

Highwoods Community Primary School Newsletter Spring 1 2020

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## Highwoods Community Primary School 'Learning for Life'



Dear parents and carers,

Welcome back to a new year. We hope you are all rested and have had a great break. This is my favourite term in the school year as we can see so much progress in the learning of the children - they really do seem to mature and settle as this term develops. Teachers and staff will be making sure routines and rules are embedded again so that the learning, behaviour and atmosphere around the school is as strong and positive as possible. As always, your support with this is much needed and greatly appreciated.

There was so much to be proud of last year. It really was a year full of positives and great accomplishments - our brilliant OFSTED inspection and continued excellent results being two particular highlights. It was a school year finished off with an action-packed December - the Mercury Theatre production that the whole school visited, Infants and Junior Christmas lunches, Foundation Stage and Infant nativity shows, the Junior carol concert and PTA disco! My thanks are extended to everyone connected to the school - staff, parents, PTA, Governors, and most importantly, children, for making such a success of it all. It is exhausting but certainly worth it!

There are some important term dates at the end of this newsletter for the year- please take note. They also include the non-pupil days for September 2020, where the school has chunked 3 days together so the start to the term is slightly later. This has been done deliberately for two reasons. Firstly, the staff will be having training over these days which is quite in depth and time consuming - hence the need to more than one day. Secondly, by allowing children to arrive back at school slightly later, it is hoped that families can take advantage of cheaper prices for holidays and get better deals. We appreciate holiday costs in peak times soar and this is tough on all families- hopefully this will help.

Finally, keep an eye out for a letter being sent home on "Ping" about another visit from an award-winning author! After the visits of Lisa Thompson and SF Said, we are delighted to announce Kes Gray will be visiting us this term and children will all have the chance to meet him, plus get copies of books signed.

Mr Disley

### Junior Carol Concert

The junior carol concert was a huge success this year and the feedback has been great. There is no doubt that the new lighting and sound system added to the event and our thanks goes out to Ron Knights, parent and school Governor, for putting in so much time to run this for us.

I would also like to thank Miss Orr who led the concert so brilliantly and organised the event to such a high standard. Videos clips of the event are on our Twitter page and will also be added to our website.



### Infant and Junior Christmas Lunch

The Christmas lunches were fabulous this year and fun was had by all. For those that might not know, the hall is set to cater for hundreds of children who are served Christmas dinner by staff. The catering team, led by Sue Murrell, did a fantastic job and the dinners were very well received by the children- lots of smiles and fun. My thanks are extended to the school Governors who support the school in paying for the meals so that there is no cost to families.



Don't forget to follow us on Twitter! Daily updates on school life and trips! Follow us @hcpscolchester



## Panto!

The panto at the Mercury Theatre was a brilliant success. With the show being held at a temporary site while the theatre is refurbished, it was a new experience for everyone. I am delighted to say that the show was amazing, the children were a credit to the school and fun was had by all. A huge thank you to our brilliant PTA who as always, donate £1400 to cover the cost of the coaches- this significantly reduces the cost of the trip for families. We really couldn't afford to run this trip without them. A special mention too for Mrs Corton who once again organised the trip so brilliantly!



## The PTA Autumn Disco!!

Wow! What an event. It was the busiest disco ever and so much fun. The children had a great time - for many of our younger ones, it was their first ever disco and they were amazing. Thank you to all the PTA volunteers who are such stars and Gemma Oliver who chairs and leads the PTA so brilliantly! We raised over £600 which is going towards a new climbing frame. (more details to come soon)



### Forest School Year 3!

Just love these photos from Year 3 Forest School - so much fun and learning. We now have Forest School in every year group apart from Year 4 (hopefully soon to change) and has become one of the best things about our school.



### Parent tours for new places 2020

Our last parent tour for places in Foundation Stage next academic year is this Friday, 10 January 2020. If you know families who are looking for places, then please get them to ring the office to book a slot to view the school and meet the team.

Many thanks

Key Dates:

Children return to school for the 7<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

14<sup>th</sup> February 2020 Last day of Spring Half Term.

24<sup>th</sup> February 2020 Children back in school.

10<sup>th</sup> March 2020 Parents Evening.

11<sup>th</sup> March 2020 Parents Evening.

12<sup>th</sup> March 2020 Parents Evening (late meetings).

**13<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> March 2020 Non Pupil Days**

3<sup>rd</sup> April 2020 Last day of Spring Term

20<sup>th</sup> April 2020 Children return to school for the Summer Term

25<sup>th</sup> May 2020 Summer Half Term - children back on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020

8<sup>th</sup> July , 9<sup>th</sup> July and 10<sup>th</sup> July Year 6 residential 2020

22<sup>nd</sup> July 2020 Last day of Summer Term

**2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> September 2020 Non Pupil Days**

**Children return to school on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

**4<sup>th</sup> January 2021 Non Pupil Day**

**Children return to school on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021**