



in partnership with Blanche Nevile

Headteacher's Newsletter February 2010

Dear Parents and Carers

The Spring Term is always very much focused on teaching and learning – and the hall displays which have appeared this week show the range of topic related activities which are taking place in class. February's newsletter contains news about events so far this term and has some important reminders that will help to make for a successful term.

Pupil Numbers

I am delighted to report that January's school census confirmed that we officially have 416 children on roll. I would like to welcome all the new families that have joined us this year.

Music in assembly



Children are coming in to assembly this term to the sound of live music performed by teachers, children and visitors to the school. Amongst the many talented musicians to have performed in school is professional horn player Simon Morgan. Not only did Simon entertain the children with the French horn, he also played a conch shell, a garden hose and a hunting horn too!

Parents are of course invited to perform too. Could any musical parents, who are willing to volunteer to perform in one of our morning assemblies, speak to me?

Special assemblies

Last week children in 5NL entertained the school with a splendid assembly that was themed around the importance of water in our lives.

Holocaust Memorial Day

Children in Year 6 acknowledged the significance of Holocaust Memorial Day with a very interesting and thought provoking workshop at Highgate Library.

Science Museum Visit



Children in Year 3 enjoyed a very successful visit to the Science Museum this week, the highlight of which was a talk given by a Gene Cernan – the last man to walk on the moon.

Ben Domb in 3LM said, 'well it wasn't actually a real astronaut, but you never would have known unless you were told. I learnt that if we went too fast through the atmosphere we would burn up, so coming back from space is very dangerous. Overall it was fantastic trip, and the film 'Fly me to the moon' at the I-Max cinema was amazing.'

Girls Football Team



Congratulations to Highgate Primary's Girls Football Team which earlier this week won the Highgate Wood 5-a-side Football League. Over the last three weeks the girls have beaten teams including Coleridge, Weston Park, Our Lady of Muswell, and went through the tournament without conceding a goal

Kaylia Ayton in 4JS said, 'the tournament was great fun and it was a good opportunity for the girls in Year 4 to be part of the team. The team passed really well, Kunbi was a fantastic goal-keeper and Alliyah scored more goals than anyone else in the tournament'.

Supervised Playground

Parents have mentioned that congestion around school at drop-off time is a factor that may cause occasional lateness. As a result the school has decided to supervise the playground and gates, every day, from 8.45 a.m. This means that parents can now drop their children off earlier at school in the knowledge that they will be safe.

Inconsiderate Parking

I am becoming increasingly concerned at the parking situation in the neighbouring roads, particularly at drop-off time. Whilst the school does not have responsibility for policing the roads, it does have a duty to promote the safety of children on their journeys to and from school. Research very clearly shows that double parking, and parking on the protected zone outside schools, increases the chances of an accident. Please could parents take this into consideration when parking in order to keep our children safe.

Superheroes for Haiti



On Friday 12th February, children are invited to come to school dressed-up as a superhero or heroine – and make a contribution to the Haiti Earthquake Appeal. The school will be working with UHUK (United Haitians in the UK) who have secured several warehouses in London, including one in East Finchley. Children are invited to bring in any of the following items:

- Shoes
- Candles
- Tents
- Sleeping bags
- Tablets for clean drinking water
- Medical supplies.

In addition donations of cash donations would of course be welcome.

There is no requirement for elaborate costumes (wearing pants on the outside of trousers will suffice!) as the important thing is the contribution we can make.

Finally, we are looking for volunteers to help transport items to the warehouse on the day. If you are able to help with this, please let me know.



Highgate Children's Centre



As you will have seen, the new Children's Centre is almost finished. It's looking fantastic with big, light filled rooms, a decked outdoor play area and a huge delivery of colourful toys, art materials and comfy furniture ready and waiting to be unpacked!

As well as offering a wide range of classes and drop-in playgroups for under 5s - like baby massage, story telling and messy play - the centre will also be supporting parents with parenting classes, back to work skills, breast feeding advice and health visitor and baby weighing clinics. In the future we also hope to run some after-school clubs from the centre.

We will be opening our doors to local families straight after half term, so please do pop in and say hello, have a look around and find out more. We will be introducing our services gradually over the next few months but aim to have everything running by the autumn term. In the first two weeks we are launching with:

Dads' Club

Wednesdays 9.00 am - 12 noon from 24th Feb - a drop-in playgroup for all dads and their under 5s.

Baby Clinic

Tuesdays 9.00 am – 12 noon from 2nd March - baby-weighing, stay and play, health visitor sessions and breastfeeding advice.

Story telling

First Tuesday each month 2.00 pm – 3.00 pm, from 2nd March - bring your toddler for story telling and nursery rhymes

Parenting Course Consultation

Next month our parent support advisor Simona will be running a series of themed parenting workshops. Parents are invited to come over to the Children's Centre on Tuesday 2nd March between 2.00 pm – 3.00 pm to let her know what you would most like these to cover, for example how to deal with sibling

rivalry, how to have stress-free bedtimes or strategies for behaviour management. The workshops will start running two weeks later on the 15th March on Tuesday afternoons. Contact Simona for more details on 07800 584047.

Childminders Information Session

A drop-in coffee morning meeting will be held in the Children's Centre on Tuesday 23rd February between 10.00 am and 12.00 noon, where you can find out more about becoming a registered childminder.

Leading Parent Partnership Award



KS2 SATs Meeting

Thank you to all the parents of children in Year 6 who attended last week's SATs meetings. The feedback received was very positive. Please ask me, or any of the staff in Year 6, should you have further questions on how to support your child over the coming months.

Helping in Schools Course

This very popular course will be starting again after Easter, with an information meeting being held on Friday 12th March between 2.00 pm – 3.00pm. If you're interested and want to find out more about it, come over to the Children's Centre or call Kim Slater on 07950 334111.

The PSA has a new home!

After half term the PSA will have their Friday morning meetings in the Children's Centre. All parents are invited to drop in and get involved in fundraising ideas and organising social events. Babies and toddlers are welcome and there is always tea, coffee and biscuits. Come along, meet other parents and have a say in how funds are raised and spent.

Parent Consultations

Just to remind you that parent consultation meetings are taking place next half term on Wednesday 10th between 4.00 and 6.00 pm and Thursday 11th March between 6.00 and 8.00 pm.

Better Reading Partners

Just a reminder that next Friday the school will be running a training programme for staff and parents called 'Better Reading Partners'. If you are able to help children with their reading at school and would like to take part, please let Ruth know by Monday 8th February.

Winter Vomiting Bug

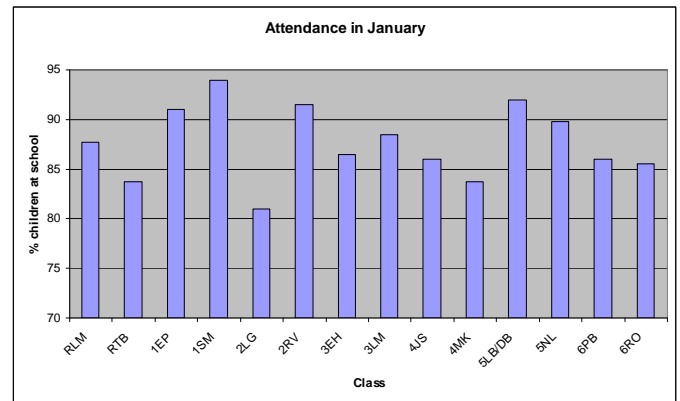
Just to let you know that a few classes have been hit by the winter vomiting bug, which has particularly unpleasant

symptoms. If your child is affected, the advice is to keep them at home for 24 hours after the last occurrence.

Attendance and Punctuality

Thank you to everyone who has responded positively to the school's request to improve attendance and punctuality. I thought it would be useful to update you with the progress towards our target, and below you will find the attendance figures for each class in the month of January.

Of course a combination of snow and illness has meant that the figures for January are disappointing, so again I ask that families make every effort to help us achieve our target of 95%.



Baby for Carron

Carron Staplehurst, who is currently working as a volunteer in Elissa's class, is seeking a family with a newborn baby who would be willing to allow her to visit once-a-week as part of a very interesting and valuable research project. If you are able to help, or know anyone who can, please speak to William who will be happy to provide more details.

And finally



As you can see, the school continues to a vibrant and busy place. I am particularly pleased with the preparations taking place for the opening of the Children's Centre, which I know will make links with our community even stronger.

Yours sincerely

William Dean
Headteacher

Dates for Your Diary

1SM Class Assembly	Friday 5 th February
3LM Inspire Event	Thursday 11 th February
5LB Class Assembly	Friday 12 th February
Half Term Week	w/c 15 th February
Children return to school	Monday 22 nd February
Children's Centre Opening	Monday 22 nd February
5NL Inspire Event	Friday 26 th February
3LM Class Assembly	Friday 26 th February
2RV World Book Day Assembly	Friday 5 th March
Parent Consultations 4.00 – 6.00 pm	Wednesday 10 th March
Parent Consultations 6.00 – 8.00 pm	Thursday 11 th March
1EP Class Assembly	Friday 12 th March
2LG Class Assembly	Friday 19 th March
Year 2 Cake Sale	Friday 19 th March
Rainbow Day	Friday 26 th March
Year 6 Legoland Trip	Tuesday 30 th March
Term Ends	Thursday 1 st April
Staff Training Day School Closed	Monday 19 th April
Children return for Summer Term	Tuesday 20 th April



Blanche Nevile Newsletter

Chinese New Year

We will be celebrating Chinese New Year next Friday, 12th February. The children will have opportunities to learn about Chinese New Year and work with children from different year groups through a variety of activities. Parents/carers and governors are very welcome to come and join us if you are free. We will start at approximately 1:45pm.

Coffee morning

Our next coffee morning will be on Wednesday 24th February 2010. We will start with a sharing assembly. In the parent workshop session we will be discussing behaviour management strategies that we use with children at school and invite you to come and share your experiences of what works well at home. This is an area which parents have asked to discuss and is designed to be a supportive sharing session, which we hope will be useful for you. More details will follow.

Visual Phonics workshop

I will be holding a visual phonics workshop on Monday 8th March at 12 o'clock for any parents/carers of governors who were unable to attend in January and would like to know more. Please let me know if you would like to attend.

Best wishes,

Sarah McLay
Deputy Head Teacher, Primary Leader

