

Volume 01
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2024

Highlands Weekly



Dear Families,

Welcome to our first edition of the Highlands Weekly newsletter 2024-25. It was great to see families attending the Meet the Teacher sessions last week and have a clear expectation for the year ahead.

This week we have been exploring: **Article 2: The Convention applies to every child without discrimination, whatever their ethnicity, gender, religion, language, abilities, or any other status, whatever they think or say, whatever their family background** and considering the values, behaviours and beliefs that promote a peaceful approach to life. It was International Peace Day this week and children took the time to reflect upon how this applies to their lives.

Book Bingo

This week children came to share and discuss their learning in English with us. It was wonderful to hear them talk about; their learning, their excitement for their new reading texts and why the different skills they are developing are so important in English. We look forward to seeing Maths books next week. █



BLUE ZONE TIP OF THE WEEK

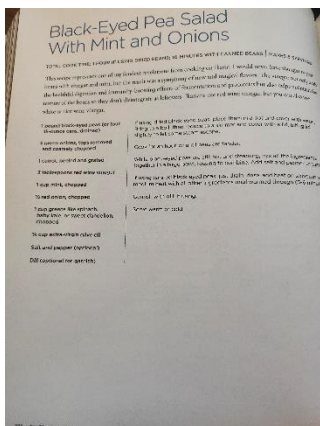
Each week we will share a Blue Zone recipe and top tips 😊

Do you know the Blue Zone areas identified around the world?

- Sardinia
- Okinawa
- Nicoya
- Ikaria
- Loma Linda

A key ingredient used in Ikaria is Honey. Honey is used by the Islanders to treat everything from colds to wounds. Besides stirring it into coffee, older Ikarians also take a spoonful in the morning and before dinner.

Try out this Ikarian Black-Eyed Pea Salad with Mint and Onions



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REMINDERS

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.

Sports at Highlands

We are going to launch a Highlands Primary School Walking Bus and we are looking for Parent Volunteers to help run it alongside our Staff Volunteers. A Walking Bus is a fun and safe way for children to walk to school whilst being accompanied and supervised by adult volunteers. The Walking Bus is a cooperative project so our "Drivers" and "Conductors" would take it in turns to lead the bus during the week.

We are also still looking for more volunteers to join and help form our PTA as Officers of the PTA or as Year Group Champions to help lead fundraising events and activities and help strengthen the bond between Highlands Primary School and our wider community.

If you are interested in either of these opportunities or would like further information please get in contact by emailing admin@highlandsprimary.net and marking it for my attention and I will be happy to discuss with you further.

I hope to hear from you soon,
Mr. Caesar

Curriculum in Action

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

Oak Class

This week in Oak, we continued our story 'The Gruffalo.' We listened to the story and used resources to bring the story to life. The children have enjoyed using the plush characters to tell the story. We have been learning about the different features of the Gruffalo and have listened to the Gruffalo song. We made our own models of the Gruffalo and used different craft items to add on the features. We have had messy fun using shaving foam and feathers to make owl ice cream! In Maths, we have been looking at place value and have focused on counting from any number. In Science, we have been learning about the body parts and naming them. For our breakfast/ tea time snack this week, we had porridge with fruit. Delicious!



Nursery

This week has been our first week all together in the Nursery. We have had a lot of fun meeting our new friends. We have all worked together to help each other settle in. We had lots of fun engaging in some of the activities in the Nursery such as dinosaur stamps, role-play kitchen, Lego, jungle animals and playdough. On Wednesday most of the children stayed for their full session. The children have enjoyed learning the Nursery routine. They are learning the hello song and like to share how they are feeling. The children enjoyed eating fruit at snack time with their new friends. The children who have been coming to the Nursery full time have enjoyed having their lunch with their friends.

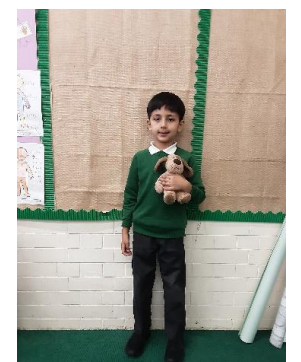
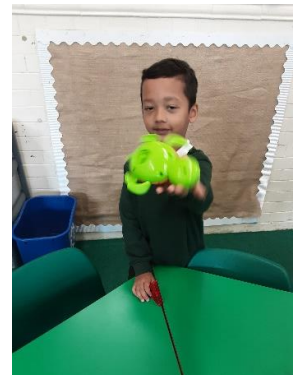
Reception

This week on Monday, the Reception children started their first full day in school. They have been learning to self-register, and all our rules in the day such as "choose it, use it, put it away" and "good sitting, good listening, good looking and thinking thumbs". The children have settled in so well, and have really enjoyed their first week in Reception. Each week we will be learning new key vocabulary. This week our key word was "line" as the children were learning to line up in the mornings, to go to the toilets and go to out for lunch. We read two books about starting school, "Harry and The Dinosaurs Starting School" and "The Colour Monster Goes To School", discussing the different emotions we may feel as we also start a new school. We used our Colour Monster teddies to support with our learning. We discussed the importance of washing our hands to wash away germs before we eat, after we go to the toilet and if we sneeze or cough in our hands. To support learning the importance of using soap we did an experiment in the classroom, putting glitter into water (glitter representing the germs) and then we put a drop of soap onto the glitter and watched the glitter all move away. Abigail in Green Class said, "Wow, the germs went away".

Can I kindly remind parents that each child needs a printed family photo by Monday 23rd September; we will begin to talk about our families and we want every child to have the opportunity to share their family photo.

Year 1

We have had a fantastic week in Year 1. We have been talking about different subjects and what we learn in them. In English, we completed reading the book 'All are Welcome'. We wrote about our favourite activities from last week and checked learning Phase 5. We learnt the phonemes ay, out, ie and ea. In Maths, we worked on counting forwards and backwards from a given number and recorded this in our Maths books on number tracks. In History, we wrote about our special toys which were brought into school this week, Abdullah in 1Ga said "this is my toy dog from when I was a baby so it's special". In RE, we discussed creation and how different religions believe the world was created. In Reciprocal Reading, we read the next part of the story of 'Beegu' and talked about how we would feel if we got lost and what we could do in this situation. The children are still settling into Year 1 and their new routines but we are so proud of them. We have also been reading individually with the children and assigning reading books. If your child has not yet been assigned a book they will be assigned one by next week. We are also in the process of preparing logins for Bug Club and are looking to hand them out within the next two weeks.



Year 2

We've had a busy and exciting week here at school, filled with learning and discovery!

In English, the children have been captivated by "The Tin Forest" by Helen Ward. They've thoroughly enjoyed exploring the story and learning about the main character. This week, we started working on character profiles, focusing on using expanded noun phrases to bring their writing to life.

In Maths, we've continued with our work on multiples of ten. The children have been practising how to use their known facts to add and subtract multiples of ten confidently, and they're really starting to master these important skills.

Our Geography lessons have taken us across the globe as we rehearsed our knowledge of the different continents. In Art, we've embarked on a new topic on portraits, studying the works of Frida Kahlo and Viktoria Maliar. The children have been fascinated by comparing the unique styles of these two artists and are eager to create their own portraits in the coming weeks.

It's been a wonderful week of learning, and we are so proud of how engaged and enthusiastic the children have been in all their subjects.

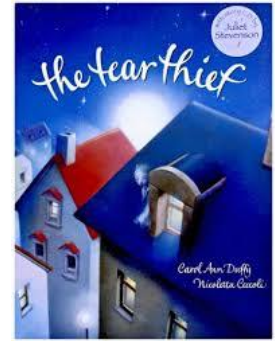
Year 3

This week in English, we have been working on writing character descriptions. The focus has been on *The Tear Thief* by Carol Ann Duffy. The children have been exploring the mysterious and enchanting character of the Tear Thief, who silently collects the tears of children. The Year 3 children have created vivid descriptions, capturing her ghostly presence, shimmering cloak, and the way she moves unseen through the night, collecting the tears to give them their magical value. It has been wonderful to see their creativity come to life!

In Maths, we have been exploring both standard and non-standard partitioning. Standard partitioning involves breaking numbers down into their place value components, such as splitting 345 into 300, 40, and 5. Non-standard partitioning, on the other hand, gives the children a greater level of flexibility in the way they partition numbers, such as 345 into 100, 200, 30, and 15. This has enabled the children in Year 3 to deepen their understanding of numbers, and how they can be represented in different ways.

In RE this term, Year 3 has started exploring Hinduism, focusing on the fascinating Hindu creation story. We are learning about how the Universe was created, according to Hindu beliefs, through the actions of Lord Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiva. This story helps us understand the cycles of creation, preservation, and destruction according to the Hindu faith. The children are enjoying discovering the rich symbolism and meaning behind this ancient narrative.

This term, Year 3 children will embark on an exciting journey back in time to explore the fascinating era of the Stone Age. We are delving into the lives of early humans, discovering how they survived and thrived in a world very different from our own. Through engaging lessons and activities, children will be learning about the tools and weapons used for hunting and the importance of shelter. We will also be looking at how people transitioned from being nomadic hunter-gatherers to settling into early farming communities, paving the way for the rise of civilization. Our exploration into the Stone Age will develop and build a deeper understanding of how human ingenuity shaped the world we live in today.

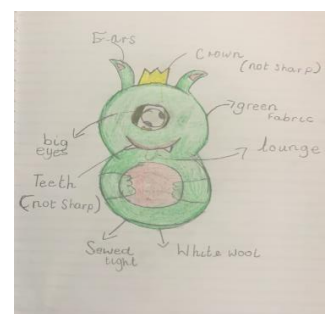
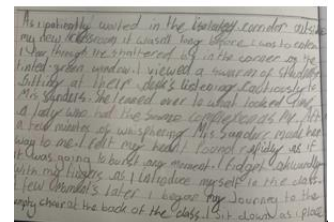
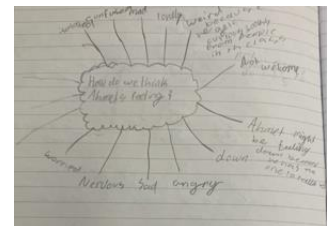


Year 4

This week has been a very exciting one in Year 4. We began our week with our Brass lessons. We had lots of fun and we are very excited to start learning how to play a Brass instrument. In English, we have continued reading James and the Giant Peach and have been working hard to write character descriptions for James' dreadful Aunts. This week we also began our Art learning and started learning about an artist named Stephen Wiltshire and his astonishing memory, which allows him to create very precise and detailed drawings. Furthermore, in Science we conducted a survey of our playground in search of insects and plants in micro-habitats. We looked under logs, stones, bushes and loose soil.

Year 5

Well done to Year 5 who have settled in well in their new classrooms. This week in year 5, we have had another hard working week. Children have enjoyed reading our new English text 'The Boy At The Back of the Class'. They have been asking questions to deepen their understanding of the text as well as using their inference skills to explore the characters in the book. In our D.T lessons, children have been taking part in looking at the features of a soft toy and understanding the difference between synthetic and natural materials. They have looked into existing designs to help them design a soft toy for children in the Nursery. Furthermore, in our R.E lessons this week, children have been learning about 'faith' and what faith means to them and the community around them. They made links and explored big questions like 'What does faith have to do with religion?' and 'Do you have to be religious to have faith?' It was great to see children have insightful discussions regarding this. Well done for another great week Year 5!



Year 6

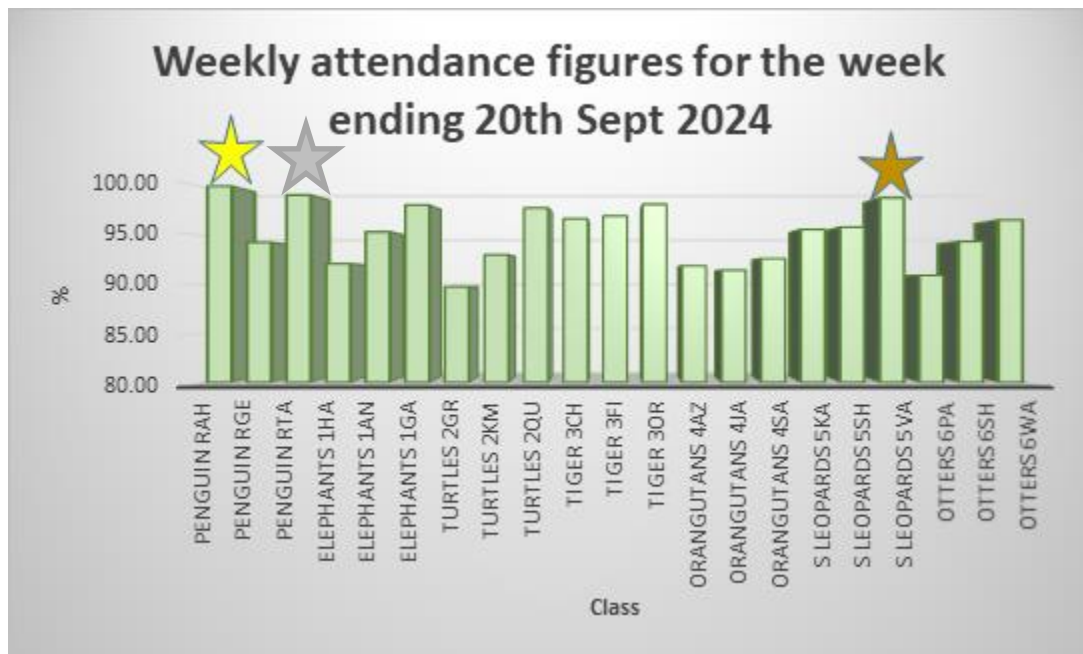
This week we completed our first SATs practice to support us in making as much progress as we can this year! We continued our exploration of numbers up to 10,000,000 in Maths, by adding and subtracting using mental strategies and understanding what the power of 10 means. We are reading 'War Game' in English which links to our History topic: First World War. In Science, we drew diagrams to explain how we are able to see objects. We built on our learning of Sikhism in RE by exploring the stories of Guru Nanak and how this informed Sikhs to live their life. In Geography, we developed our map skills by using OS maps with a six-figure grid reference. We also had the opportunity to listen to a live Wind Quartet. They explained the different parts of their instruments and how it helps them to produce sounds with different pitch. We have had a good start to our learning this year and we look forward to making it one of our best!



Attendance

This week's attendance figures (16.9.24-20.9.24) are as follows:-

Total school attendance for this week is 95.11%



Well done! to all 3 classes, especially to RAH achieving 100%

Birthdays

Happy Birthday to the children celebrating a birthday this week – they will have received their birthday card from the Highlands Family.

