



Weekly Newsletter

15 March 2024

Making learning a lifelong adventure

Our school value for this half-term is



Dear Parents/Carers

This week has been **British Science Week** and, right across the school, children have been doing extra science on the theme of time and have had a special assembly on the theme, Tuesday. Thank you to those who have designed a poster on the theme. These will be judged soon and the winning entries will be entered in the national competition.

Yesterday, our Year 4 classes presented two excellent **class assemblies** on their learning so far this year. In *Maple TV* we watched a number of programmes in which the young presenters show-cased their learning and in *School of Pine* we dropped in on lessons; enjoying fractions, persuasive writing, a journey to ancient Egypt, gymnastics and even a bit of *Bake Off*!

The School Council also led special assemblies this week on **Comic Relief** and explained how the money raised on Red Nose Day is used to fight poverty and support those in need in the UK and in Africa. This led up to their fundraiser today when everyone has come to school in red mufti and we have so far raised £263. Parents are encouraged, should they not have done so already, to make a Red Nose Day donation through the Arbor School Shop. The School Council's Red Nose Day staff trivia quiz was great fun and was won jointly by Sycamore and Rowan classes, each scoring 8/8.

CURRICULUM IN FOCUS - EARLY YEARS

Our Reception classes have had a very productive week. It started with a Teams meeting, as part of our *people who help us* topic, with Evie's Grandad who is a doctor in California (right) and ended with a visit from Aima's daddy to talk about Ramadan (Below).



The children have been reading stories from the *Supertato* series and were delighted when some *Superveggies* magically appeared in school. Their arrival has helped engage the children in writing letters to *Evil Pea* to save the *veggies* following the discovery that many of the veggies had been trapped in various places around Oak and Chestnut classes (picture left). The excitement was palpable!

This also tied in with learning about the 5 Senses for science week, with the children going on a Spring walk to use their senses and tasting lots of different types of apple and sweet and salty flavours.

Next week we will be celebrating neurodiversity and many will have noticed the return of the umbrella project at the front of the school. These brightly coloured umbrellas have returned to school to mark *Neurodiversity Celebration Week*, which aims to challenge stereotypes and misconceptions about neurological differences. On close inspection, you will see that the umbrellas have been embellished by some of our pupils to celebrate the *super powers* of our neuro divergent pupils! You can see a [video of the project](#) here. Thank you to our SENCO Mrs Burley and parent governor Gemma Randall for helping to put the project together for the second time!

We also look forward to seeing parents of pupils in Reception to Year 5 in the spring parent consultations on Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

Yours faithfully

Jonathan Walker
Headteacher



Message from the Governing Body – Annual Survey Launch

In order to proactively plan to further improve the school's provision, we are always keen to seek and understand parents' views on the various aspects of school life.

Parents can do this throughout the year by sending generalised compliments, comments and concerns to our dedicated cccc@highbeeches.herts.sch.uk email address. Where relevant, these will usually feed through to meetings with parent reps, where school leaders and parents can discuss the relative extent of any issues raised and explore the rationale for current practice and how changes could be made.

Additionally, today we are launching a questionnaire for parents of children at the school which we hope all parents will complete over the course of the next week. The survey comprises of 19 tick box questions and an opportunity at the end to provide more information or details if parents wish. The survey should take around 5-10 minutes to complete and parents can do so by following [this link](#).

FoHBS News

Please see separate FoHBS news and the minutes from the recent annual general meeting.

Sports Desk

On Wednesday, the football teams played Grove Junior at home. With a slightly injury and illness-stricken team, they played well and the A team drew 1-1 and the B team lost 1-0.

On Thursday, a group of Year 6 pupils attended a friendly hockey festival at Oaklands College in St Albans and the netball teams travelled over to Wood End for the next in their series of league games. Kiara and Megan report right.

On Thursday, High Beeches netball teams participated in a netball match against Wood End. Both teams enjoyed their games. It is fair to say they were a challenge, but they pushed through to the end.

After two tough matches, the scores were 7-1 to the A team and 7-0 to the B team. The team are all very excited to be playing the Grove on Monday.

Supporting Families

Online Family Support Courses in March

Please see flyers right for an opportunity to sign-up to a *Family Lives* course on reducing conflict in the family. They apparently may still have places available.

[Family Lives](#) is a national charity, based in Hatfield, offering advice and support on all aspects of family life, through online courses, videos and information and support services. More information can be found on the Parent Carer Hub page of our website or by following the direct link.

Please see attached **School Nursing Service Newsletter** for a whole raft of information about children's health services.

The [Spring issue of Family Buzz Magazine](#) can be found here and may be of use for finding family activities in the locality.

Allotments with spaces

We have been advised that there are plots available at a number of local allotment sites, including those in Batford, Marquis Lane, Crabtree Lane. More information can be found [here](#).



Reducing Conflict Online Workshop

Conflicts are regular occurrence within families. It's often a normal part of everyday life. However, conflict that is frequent, intense, and poorly resolved, has a significant negative impact on children's mental health and long-term life chances. This 2-hour workshop explores different types of conflict between couples and families.

Thursday 14 March 9.30am – 11.30am
OR
Wednesday 20 March 7.00pm – 9.00pm

For more information, contact Louise on 0204 522 8700 or 8701 or email services@familylives.org.uk

We build better family lives together

www.familylives.org.uk

 @FamilyLivesHertsandBeds



Family Lives is registered as a company limited by guarantee in England and Wales No. 3817762. Registered charity No. 1077722. Registered address: 15-17 The Broadway, Hatfield, Hertfordshire, AL9 5HZ.

Headteacher Awards

Today we congratulated the following children for their achievements this week.

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|----------------------------|-----------|--|
| • Reception Chestnut Class | Henry | For using model making skills to build Lego structures and 3D models. Well done! |
| | Sofia | For super book making skills and writing in the style of an Author! Well Done! |
| • Reception Oak Class | Ottilie | For having great ideas during science week. |
| • Year 1 Cedar Class | Evie | For trying really hard and persevering with her letter formation. |
| | Zoey | Showing enthusiasm towards learning all week and for going the extra mile to work to the best of your ability! |
| • Year 1 Elm Class | Annabel | Working hard on presentation, particularly in maths to form numbers accurately! |
| | Ted | For showing great determination when reading and writing this week. Well done Ted! |
| • Year 2 Hazel Class | Eleanor | For a wonderful piece of writing based on 'Journey.' Well done Eleanor! |
| | Siana | For her beautiful letter formation, presentation and for consistently joined handwriting. |
| • Year 2 Willow Class | Rafe | For his excellent predictions and scientific explanations when carrying out our whole class waterproof experiment. |
| | Eli | For persevering when learning a very tricky Maths strategy :) |
| • Year 3 Birch Class | Maya | For working hard to improve her handwriting by proactively asking for feedback. |
| | Nina | For writing an effective recount that includes adverbs of time, place and manner. |
| • Year 3 Redwood Class | Amy | For using adverts, conjunctions and adjectives to create a brilliant piece of writing. |
| | Sarah | For her resilience and hard work when learning about fractions this week. |
| • Year 4 Maple Class | James | For an excellent performance in the class assembly and learning all his lines (and others) |
| | Ariadna | For setting her work out neatly in Maths, which has helped her master formal division |
| • Year 4 Pine Class | Abigail | For working hard to master formal division with remainders in maths. |
| | Joe | Always working hard to present his work neatly and to use carefully formed handwriting. |
| • Year 5 Ash Class | Finley | For working hard to fix his rhythm and rhyme in his brilliant cat poem! |
| | Alex | For sharing his musical knowledge during our violin lessons. |
| • Year 5 Hawthorn Class | Christian | For maximising his learning opportunities by working hard 100% of the time to achieve great outcomes. |
| | George | For showing respect for our learning environment by keeping it tidy and well-organised. |
| • Year 6 Rowan Class | Hudson | For creating such an expressive poem using personification. |
| | Jasmine | For consistently joining your handwriting and using personification so effectively in your poem. |
| • Year 6 Sycamore Class | Myra | For always taking pride in your presentation. |
| | Jack | For writing a fantastic poem using personification. |

Further Information and Reminders

Attendance

Congratulations to Chestnut and Maple classes who have the best attendance this week, with 98.5% and 100% respectively.

Communication with School

Please see below the list of email contacts for direct communication with class teachers. These should be used for curriculum related information and queries and to advise year group staff of any pastoral matters. Urgent messages (such as last-minute changes to end of the day collection arrangements) should be communicated directly with the school office.

- reception@highbeeches.herts.sch.uk
- yearone@highbeeches.herts.sch.uk
- yeartwo@highbeeches.herts.sch.uk
- yearthree@highbeeches.herts.sch.uk
- yearfour@highbeeches.herts.sch.uk
- yearfive@highbeeches.herts.sch.uk
- yearsix@highbeeches.herts.sch.uk

To inform us of any absence through illness please email absent@highbeeches.herts.sch.uk or call: 01582 767966 option 2.

To inform us of any planned absences such as medical appointments. Please complete a leave of absence request which can be found on the school website. Please note that we will only respond to these requests if we need further information.

Diary Dates

Amendments and additions to previously published events shown in purple

Monday 18 March 2024	<i>Mid-year reports to parents Wear bright socks to schools to celebrate neurodiversity...!</i>
18 to 22 March	<i>Neurodiversity Celebration Week</i>
19 and 21 March 2024	<i>Reception to Y5 Parent Consultations</i>
21 March 2024, 9am	<i>Year 3 Birch class assembly</i>
21 March 2024, 2:30pm	<i>Year 3 Redwood class assembly</i>
22 March 2024	<i>FoHBS discos</i>
26 March 2024, 6pm	<i>Y5 Choir in Harpenden Schools' Spring Music Festival at the EMC</i>
27 March 2024, 1.15pm	<i>KS2 Speakers Cup Final (finalists' parents invited)</i>
27 March 2024, 6.00pm	<i>Spring Music Evening</i>
28 March 2024, 9.00am	<i>K1 Speakers Cup Final (finalists' parents invited)</i>
28 March 2024	<i>House Ambassadors' Sponsored Bunny Hop Events for Herts young Carers Wear PE kits for the day. Bunny ears are optional!</i>
28 March 2024, 2pm	<i>School closes for Easter holiday</i>
Sunday 7 July 2024	<i>FOHBS Summer Fair – date change due to clash with SJL Festival on Field</i>