



Highwoods Community Primary School 'Learning for Life'



Dear parents and carers,

It has been a great half term with so much happening in our wonderful school - choir at the O2, PTA magic shows and quiz nights, famous author visits and an incredible number of visitors.

There are some key points that I do want to share with you. Firstly, after many years at Highwoods Primary, it is with sadness that we say goodbye to Mrs Rose who is retiring at the end of the academic year. We would like to thank her for all of her hard work and commitment over the years, particularly supporting school council, leading design technology, running cooking clubs and driving eco school's success - 15 years is a long time to commit to our school.

Next, there are a few changes to sports day this year. We have decided to split this event over two days. Foundation Stage will have their own sports day on the afternoon of 11th June (reserve date 18th June), while Infants (Year 1 and 2) and Juniors (Yrs 3,4,5 and 6) will have their sports day on the day of the 24th June (reserve date 2nd July). Juniors will be in the morning and Infants will be in the afternoon. We have done this for a number of reasons. We listened to feedback from families last year and it was felt that the 'carousel' activity part of sports day was tired and too crowded. We have decided to take the carousel part of the day away from the event. Sports day will now be focused on more races, with a balance of fun and competition - this will avoid children and parents having to spend large amounts of time waiting for the next race. Each child will have more races and as it will be less crowded on the day, parents will be able to see their child's race more easily and get photos easier too. We do appreciate that for some families this means slightly more time off work, but we hope the advanced notice and the improved event will make it worthwhile. More details will follow prior to sports day but you can look forward to long distance, sprints, relay and novelty races.

Finally, on a sad note, Ms Bennett has broken her arm but is recovering well. I know all of you will join me in wishing her a speedy recovery. Ms Bennett is signed off work for a few more weeks so anything urgent, please come and see myself or the class teacher.

Mr Disley

World Book Day (March 5th)

We have decided that this year we are not dressing up for world book day. Over the last few years, we have run a 'vocabulary day' where children have dressed up as words! It has been brilliant but we wanted to focus on reading throughout the day so we have some low cost (free) activities planned to celebrate our best books and authors. More details to come out soon on Ping.

All of the children will still get their £1 book token to claim their free book.

PTA

There have been some great PTA events recently. We had our first quiz night which was a real success. This is an event for grown-ups only - it starts and finishes late and is held in the school hall. There were 11 teams who were all competing for the coveted tiny plastic trophy (plus some wine). There was a great atmosphere so thank you to all that came and supported the event so well.

For the children, the Magic show and balloon modelling was brilliant, with nearly 100 tickets sold. Thanks to 'Magic Ian' who donated his time and ran the event - he is just fantastic with the children.

Once again, thanks to Gemma and the whole of the PTA for putting so much into our school.

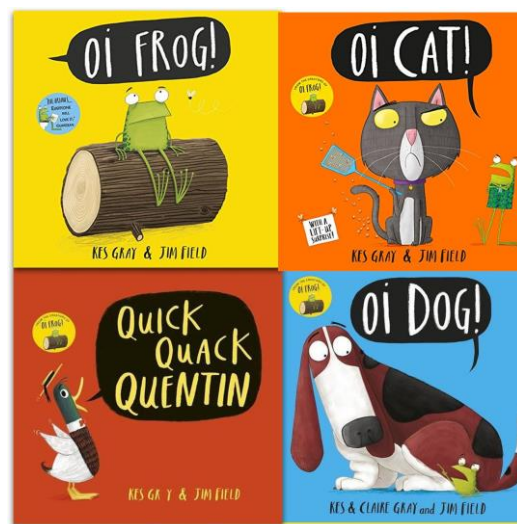


O2 STARS

A huge well done to the choir who performed so well at the O2. Thank you to all the staff who gave up their time - it was a late night! Thanks to all the parents who came to support the event as well. We have already had enquires for next year- we are doing it again!

Kes Gray

Kes Gray was a huge success! He met the children and presented two workshops, talking about his books, characters and re-telling some rather strange stories! The book signing was incredibly busy after school so thank you to everyone for their patience. I know that Kes was blown away by the level of interest and support from families - he gave us a collection of all of his books for free which have gone straight into the Infant and Junior libraries. My thanks to Miss Halls who organised another brilliant author visit.



Highwoods Community Primary School Newsletter Spring 2

Follow us on Twitter @hcpscolchester or our website is <http://highwoodsprimary.co.uk/>

Follow our PTA on Facebook at <https://engb.facebook.com/HighwoodsPTA/>



More Forest school fun from Year 3 and 5. We are always looking for new parents/grandparents to be part of our Forest school team, with training options available for anyone who has a real passion for supporting outdoor learning. If you are interested, speak to any member of the Forest School team or come and have a chat to me.

Thanks

Key dates:

24th February 2020 children back in school

10th March 2020 Parents Evening

11th March 2020 Parents Evening

12th March 2020 Parents Evening (late meetings)

13th and 16th March 2020 Non pupil days

3rd April 2020 last day of spring term

20th April 2020 children return to school

25th May 2020 Half Term Holiday - children back on 1st June 2020

11th June Foundation Stage Sports Day PM (reserve date 18th June)

24th June (reserve date 2nd July) Infants (Year 1 and 2) and Juniors (Yrs 3,4,5 and 6) sports day. Juniors will be in the morning and infants will be in the afternoon.

8th, 9th and 10th July Year 6 Residential 2020

22nd July 2020 last day of term

2nd, 3rd and 4th September 2020 Non pupil days

Children return to school on 7th September 2020

4th January 2021 Non pupil day

Children return to school on 5th January 2021

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

