

Headteachers Newsletter

Spring Term 1st half 2015

Dear parents and carers,

I cannot believe that we are already nearing the end of the first half-term of 2015. The children have been participating in some fantastic events. These have included Year 4 Chembokoli wow day, where children learned all about a village in India and how charities such as Action Aid strive to improve the lives of people around the world. Year 2 had an 'Around the World' cultural day, where they thoroughly enjoyed learning about other countries and cultures whilst getting the opportunity to taste some international food. Year 3 and Year 5 have been participating in Sports at Highams Park School. Reception, this week are visiting the local post office to learn how we write and send letters, as well as the jobs that people do. Following this theme, we are also being visited by the Mounted Constabulary on **Friday 6th February**. Reception will be celebrating Chinese New Year (The Year of the Sheep) on **Thursday 12th February**. Children in Reception are encouraged to wear red and yellow clothes for the day. Kung Hei Fat Choi!



Following the success of last year's 'Read for my school', children from Year 3 upwards will be participating in this initiative once again. Each child has been given a username and password to be able to access and read books online. This project will run until March. Please encourage your child to participate, read as many books as possible and record the books in their home/school diaries.

Tuesday 10th February is 'National Internet Safety Day'. We will be talking to the children about e-safety, and the need to keep themselves safe on the internet. All classes will be participating in relevant activities.



Year 1 parents/carers/grandparents are invited to attend a session of Maths Games with their children. This will run from 9-10am on **Friday 30th January**. We are hoping to replicate this fun and interactive session throughout the school for the different year groups.



We are celebrating World Book Day on **Friday 6th March**. Children are invited to dress up as their favourite book character, with prizes for the most imaginative costumes. There will also be a great value Book Fair. The day will provide lots of opportunities to promote reading, writing and story-telling.

Hogwarts comes to Handsworth: Year 6 are holding our first Harry Potter evening on **Thursday 5th February** from 3.45pm – 5pm. The children will have the opportunity to dress up as their favourite Harry Potter character and participate in related fun activities.

PREMISES UPDATE – we are hoping that the expansion of the school kitchen facilities will commence on **Monday 9th February**. Please be extra vigilant as there will be a level of disruption with building works and vehicles on site.

A polite reminder that dogs should **NOT** be brought onto the school premises or tethered to the school railings at the start or end of the school day.

Also be reminded that if an older pupil from Highams Park School is collecting a sibling, they must not be accompanied by other HP pupils. Older non Handsworth pupils also do not need to meet their parent/carers on our site. The school walkways/entrances and exits are already incredibly busy.

SCHOOL UNIFORM – Children must wear the correct school uniform for school. This is grey skirt/trousers, white shirt and Handsworth logo cardigan or jumper. Black school shoes must be worn. If children wear boots to school they

must get changed into shoes before school starts. Hair accessories should be non-obtrusive and within school colours. Fashion hair accessories are not allowed.



FOH continue to do a fantastic job promoting activities for children and for people within our local community. Dates for your diary include Quiz night on Saturday 28th February and a pamper evening on Friday 13th March. As a result of your fundraising we have **£3000** to contribute to special projects within the school. Please do let us know (email the school office) if you have any good ideas how we can use this money to benefit our pupils.

COMMUNITY NEWS – Part of the Highams Park Plan is to improve the local area. The project has been awarded a sum in the region of £80,000 to improve the play facilities at Highams Park Lake. As members of the community, we have got the fantastic opportunity to have an input into the plan. Could you therefore please leave your feedback on their website www.highamsparkplan.org. These improvements could prove hugely beneficial for our pupils e.g. toilets, quality wooden adventure play equipment, nature trail and community activity room (similar to Suntrap). This could enhance our children's learning, increase and improve our use of this local site and help towards Handsworth becoming a 'Forest School'.

STAFFING – Our congratulations go to Miss Dale, the proud mummy of Robin born on the 19th December, he is absolutely adorable. We are welcoming a number of student teachers this term, as part of their professional development and training programme. We are delighted that Nuria Maria-Bautista is joining us on a 12 week student teacher placement from Spain. We would also like to welcome Mr Marshall who will be working with us when Mrs Chetty commences her maternity leave.

Polling Station Our school nursery is being used as a polling station on **Thursday 7th May 2015** for the Local and European Elections. Both morning and afternoon nursery sessions will be cancelled on that date.

Please do feel welcome to come and see me if you have queries or concerns.

Kind regards

Jill

Dates for your Diary

National Science Week – 16th – 20th March

Parents Evenings 24th and 25th March

Shaking Up Shakespeare (6:00pm 6AA performance to parents on Thursday 5th March)

Shaking Up Shakespeare (6:00pm 6MO performance to parents on Thursday 12th March)

Comic Relief – 13th March

End of Term – Easter – 02nd April at 2.30pm

'It is our choices that show what we truly are, far more than our abilities.' JK Rowling