

Highwoods Community Primary School Newsletter Autumn 2

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## Highwoods Community Primary School 'Learning for Life'



Dear parents,

It has been a great half term and has flown by. We have been overwhelmed by the generosity and support of families in relation to the sponsored walk. In the last newsletter, the total amount raised stood at £2,500. This figure is now pushing £4000. It is an incredible amount. Every penny is being spent on reading books for all of our children. This week we have been ordering new books for KS2 and there has been a real buzz in the library. In addition to this, the book fair was incredibly popular and children loved buying new books to take home. Over £1300 was spent and the school receives 25% of this in vouchers to again buy books. You will begin to see the older and tatty books being replaced, as well stage 13-16 books being faded out and replaced by high quality 'free reader' books.

Over the half term we are having our new library for KS2 built- a wall added, a door put in and completely refurbished. We are delighted to have the award winning author of the 'The Goldfish Boy', Lisa Thompson, visit us on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> November to open the library and also meet children to discuss her books

Just a reminder that after half term, the 'summer uniform' option is now removed-although we know the temperatures are dropping, some children will still want to wear shorts or summer dresses! The uniform list is on the website so please check if you are not sure or come and speak to us. Some parents have queried whether winter boots are uniform. Black shoes are acceptable- although we appreciate in heavy rain or snow, children might walk to school in boots, and then change into shoes for the day.

Yours sincerely

Mr Disley

### **Open mornings for new parents.**

If you know families are looking at schools for 2019, then we are holding open mornings over the next 8 weeks- please spread the word. It was incredibly popular last year so this year we are asking families to book in advance by phoning the school office.

All tours will take place between 9.30 and 10.30

Wednesday 31st October

Thursday 8th November

Friday 9th November

Tuesday 20th November

Wednesday 9th January 2019

### **National Dwarfism awareness.**

A huge thank you to everyone that supported us in raising awareness of dwarfism and who wore green on Thursday. We all felt that we learnt so much on the day and it was great to see such interest from the children. If you would like to know even more, check out this great website that we used in assembly.

<http://www.udprogram.com/support-1-4/>



### **Goodbye to staff.**

It is with much sadness that we say goodbye to some staff over the next 2 weeks. Mrs. Dingwall will be leaving Highwoods after 12 years. In her time at Highwoods, she has been instrumental in ensuring the office works smoothly and is the well-oiled machine that it has become. Her patience, warmth, kindness and personality will be a huge loss for us but St Helena's gain as she moves into a new role of attendance officer for secondary schools. In my first 3 years as head, Mrs. Dingwall has been hugely supportive and I will miss her positivity and commitment immensely.

We say goodbye to Mrs. Myatt as well, who is off to pursue a teaching career. In her role as an LSA at Highwoods for nearly ten years, Mrs. Myatt has supported hundreds of children and work 1:1 with many others. She will be missed. Mrs. Myatt is now taking up a role as a KS3 LSA at the Colchester Academy as she prepares to embark on becoming a secondary maths teacher.

We are also saying a farewell to Mrs Bourne. Mrs Bourne has seen her children go through the school and been helping out initially as a parent helper, then employed as an LSA. We will miss Mrs Bourne's kindness, care and support and we would like to thank her for her commitment to the school during her time.

We are now in the process of recruiting replacements. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all the ladies for their hard work and support in helping us achieve what we have become at Highwoods.

### Changes to parent's evening dates.

You will have received a school ping explaining that we have had to move the dates for parents evening. A clash of dates has appeared in the diary. Unfortunately this came in after we had released the initial dates for parents evening. The school ping gives details about the new dates. Apologies for any inconvenience. If you have any difficulties making these dates, please speak to the class teacher about making an alternative time.

New dates for parents evening sent out on school ping:

November 12<sup>th</sup> 2018

November 13<sup>th</sup> 2018

### Awards and notices:

#### Key Stage 1

1CH Alice Georgina Ava Tayla James Alice Lucas Monroe

1R Isabella Charlie Zara Caoimhe Cameron Ashaila

2D Mia Quinn Kian Freya Deeksha Aamina

2H Lily Ellen Archie N Aliyah Honor Aqeel

Forest schools award – Dale W Paavana Perez



### **Future dates to note:**

12<sup>th</sup> November 2018 Parents evening.

13<sup>th</sup> November 2018 Parents evening.

16<sup>th</sup> November 2018 Children in need.

7<sup>th</sup> December 2018 Foundation stage Christmas performance at 10:00am and 2:00pm.

7<sup>th</sup> December 2018 PTA Christmas disco KS1 4.30- 5.30pm/ KS2 5.45-7.00 pm.

12<sup>th</sup> December 2018 2:00pm and 6:00pm KS1 Christmas performance.

13<sup>th</sup> December 2018 NEW KS2 Christmas carol concert (6:00pm - more details to come).