

Volume 32
Issue 20
Friday 15th
March 2024

Highlands Weekly



Dear Families,

We have had a super week of learning across the school and love hearing about the ways in which school trips are enriching the children's learning experiences. If any of our parent community would like to be a regular volunteer for trips across the school please do let the office know, as support on trips is a valuable resource for us.

Today we marked Red Nose Day with a sea of red across the school in support of the most vulnerable in society. Thank you for all the contributions to this wonderful charity.



Across KS2 children have completed their first week of fasting. Please can families ensure that children are clear that if they suffer from asthma and require their asthma pump that they go to the medical room to use their pump and that this does not compromise their fast.

Families will have seen that as part of British Science Week children received reading passports to promote their love of reading non-fiction texts. We look forward to seeing the completed passports. Reading non-fiction texts is a very important part of our children's reading progress as they are exposed to a wider range of vocabulary and concepts. We ask our parents to continue supporting us by ensuring **children are reading at least 20 minutes every day.**

Have a look at these reading facts and the difference to vocabulary development this makes.

- Children of all backgrounds who were read to regularly by their parents at the age of 5 perform better in maths, vocabulary and spelling at age 16.
- A DFE poll of 2685 parents also revealed that only 31% of children are read to at home daily.
- Children who were read to daily would hear well over a million more words than their peers that were not read to daily. This is not every day talk, it is hearing those rare words from books that offer an extra special value for early language development.
- 1 in 11 children or young person did not have their own book at home.
- 1 in 8 for disadvantaged.
- 14 year olds who read often and independently know 26% more words than those who never read.

School Parliament Peace Fair

School Parliament are hosting a Peace Fair to help raise money for aid in Gaza. The fair will take place on Wednesday 17th April 2024 from 3.30-4.30. Keep an eye out for upcoming letters if you are interested in holding a stall at the fair.

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.

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.

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/>

Sports at Highlands

On Wednesday, 11 children from Year 6 represented Highlands in a 3v3 Basketball Competition at Chadwell Heath Academy. The competition was a selection event with the winning school going on to represent Redbridge in another competition. The children were split into two teams with both teams making it out of their respective groups into the Quarter Finals, where they were then beaten by both the eventual finalists. The children can be very proud of their performances! Well done to:

Gopal 6Ka

Samuel 6Ka

Isabelle 6Ka

Archana 6Ka

Raqeeb 6Go

Marius 6Go

TJ 6Go

Ali 6Go

Maya 6Sa

Huzaifa 6Sa

Mohammad-Faheem 6Sa



Curriculum in Action

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

Oak Class

This week in Oak we have learned the Makaton signs "Space" and "High". We have continued our learning about Space and the children really enjoyed role playing as astronauts using helmets and moon boots, and doing various science experiments. They have created their own Rocket Straws and Space Crafts. We have also continued reading AstroGirl and spent the week ordering the story and retelling it. We have been learning the names of the planets and some of their features.



Nursery

This was another busy week in the Nursery. We started the week with the children acting out 'The Three Little Pigs' story, they loved it and they were confident performing it in front of their friends, we had some outstanding actors. The children have made collages of the three little pigs' houses using straws, sticks and bricks. Rahila in Cherries group said: 'I like the brick house because it's strong.' They have also used 2D shapes to make houses independently, thinking about what shape could be the most appropriate shape for each area of the house. We have continued learning alliteration, this week the children have separated objects according to the sound they begin with; it was complex but they did very well. The children have learned about 3D shapes ("they are fat") and how to distinguish them from 2D shapes ("they are flat"); we have been thinking about 3D shapes around us, Evelina in Cherries group said: 'the cone looks like ice cream cone.'



Reception

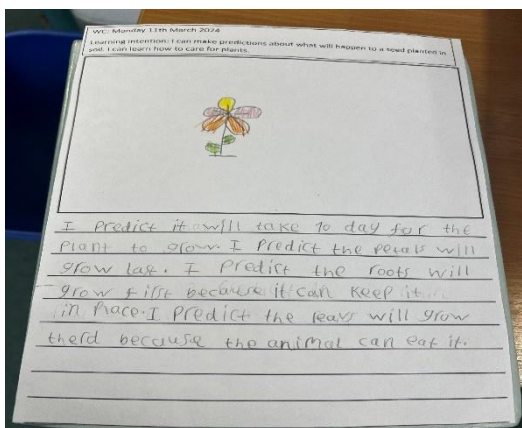
This week the Reception children enjoyed watching the chicks grow bigger and get some feathers before we said goodbye to them and they went back to the farm. The children did some wonderful observational drawings of the chicks adding lots of details and ensuring they used the right colours. After lots of discussion about the life cycle of a chick the children were able to write about it for their mark making. For our Maths learning this week we introduced some new concepts to explore. We had a go at measuring weight using balancing scales and we looked at doubling numbers and repeated the sentences such as 6 is made from 3 and 3 so 3 and 3 makes 6. We completed the story 'Little Red Hen' and made a story map that the children retold using their own actions. We learnt about the month of Ramadan and the children who celebrate at home shared their experiences. Zakaria (Yellow Class) said "I have decorations in my house for Ramadan and a calendar and the grown ups are fasting". We made some comparisons to other celebrations that we have learnt about so far. We were all excited to go on a walk around our local area to two different places of worship. We had a look from the outside at our local Church and Mosque. The Children enjoyed coming in in their clothes for red Nose Day.



Year 1

This week in Year 1, the children have been engaged in lots of learning. They are showing good enthusiasm during discussions, listening carefully to their peers and responding appropriately.

In Geography, the children have been looking at weather patterns. Last week, they filled in a daily weather diary. They recorded the temperature each day and used this information to create a bar graph. They were able to talk about which day had the highest temperature and which had the lowest.



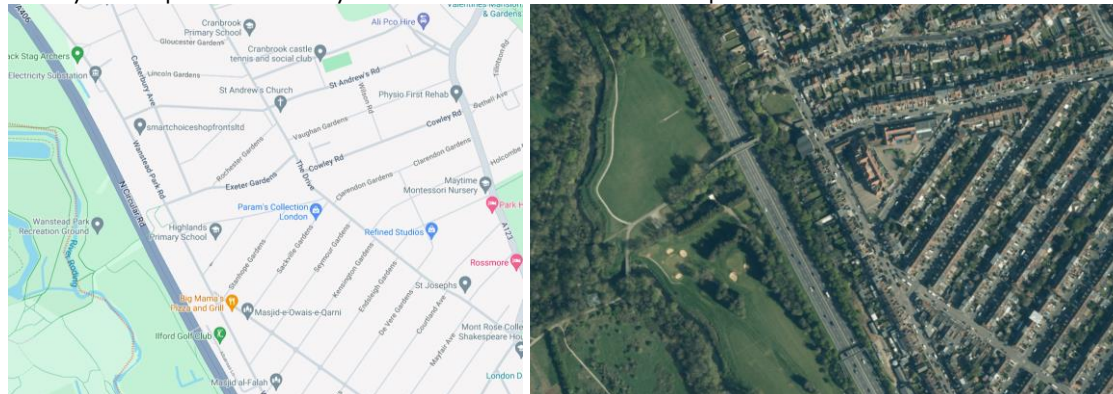
In Maths, children have been looking at counting from 20-50. They were able to say how many tens and ones a number had. They looked at number tracks and could fill in the missing numbers. They had to look carefully to check if the numbers were going up or down. They have also started to look at counting in 10s.

In Science, the children have been looking at plants. They spoke about what plants need to survive - air, water and sunlight. The children had the opportunity to plant their own beans. They will watch carefully over them to see what changes they will notice over the coming weeks. The children were then able to write predictions of what they thought would happen to their beans.

Reminder: Please can children come to school every day with their book bags and reading books. Thank you.

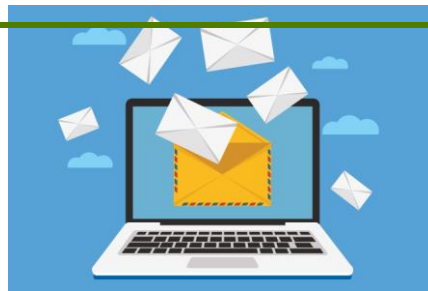
Year 2

Year 2 have had a lovely week! We visited Redbridge Museum and really enjoyed learning about local geography and looking at human and physical features. The children really loved exploring and getting on the bus to the museum. In English, we read more of our text called 'Fox'. We were introduced to the character Fox and thought about what impact he had on Dog and Magpie. We then wrote diary entries in the perspective of Magpie. In Maths, we started looking at vocabulary related to weight. We used balance scales to weigh different objects. We focused on looking at which item was lighter or heavier. In Science, we are carrying out an experiment to see the impact light and temperature has on the growth of a seed. We planted our seeds and have placed them in a range of areas in the classroom. We will be observing the growth of these seeds over the coming weeks. In Geography, we have been learning about OS maps of the local area. We used these and aerial maps to create a sketch map of the local area and included human and physical features. We also included a key to explain what symbols stand for in our maps.



Year 3

In our Year 3 computing lessons this week, we have embarked on an exciting journey into the realm of email communication! As children become increasingly familiar with digital technologies, learning the basics of sending and receiving emails has become an essential skill. We kicked off our exploration by discussing what emails are and why they are used. Through interactive discussions and engaging activities, the children are learning that emails are electronic messages sent from one person to another over the internet. We highlighted the versatility of emails, which can contain text, images, attachments, and more. Sending emails involves a series of steps, and our Year 3 learners have been quick to grasp them. In the coming weeks, we will delve deeper into email communication, exploring topics such as email safety and etiquette. The children will learn how to protect their personal information online, and communicate respectfully in various digital contexts. We are thrilled to see our Year 3 students embrace the world of email communication with enthusiasm and curiosity. Their growing digital literacy will undoubtedly serve them well in their academic journey and beyond.



For History Year 3 have finally visited the Celtic harmony prehistoric camp. It was wonderful to see how enthusiastic our young historians were in the immersive environment. The children got to learn more about the enigmatic Beaker People who left a significant mark on prehistoric Britain. Through interactive sessions and storytelling, children were able to discover the cultural practices, burial customs, and technological advancements associated with the Beaker People. During the trip, the children were able to step back in time and experience life as it was during the Bronze Age, Iron Age, and the time of the Beaker People. They were engaged in hands-on activities, interactive demonstrations, and guided tours led by knowledgeable educators.



Year 4

In Maths, we have looked at fractions as a whole and as a fractional part. The children have also looked at fractions on a number line (looking at how many intervals there are). In English, the children have begun to plan their fables within their pairs. They looked carefully for conflict/problem between the two animal characters based on their opposing personalities.

In DT this week, the children have been looking at what a circuit is and what they are used for. The children created and drew their own circuits using batteries, switches and bulbs. The children in pairs designed a nightlight.

In Geography, last week, they looked at rivers in terms of the upper course and lower course (the key features of a river). This week, the children have been identifying the longest rivers within the UK and in each continent.

Year 5

Year 5 have continued to be immersed in all areas of their learning. This week in English, we have continued to read the text titled 'Breadwinner'. The children have now begun to form initial ideas about their persuasive letters. The children will be writing a letter to our local MP to support children like Parvana (the protagonist from the text) by allowing them to seek refuge in the UK. To start preparing for this we relooked at formal and informal language. We also looked at all rights for children according to the UNCRC and annotated any that Parvana was not getting in the text. They will use these observations to form their arguments in their persuasive letter. In Maths, we have been comparing and ordering decimals, ranging from the tenths to the thousandths. In the coming lessons, the children will begin to look at the relationships between a decimal, fraction, and percentage. In Geography, the children have been identifying push and pull factors for those who migrate. They built on this knowledge by categorising these factors into environmental, social, and economic factors. For British Science Week, the children have become climate detectives! They have been observing the weather change and patterns throughout the week and will compare them to the same week in previous years to see how the climate is changing. Finally, this week in Computing, the children have continued creating their game on the software called '2DIY3D' using Purple Mash. They have previously added their walls, ceilings, sky and floor, this week they began adding their rewards and enemies into the game. They have really been enjoying creating their own games!

We would like to wish those celebrating a Ramadan Mubarak. Well done for another great week Year 5!

Have a restful weekend.



Year 6

This week in Year 6, children have completed some great learning. In our English lessons this week, children have read more of our English text and been excited to learn more about our main character Aya. Using their comprehensive skills, they have been answering questions to deepen their understanding of key concepts such as asylum and refuge. In our Science lessons this week, children have been exploring the advantages and disadvantages there are to drugs. They learnt about the good drugs that sometimes our body needs for example medication but also looking at the impact of other substances on our bodies. Through this, children explored the importance of keeping our bodies and organs healthy and what can affect our health negatively.

In addition, in our P.E lessons, children are continuing with their ball skills in particular looking at their skills in basketball. They have understood how to defend and shoot accurately. Moreover, in French, children have continued their learning on understanding how to use the future tense correctly and form sentences using this. Children have worked extremely hard in their French lessons and have worked hard in not only their written work but also their pronunciation. Well done for working so hard this week Year 6.

Attendance

Total school attendance for this week is 94.36%

Gold – RTa 98.28%

Silver 6Go – 97.33%

Bronze 5Sh – 97.32%

New Starters

Welcome to the new starters this week

Name	Class
Ansal	RAh
Harleen	5Wa
Lyla	N30

Birthdays

Happy Birthday to the children celebrating from
Monday 11th March 2024 to Sunday 17th March 2024



Inaaya
Harshith
Adam
Yousaf
Ali
Kyra
Suraiya
Alberto
Kavinmithran
Avneet

Penguins RTa
Sn Leopards 5Pa
Turtles 2Gr
Orangutans 4Or
Otters 6Sa
Orangutans 4Va
Turtles 2Qu
Turtles 2GK
Tigers 3Ga
Tigers 3Ga