



Highwood Primary School
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Promoting Resilience, Achieving Potential
Headteacher Mrs B Rai

Tuesday 16th April 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy Summer term and welcome back! We hope you had a restful and enjoyable holiday.

We are fortunate to have an inclusive community whereby children can learn about different faiths and cultures. With this in mind, we wish happiness and peace to our families who have been reflecting and celebrating religious observances, during the springtime period.

School Operational Matters

I am pleased to announce that Mrs Edmunds has been promoted to the role of The School Business Manager. She has been making the steady transition and contributed to the full governing body meeting on 27th March.

Managing the school budget continues to be challenging but Mrs Edmunds brings a wealth of transferable skills to the role and is eager to try out new initiatives to support us through the uncertain times ahead.

I am also delighted that Mrs Suzie Home and Miss Debbie Graham will focus upon key administration functions, attendance and all communication items. Please kindly liaise with them as they all settle into their respective roles.

Mrs Ladyman will continue to focus upon HR Administration and Admissions.

We look forward to embracing the changes ahead through enhancing efficiency in our systems.

Staff News

We warmly welcome Miss Bogush to the team. This term she will be teaching Year 4 Hazel. She is looking forward to working collaboratively with Miss Hewitt and Mrs Trivedi to help the children in Year 4 prepare for their transition into Year 5.

We send messages of congratulations and joyful thoughts to Miss May. She gave birth to a baby boy on Friday. We wish them both well.

Willow Class are to be taught by Mr Johnson and Miss Nanda. They are looking forward to the children gaining greater independence in their learning.

Sadly, Mrs Jen Graham, our Year 3 Teaching Assistant, will be leaving us on Friday 19th April. Her husband is being posted to Germany, so new adventures await her family. Jen has been a wonderful addition, who has become a pivotal team player in Year 3. We will miss her calmness, measured way of supporting our pupils and not forgetting how fantastic of a motivator she is to get the children reading everyday. Her kindness and cheerful demeanour will be missed. We wish her safe travels and continued best wishes.





Friends of Highwood

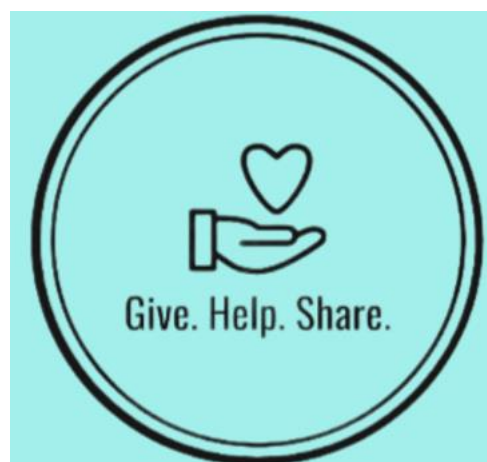
It was wonderful to know that we have numerous events voluntarily planned by our fantastic Friends of Highwood Committee.

Please consider joining the committee so that we can share the work load, make new friends, and create amazing memories for the children.

The enrichment opportunities organised by Friends of Highwood are so important to all children. I would like to take a moment to thank all parents for their financial contributions to these events as well as for volunteering. We are lucky at Highwood to have such a passionate and supportive parental community.

**Charitable donations accepted and distributed:
Thank you so much for your kindness!**

- NSPCC Number Day – We are awaiting to receive the certificate. Voluntary monetary donation was given to the school.
- Families donated pre-loved school uniform and stationery items to the school.
- Food donations offered to targeted families from the Charity Give. Help. Share.



Summer term Key Priorities

Children will be working hard to achieve the following



Areas for Improvement

To ensure the school values of respect, empathy, gratitude, honesty and resilience are demonstrated throughout the day, in and out of lessons.

To learn how to resolve problems and disputes with friends and classmates independently.



To maintain the love of reading. To ensure all pupils access the full curriculum offer.

To improve presentation and handwriting skills. Handwriting in all classes is judged at least good for the age of the children.



Our aim is that 90% children will achieve their pen license by end of Year 4.



Safeguarding Online Safety Matters

Please take the time to have a look at the following link that shares excellent advice for parents about how to keep your children safe online in the home.

It's never easy to know how to keep our children safe when on their devices! Who are they talking to, what are they doing, are they okay?

This website has some excellent resources <https://parentsafe.lgfl.net/>

The **digital 5 a day** provides a simple framework that reflects the concerns of parents/ carers as well as children's behaviours and needs. It can also act as a base for family agreements about internet and digital device use throughout both the holidays and term time.

Based on the NHS's evidence-based **“five steps to better mental wellbeing”**, the digital 5 a day campaign gives children and parents easy to follow, practical steps to achieve a healthy and balanced digital diet.

Children's
COMMISSIONER





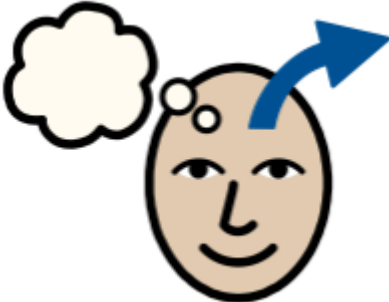
Digital 5 A Day






Simple steps to a balanced digital diet and better wellbeing







Diary Dates for the Summer term 2024

At this time of year, we are usually looking ahead to the many summer-term events that take place from May to July.

Please see the diary dates. We will add new dates as they are confirmed.

15.04.24	Pupils return Summer Term commences
	Astra Recycling clothes collection. AM collection requested Reduce, Reuse, Recycle – Promoting sustainability. Further details to be confirmed
16.04.24	
18.04.24	Trip Y2 to Florence Nightingale Museum
19.04.24	Game On football festival at Bushey Manor 4.00pm
22.04.24	Game On football festival @ home 4pm - 5.20pm
23.04.24	St George's Day (Patron Saint of England)
	Friends of Highwood Spring Disco 5.00 -8.00pm Please volunteer to help out during the evening – Let the office team know if you can. Reception – Year 3, 5.00 pm to 6.00 pm Year 4 – Year 6, 6:20pm to 7:35pm
25.04.24	
25.04.24	Year 1 Local Walk to Fishers Field
26.04.24	Achievement Attendance Assembly
29.04.24	Positive Minds Workshops commence weekly for Year 6  Workshops will run for 10 weeks and will help the children prepare for Secondary School life transition. To be confirmed if we receive enough voluntary contributions Positive Minds; Education Ten-week award winning wellbeing programme. The programme combines classroom and practical-based activities to engage and increase the awareness around the topic of mental health. The programme covers 10 different topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none">· Introduction to Mental Health· Coping Strategies and Resilience· Support Network and Positive Relationships· Internet Safety & Social Media· Body Image· Emotional Literacy & Emotional regulation· 5 Ways to Wellbeing & Lifestyle· Body, Mind and Resilience· Growth Mindset & Transitioning

	· Talking about Mental Health
29.04.24	Screening of Reception children (height, weight, vision and hearing) in Activity Studio
30.04.24	Screening of Reception children (height, weight, vision and hearing) in Activity Studio
06.05.24	May Bank Holiday School closed
07.05.24	2.50pm – 3.10pm Year 3 & 4 Phonics and Spelling Parent Workshop – come and watch how to help your child Timings to be confirmed
08.05.24	2.50pm – 3.10pm Year 5 & 6 Phonics and Spelling Parent Workshop – come and watch how to help your child Timings to be confirmed
09.05.24	2.50pm – 3.10pm Year 1 & 2 Phonics and Spelling Parent Workshop – come and watch how to help your child
13.05.24	KS2 SATs will take place
TBC	13 th – 17 th May it is OP SCEPTRE week (anti Knife Crime week) Year 6 talk from Youth Violent Crime PCSO, Sarah Thomas
15.05.24	Early Years Maths Fun Day - AM Nursery and Ash class 9.00 -10.00am, PM Nursery and Oak 2.00-3.00pm
20.05.24	ExploreRE week led by Watford Schools Trust – each class will have an opportunity to engage with the interactive RE workshop. It enables children, of all faiths and none, to explore life's deeper questions that are related to the National Curriculum
22.05.24	 <p>Paralympian visits Highwood! On the event day, all pupils will take part in a sponsored fitness circuit run by an athlete, a terrific way to get all children excited about sport and realise that getting moving is really fun! There will be an interactive assembly. Fundraising for the event will begin when the children will be bringing home a sponsorship form. The money raised for the event will go towards new important resources to improve levels of physical activity in our school, such as new sports equipment! PE kits are to be worn for every child from Reception to Year 6</p>
27.05.24 – 02.06.24 Half Term	
03.06.24	INSET day – school closed to pupils
04.06.24	Welcome back – pupils return
04.06.24	Year 4 Multiplication check commences
05.06.24	Van Cols photography company visiting - Class photos taking place
06.06.24	Friends of Highwood Colour Run, School Council and Anti-Bullying Ambassadors - Details to be confirmed.
Option One	<p>A celebration of inclusivity and diversity</p>    
07.06.24	Friends of Highwood Colour Run, School Council and Anti-Bullying Ambassadors -

Option Two	    <p>Details to be confirmed. A celebration of inclusivity and diversity</p>
10.06.24	Phonics screening check commences
10.06.24	Healthy Eating Week
10.06.24	Year 3 Ancient Egypt Day (In hall – Except at lunchtime)
12.06.24	New to Reception meeting 6:00pm for prospective parents
13.06.24	Activity Studio out of use from 1.30pm
 14.06.24	Friends of Highwood "Dad's and Other Lads" Pop up Shop A wonderful time to celebrate and share gratitude with loved ones. Activity Studio OUT OF USE ALL DAY
17.06.24	KS1 SATs Testing period commences
19.06.24	New to Nursery meeting 6:00pm for prospective parents
 22.06.24	Friends of Highwood Summer Fair 12.00 – 3.00pm – please come along to help before or during the event. Thank you School will be open from 08.00am preparing for the event
27.06.24	Year 1 Toy Day Workshop
26.06.24	Nursery and Reception Sports Day – to be confirmed Option one
28.06.24	KS1 and KS2 Sports Day – to be confirmed Option one
03.07.24	KS1 and KS2 Sports Day – to be confirmed Option two
04.07.24	Nursery and Reception Sports Day – to be confirmed Option two
10.07.24	Sycamore 6 & Chestnut 6 puppet performances to parents - details to follow
11.07.24	Meet new class teacher day
11.07.24	Year 6 Induction Day at their High Schools
16.07.24	Year 6 Leavers Trip Chessington World of Adventures
18.07.24	Year 6 Leavers assembly to Parent and carers – details to follow
19.07.24	Last day of academic year. School closes at 2.00pm
22.07.24	INSET day staff training – school closed to pupils

We look forward to you helping and joining us at many of these summer events.

Yours sincerely,
Bindu Rai
Headteacher