming to school every day to work alongside such exceptional professionals is a joy for me.

Thank you also to our amazing pupils, our supportive parents and finally our great Governing Body who give so much of their time to make HB the very best that it can be.

Staff news

It gives me huge pleasure to inform you that Mr and Mrs Richardson have been safely delivered of a beautiful baby boy-Frank James. They are all doing very well and are very happy.

Miss Davies is getting married on August 4th and returns to us in September as Mrs Waterworth. We all wish her and her husband to be a wonderful day.

We say goodbye, good luck and a huge thank you to Mrs O Kelly, Mrs Kennedy, Mrs Ashman and Mrs Larkins who all leave us today. Thank you so much for all your hard work during your time at High Beeches. We will miss you all.

Achievement data

I am able to give you end of Key Stage data for High Beeches and some comparisons with National data. However, all data is currently provisional. You will see from the data that High Beeches pupils have yet again had a very successful year. We will be able to give you more information in the Autumn term

Early Years Foundation Stage

83% reached a Good Level of Development

Year 1 Phonics

95% of our children reached the required standard

Year 2

2018	Working at Expected standard	Working at Greater Depth
Reading	88%	39%
Writing	85%	31%
Maths	89%	31%

Year 6

2018	Working at Expected standard School/ National provisional
Reading	94% 75%
Writing	87% 78%
Maths	77% 76%
Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar	84% 78%

Parent forum minutes points were raised by parents about the following

- **Open Classrooms** – SL confirmed these are organised for Thursday 12th July 3.15pm to 4.15pm.
- **Year 5 walking home alone** –This is only in exceptional circumstances and they cannot be responsible for younger children.
- **Weekly task in learning log** –Homework is currently working well and highly praised by Ofsted. It gives the opportunity for parents to choose what is best for their child and ensure that learning is a joy not a chore. Parents can organise weekly tasks.
- **My Maths**- we discussed more regular tasks and we will see if this is manageable for teachers. We will consider the use of a homework diary across KS2 next academic year.
- **More notice for school trips and helpers** – Mrs Murray explained the new computer system they were using had brought up one or two problems regarding communication between the office and staff but they are aware and working on it.
- **Integration of classes**- staff are very aware and are actively seeking opportunities to mix classes up. For example, recently Year 4 held a debate together. Reception children regularly mix up for ChiL. Year 1 and 2 children mix for phonics. We have art days, house activities, values day etc
- **Lunch portions** –Parents felt they were small. A Nutritionist works for Herts Catering ensuring that the meals are nutritionally balanced. Sometimes children waste food in their rush to get out into the playground!
- **Wrap around care/holiday camps** –We are happy to signpost parents to other venues which is done via email. There are places at Woodend with Jousters over the summer holidays. We are hoping to offer Jousters at HB next year. Harpenden Sports Centre have lots of activities and take childcare vouchers. Other options are available by an internet search and include Roundwood and Crabtree.
- **Jousters, lack of places** – We have secured extra places from September but some places have been ring fenced for siblings and new parents. Have to bear in mind space requirement.
- **Mothers/Fathers days** – shouldn't be gender specific ie lego for Dads and craft for Mums. We accept this point will speak to staff for future events. This year's activities were based on feedback from parents last year and there was some variety offered this year.

- **Lunch for new parents and on birthdays etc** –Unfortunately it isn't physically possible for the Cook to accommodate any more than she already does. Timings don't allow, unlike smaller infant schools. Mrs Shewbridge arranged a video recording of a typical lunch time for the new Reception Parents to see at their introductory session. This will also be put on our website.
- **1:1 Reading** –In the past teachers spent their lunch hour hearing children read 1:1 but the advice now from the LA is for parents to practise reading at home with their children. Reading is taught daily in school, through our discrete phonics sessions, Guided reading and opportunities for reading throughout the day. Parent helpers help with specific children and help will always be needed. Teachers prioritise the cohort's needs.
- **Parent helpers and DBS** – DBS checks cost the school hence the request for parents to be able to help on a regular basis.
- **Creche during parent workshops etc** – could parents set up a crèche for parents with siblings so they can attend workshops etc? Good idea but school staff would be unable to run it so would need help from parents.
- **Would we look at doing the Daily Mile?** –Definitely- we are looking at funding an astro track around the field!
- **Pens-** the pens we use in school do not wash out of clothing. We are always looking out for alternatives which at the moment is proving difficult.

Head Teacher Questions

No questions this week.

FoHBS

A massive thank you to FoHBS for all their hard work- please note dates for next year!

Summer Fair - Saturday 8th June

Summer Ball - Friday 21st June

Pupil Achievement.

Correction from last week's newsletter. The winner of the KS1 Speakers' cup was Thomas G, Hazel class. Many congratulations Thomas and apologies for the error.

Well done to:

Clover in Sycamore who passed her Grade 3 Violin.

Headteacher awards – will be back next academic year!

On behalf of all the staff we would like to thank you for your very kind gifts.

Have a wonderful Summer holiday and see you all again on 5th September at 8.55am.

Best wishes,

S. Lawrence

Headteacher

Diary dates-updates in red

3rd and 4th September -INSET

5th September- Term starts 8.55am

5th September- youngest reception children start part time

6th September 6pm- PGL meeting for year 6 parents

10th September- Youngest reception children full time, oldest reception children start part time

11th September- NSPCC assembly

11th September- Meet the Teacher: Reception - 4pm-5pm in Oak Class, Year 1- 4pm in hall, Year 2 4.30pm in hall.

12th September- Meet the Teacher: Year 3 - 4pm hall, Year 4 - 4.30pm hall, Year 5 - 5pm hall, Year 6 - 5pm classroom

13th September- Reception children full time

13th September- Harpenden Spotlight on Africa assembly

19th September- Year 4 trip to Verulamium museum

20th September- NSPCC workshops morning.

24th-28th September- Year 6 PGL

27th September- Year 3 Celtic Harmony trip

1st October- Year 5- Hazard alley trip

1st October- Year 2 Seaside workshop

8th October- Individual photos

29th October- 2ND November- Half term

7th and 8th November- Pizza Express trip year 2

12th November- Reception- year 5 Flu vaccines

3rd December- Occasional day

5th December- Harpenden and District Rotary Carols

6th and 10th December- KS2 Carol Concert

11th December- Panto trip

14th December 2.30pm- Year 1 Carols around the tree

21st December 2pm- End of term