

Volume 30

Issue 18

Friday 1<sup>st</sup>

March 2024

# Highlands Weekly



Dear Families,

We are really looking forward to welcoming you all to the school today for parent consultations. It is an excellent opportunity for us to work together in partnership and discuss your child's progress, development and next steps. You will have the opportunity to look through your child's books, visit the ISS Catering food tasting session in Lloyd Hall and a chance to meet representatives from the Redbridge Mental Health Support Team who will have a stall in the main foyer.

We will also have paper copy surveys for all parents to complete please to continually feedback to the school about the family experience of education for children at Highlands. Please do take the time to complete this as we really do value the feedback which enables us to continually improve.

We have some excellent news to share with the community that our school cricket team has reached the National Primary School finals this year. Well done to the team for this excellent achievement and we will all be supporting them for the final at Lords cricket ground.

We also started our half term by celebrating our wonderful Rights Respecting Citizens of the half term. Many congratulations to our pupils.



### **Article 29 (goals of education)**

**Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child's respect for human rights. As well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures, and the environment.**

### **Article 17 (access to information from the media)**

**Every child has the right to reliable information from a variety of sources and governments should encourage the media to provide information that children can understand. Governments must help protect children from materials that could harm them.**

### **Article 28 (Right to education)**

**Every child has the right to an education. Primary education must be free and different forms of secondary education must be available to every child. Discipline in schools must respect children's dignity and their rights. Richer countries must help poorer countries achieve this.**

**Article 13 (freedom of expression) Every child must be free to express their thoughts and opinions and to access all kinds of information, as long as it is within the law.**

## **World Book Day – Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March**

Next week on Thursday we will be celebrating World Book Day in school on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March. Children are invited to come to school dressed as a character from a book. As Year 3 will be out of school on a trip on this day, they are invited to dress up on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March instead. You will have received a letter inviting families to join us for a 'Read with Me' session on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March from 8.45-9am. Spaces for families to attend are limited due to the space available in classrooms but if you would be interested in attending please ensure that you return your reply slip to your child's class leader. Our children in Year 4, 5 and 6 will also be joining a Zoom meeting with the popular author Jacqueline Wilson as part of the World Book Day celebrations.

## **School Dinners - Feeding Hungry Minds**

Following some feedback received from pupils and parents, our kitchen team have been working closely with the ISS Area Manager to make some changes and improvements to the lunchtime experience for all children. Our Chair of Governors took part in a learning walk of the lunch hall during lunchtime to see what the experience was like for children. It was noted that some children were upset at lunchtime because their meal had been pre-ordered at home and they would have preferred a different menu option. Unfortunately, the kitchen staff are unable to offer children food that they have not ordered. With that in mind, we would like to encourage parents to engage with the online ordering system with their child at home so that the children can make an informed choice about the meal they are selecting. You can do this using the link below. Children can also continue to select their own meals in class each day.

[Feeding Hungry Minds](#)

## Attendance Update

We would like to remind families of the NHS advice designed to support families to decide if your child is well enough to attend school. You can access this advice via the link below.

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Please be aware that if your child is absent from school due to illness for 5 days or more we will ask families to provide medical evidence in order for us to be able to authorise the absence. If this is not provided then your child's absence may be recorded as unauthorised.

## Sports at Highlands -

During the half-term our team of 9 children who won the Borough Cricket Competition competed in the Semi-Final of the National Competition at Lords! Going up against schools from other London Boroughs, the Highlands team played some fantastic cricket finishing in 2nd place on the day and qualifying for the National Final, which will also be at Lords at the end of the month!

Well done to:

Arnav 6Sa  
Gopal 6Ka  
Isa 6Ka  
Sammee 6ka  
Mohammed-Faheem 6Sa  
Archana 6Ka  
Aarvi 6Sa  
Airah 5Sh  
Mahnoor 5Sh



This week, 19 children went to a Badminton Festival at Redbridge Sports Centre. The children took part in a few skill based sessions which they excelled in and then some matches against children from other schools in the Borough! Well done to:

Sameeha, Ibraheem 4Or  
Musa, Ruquayyah 4Ja  
Aisha, Yusuf 4Va  
Hannah, Kiran 5Pa  
Danyaal, Oliver, Maryam 5Wa  
Nyle, Eliza 5Sh  
Shayan, Aliya 6Go  
Akanksha, Safwan 6Sa  
Adrian, Lily 6Ka



## Birthday Celebrations

We are aware that many families like to send in edible treats for their child's classmates to help them celebrate their birthdays. We would like to remind families that if you wish to do this then the treats that you provide need to be **individually wrapped** and **nut free** in line with our school's Nut Free policy. Any treats that are not individually wrapped will be returned to families, as we are unable to distribute these.

## Injuries

If your child has any sort of injury outside of school hours, can you please let the school know about the injury and any medical advice that has been given. This will ensure we have all the relevant information to carry out a risk assessment with our leadership team.

## Appointments during the school day

Thank you to our families that are letting us know in advance that their child has a medical appointment during the school day. Please can you ensure that you stick to the time of collection that you have indicated as children are waiting at Reception to be collected promptly. If you are running late for any reason let us know so we can send your child back to class until you arrive. This stops unnecessary interruptions to the classes throughout the day. If your child has an appointment during the school day, they should attend school either before or after their appointment. We also require proof of all appointments during the school day.

## Parking and Road Safety around the school



Can we please remind families to be respectful to our local neighbours and **not** park in front of their driveways before school and at home time. Your actions reflect on our entire school community and we value the feelings and privacy of our local residents. We have also had a number of complaints about inconsiderate parking which blocks footpaths and is dangerous for pedestrians. Please be mindful of where you are parking to ensure the safety of all members of our school community. It has also been brought

to our attention that some members of the community are not demonstrating responsible usage of electric scooters and bicycles. Please remember that children should be wearing helmets if they are cycling or scooting to school and that parents and children should not be cycling on the footpaths.

## Use of mobile phones on the school site

It has been observed that many parents and family members are on their mobile devices when collecting their children. Please could we urge you to take this time to connect with your child and talk about their day at school and perhaps catch up with your messages or phone calls once you are home. This moment in the day when we collect our children is a

time where they wait to see the awe, wonder and sheer joy of their parents upon seeing them. This is especially important for our very youngest children. Of course, we understand there may be emergencies.

## Online Safety

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.

<https://parentsafe.lgfl.net/>

## Curriculum in Action

Take a look at our week of learning in action across the school.

### Oak Class

This week in Oak we have started our new topic of Space. The children have started reading our new sensory story 'Astro Girl' and have enjoyed making space helmets with papier-mâché as part of our ongoing project. We have been learning about the different planets in the Solar System and labelling them.





## Nursery

This first week back after the break, the children have been very excited with our new topic 'Once upon a time' and with the new arrangement of the nursery areas. The children have been enjoying playing in the new 'construction' role-play area building houses and towers with the bricks. We have read the story 'Jack and the beanstalk' and the children have played with the class beanstalk matching numbers and amount of objects. We have been learning how to count in groups of 5. We have talked about how plants grow from seeds and what they need to help them grow; then the children have planted seeds that they took home to observe how they grow. We finished the week with a session of 'stay and play' for the parents and with the parent consultation meetings, we thank all the parents that participated.

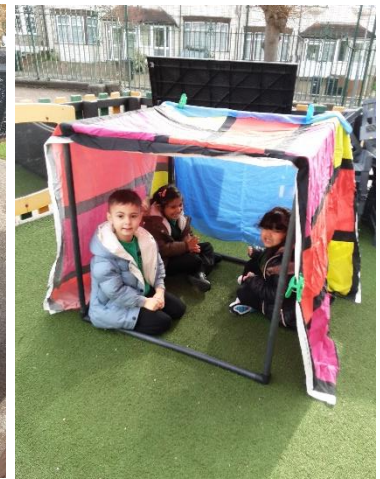


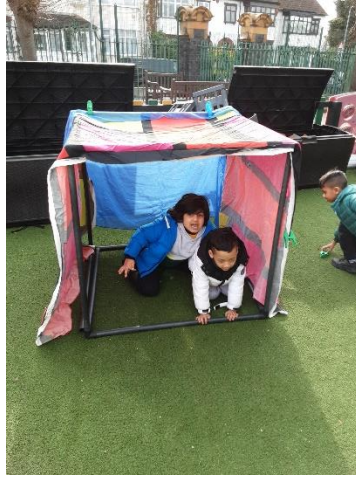
## Reception

Reception have had an exciting start to the half term, the children discovered an egg in their classroom! We looked at some non-fiction books and on the internet to research who the egg might belong to. The children noticed some cracks and saw different parts of the baby animal inside. By Friday the animal had hatched, it was a penguin for us to look after! We found out some facts all about penguins and discovered that they are an endangered animal, we also learnt all about their habitat and compared where they live to where we live. The children particularly enjoyed the book 'An Egg is Quiet' where we learnt all about lots of animals that lay eggs and life cycles of different animals. The children did a fantastic job of sharing the facts they had learnt about at home. They worked as a team to make a poster about each animal adding carefully drawn pictures and wrote their favourite facts. They are looking forward to sharing this with the class next week. The children had

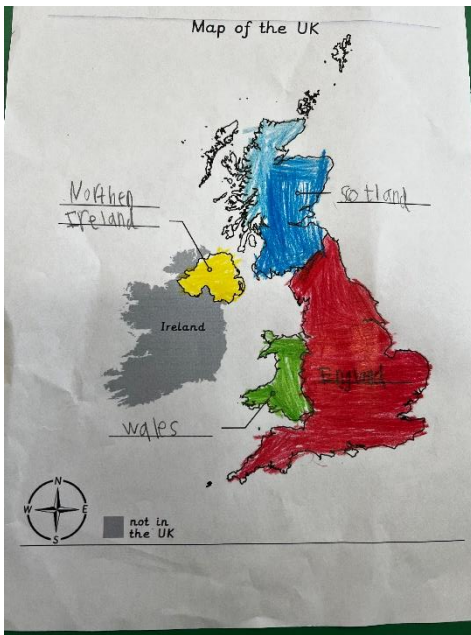
lots of fun in our outside area working together to build dens using poles, connectors and material. For our Maths learning this week we practically explored the meaning of capacity by using different containers and filling them with oats and sand. We learnt all about the number 17 in Ten Town,

number ordering and discussed which numbers are 'more than' other numbers using Number Blocks. The digraphs we learnt in Phonics were oa oo ar and the tricky word '**they**'.





## Year 1



This week in Year 1 has been filled with lots of engaging learning. In English the children have been looking at a familiar book - 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt'. They were able to retell parts of the story while exploring different sensory experiences. The children were able to touch ice, thick oozy mud and grass and use adjectives to describe how they felt.

Sasha said 'The ice is so freezing cold and hard'  
Musa R said 'The mud feels so sticky and squelchy'

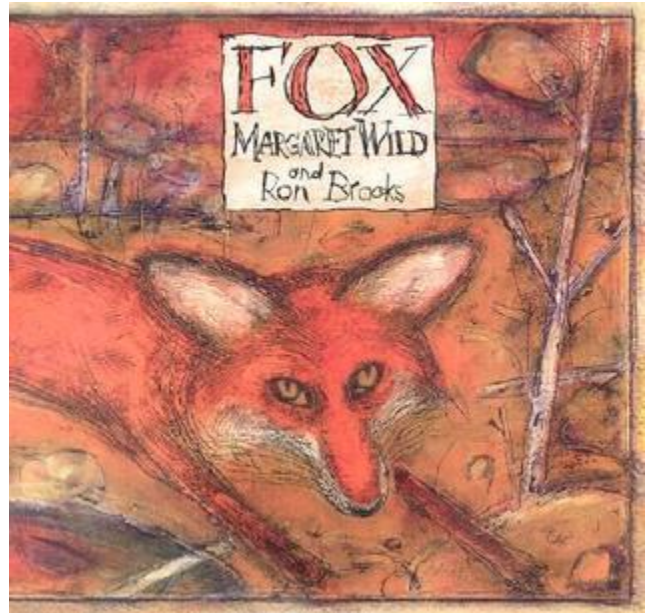
In Geography the children learned all about the 4 countries that make up the United Kingdom. They looked at globes, atlases and Google maps to locate the different continents as well as learning about their own continent - Europe. The children were really engaged and enjoyed learning the continents song.

We had a great first week back and look forward to all the exciting learning that is going to take place this term!



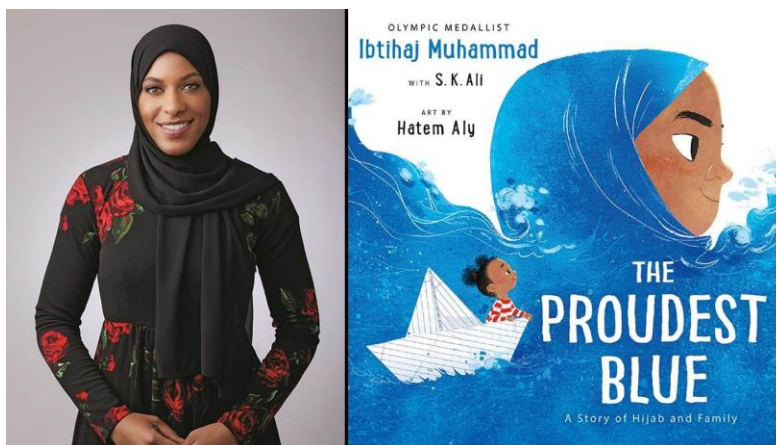
## Year 2

Welcome back Year 2! We hope you had a restful half term break. This week, the children have started looking at their new English text called 'Fox' by Margaret Wild. We looked at the front cover and blurb, and thought about the main characters in the story and what the book could be about. In Maths, we have been practising our two times tables and used this to help us with doubling and halving. The children used Numicon to support them. In Geography, we looked at the countries that make up the United Kingdom and labelled some famous landmarks on a map. In Science, we carefully looked at bulbs and seeds and spoke about differences and similarities. We will be planting a class plant in the coming weeks. In DT, we are learning about healthy eating and what makes a balanced diet.



## Year 3

We are thrilled to announce that we have started reading our new book, "The Proudest Blue" by Ibtihaj Muhammad and S.K. Ali. This captivating story follows the journey of Faizah as she witnesses her sister Asiya's first day of wearing a hijab to school. Through beautiful illustrations and heartfelt storytelling, the book explores themes of identity, faith, and sisterhood. We encourage you to engage with your child about their thoughts and reflections on this meaningful narrative.



For Design and Technology, the children are immersed in the fascinating world of castle architectures. Inspired by the rich history and grandeur of medieval castles, the children in Year 3 are set to unleash their creativity and imagination in designing their very own fortress. Throughout the week, they have been exploring the various features of castles, including towers, battlements, drawbridges, and more. Through hands-on activities and interactive discussions, they have gained a deeper understanding of the structural elements and defensive mechanisms that define these iconic structures. The castle design project serves as an interdisciplinary learning opportunity, integrating concepts from history, engineering, and creative design. By participating in this project, children will be able to develop an



appreciation for historical architecture and the evolution of castle design. Enhance their understanding of structural stability and engineering principles. Cultivate their creativity and problem-solving skills through the design process. Collaborate with peers to exchange ideas and feedback, fostering a sense of teamwork and cooperation.

In the coming weeks, children will continue to refine their castle designs through sketching, modelling, and prototyping. They will have the opportunity to experiment with different materials and construction techniques, allowing them to bring their visions to life in tangible form. Throughout the process, they will receive guidance and support from their teachers, who will facilitate discussions on design principles and offer assistance as needed.

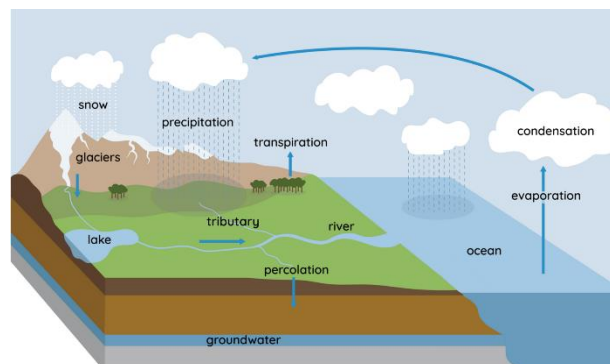
For Maths this term Year 3 will learning about fractions, this is a fundamental concept in mathematics, and our children have eagerly embraced the opportunity to delve into this important topic. We have started by introducing the basic idea of fractions as a way to represent parts of a whole or a group. Through interactive lessons and hands-on activities, we have laid the groundwork for a deeper understanding of fractions and their significance in everyday life.

One of the key concepts we have explored is the distinction between equal and unequal parts. Children have learned to identify when a whole is divided into parts of the same size (equal parts) and when the parts are of different sizes (unequal parts). By visually representing fractions using shapes, diagrams, and manipulatives, children have gained a concrete understanding of these concepts. Understanding fractions as parts of a whole is essential for developing fluency in working with fractions. We have engaged the children in activities where they have practised partitioning shapes and objects into equal parts and identifying the fraction represented by each part. This hands-on approach has allowed students to grasp the concept of fractions intuitively and apply it to various contexts.

We are thrilled to witness the progress and enthusiasm of our Year 3 children as they continue their exploration of fractions. Thank you for your continued support and partnership in your child's education.

## Year 4

This week in Year 4 we have begun learning about fables in English. We have really enjoyed learning what fables are and their features as well as reading different fables. We have also learnt a new word which is 'Anthropomorphism' this is when non-human things are given human traits and abilities. Fables always have a message which is called a moral and this usually teaches a life lesson. In Geography we have learnt about the water cycle and understood how the rivers, streams, clouds and rain are all connected. For Maths this week we have been developing our understanding of fractions and learning about unit and non-unit fractions.



## Year 5

Year 5 have returned to school with a fantastic attitude towards their learning for this half term. In English, we have begun looking at our new text titled 'The Breadwinner' written by Deborah Ellis. The children have been exploring the front cover and back cover features to gain an insight to the context of the text prior to reading the text. They are eager to dive into the story as it is a contemporary fictional novel based on the reality of life in Afghanistan. We have also related the text to our UNCRRC and how these rights may be dismissed throughout the text. In Maths, we have continued exploring place value, identifying links between the tenths and hundredths. To dive deeper, the children have looked at different representations for questions associated with place value to develop their reasoning skills and practise ahead of papers that will be sat next year. In Science, we have begun our new unit 'States of Matter', this week the children looked at everyday household items from a kitchen to observe whether they are soluble or insoluble materials. In Geography, we have started our unit titled 'Population'. Following from their half term project, this week we looked at how the population in different continents had progressed since the 1500s to the present and what the causes of this may be. Finally, this week we had the opportunity to visit the local mosque to culminate our learning in RE last half term. The children completed activities to conduct further research and also had the opportunity to ask questions to the Imaam.



Well, done for a great first week back Year 5! Have a restful weekend.  
The Year 5 Team ☺

## Year 6

Children have settled back into school well this week, it has been another great week of learning for Year 6. In our English lessons, children were finishing writing their formal letter to the Home Office as a character from our text-No Ballet Shoes In Syria. Children have worked extremely hard to include the correct grammatical structures needed in a formal letter as well as using key statistics learnt about the treatment of refugees in the UK. We look forward to sharing the final publishing pieces soon. In addition, in our French lessons this week, children were learning a new grammatical term (the verb to go). Within this, they explored how to discuss and write about a holiday they are going to go on. It was lovely to see children using their prior knowledge from previous lessons to help with their pronunciation of key words. Moreover, in our Art lessons this week, children completed their artwork based on the work of artist-David Hockney. In lessons, children explored more about the use of primary and secondary colours as well as creating shadow using complementary colours. It was great to see children develop their painting skills and understand how to use acrylic paint correctly.

Well done on working so hard this week Year 6!



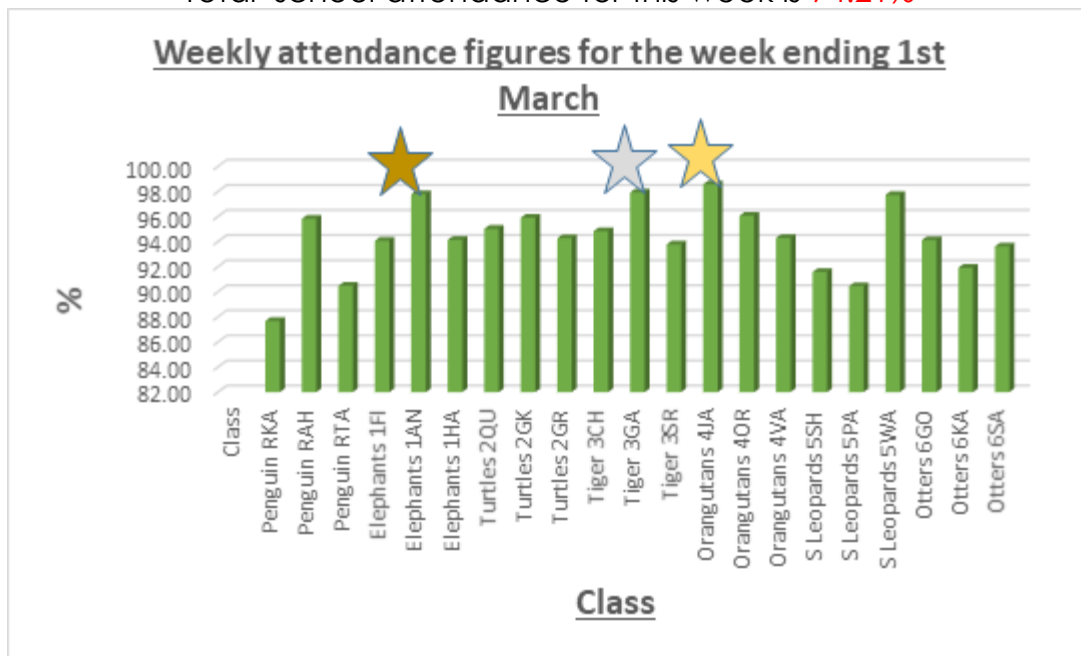
Shreya-6Go



Fasihah-6Sa

## Attendance

Total school attendance for this week is **94.21%**



Welcome to the new Starter this week

Name	Class
Salwa	2Gk
Hidaayah	2Qu
Adem	2Gr

## Birthdays

Happy Birthday to the children celebrating from  
Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2024 to Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2024



Elisha  
Isra  
Sheza  
Amaan  
Arfa  
Mustafa  
Zachariya  
Kaab  
Arisha

Turtles 2Qu  
Elephants 1An  
Tigers 3Ch  
Penguins RAh  
GiantPandas NAM  
Tigers 3Sr  
Orangutans 4Va  
Sn Leopards 5Sh  
Otters 6Ka