

Volume 01  
Issue 6  
25th October,  
2024

# Highlands Weekly



Dear Families,

We cannot believe we have already reached our first half term break. The children have worked so hard and truly deserve a restful holiday. We look forward to welcoming you back on Monday 4th November.

## Diwali

Today our Year 3 children spread light and joy across the school with their Diwali Show and Share assembly. Below you will see some pictures of the event and quotes from children and families. We wish all families celebrating Diwali during half term a wonderful and peaceful celebration.

"It is so nice that children celebrate different festivals and cultures and the children express themselves so well". Parent



"It gives confidence to children and it was so enjoyable for parents to watch. It is such a proud moment as a parent". Parent

"The assemblies help us learn about different religions and how they are the way they are. Today I really enjoyed the singing by the class" Pupil

"The assembly helps us to learn how different religions celebrate their festivals, the way the children used drama to tell the story of Rama and Sita was excellent". Pupil

## Pupil Voice

We are so proud of our children in Year 5 who met with a marketing consultant for Valentines High School to share their aspirations for secondary school. The consultant was very impressed with the high quality of dialogue and expectations the children had for themselves and others. Please see feedback from Miss Bower below:

"It was an absolute pleasure to visit and run focus groups with the Year 5 children at Highlands Primary School. They were confident, articulate and full of aspirations for their future! It was inspiring to see their enthusiasm for secondary school education, as well as their passion for their primary school. A big thank you also to the staff and parents who participated – your responses have been invaluable to our research project."



We would also like to thank parents that contributed to the discussion groups.

## Blue Zone Breakfast Club

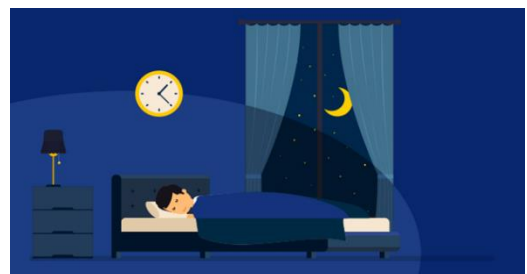
Please do remember we start our brand new Blue zone Breakfast Club after half term. This is open to all children from 7.45. The cost is £5 per day. Please do book a place for your child with the google form below:

<https://tinyurl.com/Hpsbluezone>

**Article 2 (non-discrimination) The Convention applies to every child without discrimination, whatever their ethnicity, sex, religion, language, abilities or any other status, whatever they think or say, whatever their family background**

## Sleep

As we know with all of our Blue Zone work, we understand how important a healthy lifestyle is to enable our children to thrive. One of the key aspects of this is good sleep. Over the last half term, we have been working with families on attendance and one area that seems to be an issue is sleep and sleep routines. Sleep is an essential and involuntary process, without which we cannot function effectively. It is as essential to our bodies as eating, drinking and breathing, and is vital for maintaining good mental and physical health. Sleeping helps to repair and restore our brains, not just our bodies. We have included a link to share some advice on good sleep routines from the NHS.



<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/baby/health/sleep-and-young-children/>

## Well Being Committee

We would like to introduce you to our new Well-Being Committee for 2024-2025. We had lots of excellent applicants and it was very difficult to select our committee.

We have an excellent group this year and we are very excited for all the work we are going to do this year to support the well-being of our whole community at Highlands.

The well-being committee will -

- Support children with emotions
- Support our community with strategies to manage emotions
- Ensure that all school areas are a nice place to be
- Drive well-being across the school
- Spread the message that emotions and feelings are ok!
- We are role models of sharing our feelings
- We listen to our friends and support them with their worries

We very much look forward to all the work we can do with our Highlands family over this year.



Mrs Owen, Mr Chaudhury and the Well-being Committee

## School Parliament

On Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October our School Parliament organised their first bake sale. The children want to express their gratitude for the exceptional amount of donations we received for the bake sale. Thank you very very much! The bake sale was a HUGE success and we raised a whopping £579. A big well done to all the School Parliament members for smashing their first whole school event.



## 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

On Wednesday this week 9 girls from Years 3 and 4 represented Highlands Primary School at a Girls' Football Skills Festival. For the first half of the festival the girls competed against other schools across the Borough in a series of friendly matches where they performed brilliantly not conceding a single goal but scoring at least 2 goals per game! The second half of the day was spent with Sports Leaders from Ursuline High School and coaches from Frenford Football Club doing drills which worked on specific football related skills. The girls thoroughly enjoyed the entire day and are already looking forward to their next footballing event! A big well done to:

Gurrehmat 3Ch  
Anjali 3Ch  
Aroush 4Sa  
Zaynah 4Sa  
Layla 4Sa

Hana 4Az  
Eshal 4Ja  
Hajirah 4Ja  
Rumaysah 4Ja



Before the event begun, Highlands Primary School was presented with an award for achieving equal access to football for girls across the school. The Barclays Girls' Football School Partnership was established to ensure that girls were given equal access to football in schools. We have achieved this through PE lessons, taking part in the Let Girls Play campaign, Premier League Primary Stars, School Games events, extracurricular clubs, Sports Network Events and lunch and play times. We will continue to explore ways to ensure that all girls have equal access to play football in school #LetGirlsPlay

## Curriculum in Action

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

### Oak Class

We have had an exciting week this week in Oak. We finished reading our story 'The Colour Monster'. We discussed the different emotions and how our expressions may look when we are feeling these emotions. In Maths, we have been looking at addition and subtraction. In Music, we have been looking at rhythm and tempo. The children have enjoyed using scarves, sticks and shakers to keep to the beat. In RE, we have been learning about how Diwali is celebrated. The children enjoyed making diya lamps using clay.

We wish all of our families a lovely half term break and Happy Diwali to all who are celebrating!



### Nursery

In the Nursery, we have had an amazing last week of the first half term. We have continued reading 'I Like Myself'. The children have added new examples of what they like about themselves. We have learned about different celebrations; we have been learning about Diwali and who celebrates it, and how. The children have made a Diya and a Diwali card for their families. We have been learning about Halloween too, children have enjoyed carving pumpkins, taking spiders from the cobweb and making some Halloween decorations. We have been reading the 'Room on the Broom' story, which they have found funny and a little scary. We have started practising our number skills meeting 'King One' in 'Ten Town'. We wish all the children and parents a restful break.



## Reception

This week for Maths we read "Pattern Fish" from beginning to end and in a circle picked different patterns and made them using beads, loose parts, toys and actions. The children also built on their subitising skills. They continued to use 'perceptual' subitising – instant recognition – by saying the number of sounds that they can hear, such as claps or drum beats, without needing to count.



On Monday we took the children to Wanstead Park for an Autumn walk, discussing what we could see. We collected different coloured leaves and sticks then came back to school and discussed what they looked like, for example long rough sticks, holes in the sticks, yellow leaves and green leaves. For Phonics we learnt the sounds n, i and d. We learnt a new key word "habitat" and discussed what it means while looking at the PowerPoint "This Is A Home". We recapped the RRS values we have learnt so far and taught them a new value, "Perseverance", through reading the book "Zog". On Thursday we had an Autumn party and the children had the opportunity to dress up - they loved it!

## Year 1

In Year 1 this week we have finished reading "The Lion Inside", we wrote about our favourite part of the story and discussed the themes. In Maths, we learnt about how we can change part whole models into number sentences. In our Mastering Maths sessions we practised doubles of numbers using the sentence:      is made from      and     . Double      is     . In RHE, we talked about the different ways of getting money such as earning money through work or chores or receiving it as a gift during celebrations. In RE, we learnt about how the festival of Diwali is celebrated and created firework pictures and Diwali cards for our families. In Reciprocal Reading, we retold the story of Beegu in our own words from the beginning to the end using time words such as "First, Then, Next and Finally. In Art, we drew a tree using the mark making techniques we have learnt over the half term and wrote about how we could improve our trees next time.

## Year 2

What a fantastic week of learning we've had! The children have shown such determination and resilience in their learning, and we couldn't be prouder of the progress they've made. This week, a highlight has been our reading focus on the life of Marcus Rashford. As part of their reading, they completed thoughtful book reviews, reflecting on what his story has taught them about perseverance, kindness, and believing in oneself. The children have worked hard on adding two numbers by bridging ten in maths. They've been using concrete resources to help them grasp this concept, and it's been wonderful to see their confidence

growing as they practise. In Music, they have continued to learn the recorder, adding the notes C and A to their repertoire. It's been lovely to hear them developing their musical skills! During our D&T lesson, the children made their moving monsters using linkages. They've had a great time designing and creating their monsters, and we've been impressed with their creativity and problem-solving skills.

We've travelled back in time to the time of the Great Fire of London in History. The children have been exploring what makes a reliable source when learning about events in the past, developing their critical thinking skills as budding historians. In RE, we have been learning about the Festival of Lights, Diwali. The children have enjoyed discovering the traditions and meaning behind this special celebration, and it has sparked some lovely discussions in class. Please try and read with your children for 10 minutes a day, 4 times a week. It makes all the difference in supporting their progress and love of reading. We hope the children have a restful half term, and we look forward to seeing them after their break for lots more great learning. We also can't wait to hear all about what they got up to during the holiday!



### **Year 3**

This week, our Year 3 children have worked exceptionally hard preparing for their Diwali assembly. They have dedicated time to learning their lines and collaborating as a class, demonstrating wonderful teamwork and enthusiasm. We are proud of their efforts and hard work as they shine during the performance!

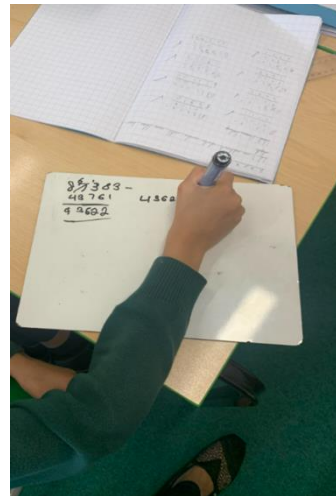
In Geography, Year 3 has been exploring Ordnance Survey (OS) maps and learning about the Three Peaks of the UK. The children have enjoyed identifying key features on the maps and understanding the significance of these mountains: Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike, and Snowdon. Through research activities, they have developed their map-reading skills while discussing the geography and landscapes of these iconic peaks. It has been a fantastic way for our children to connect with our country's natural wonders.

For English the Year 3 children have successfully completed their narratives inspired by Carol Ann Duffy's book, *"The Tear Thief"*. They followed a structured approach and incorporated a variety of interesting language devices to make their stories engaging and captivating. It has been wonderful to see their creativity flourish as they explored the themes of the book. We are proud of their efforts and thrilled to see how their imaginative narratives have come to life.





Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October 2024	
LITs infer characters thoughts feelings and emotions when planning a diary!	
Word Aware: Informal	
Text Type:	Diary entry from Abusob perspective
Purpose:	To express feelings and thoughts
Audience:	Anybody who reads the diary
Key events Abusob would mention in the diary:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• His first day at school</li> <li>• The author attempting to be friend</li> <li>• Receiving gifts</li> <li>• Getting in a fight with Brendon the bully</li> <li>• His story about Syria</li> </ul>
Key vocabulary	Seclusion, Challenges, Trauma; Emotions, Resilience
Thoughts and feelings	Abusob felt kind on his first day. He felt special that the author was trying to be his friend. He was rising with anger because Brendon took his surname
Time Conjunctions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suddenly</li> <li>• That night</li> <li>• Just then</li> </ul>



## Year 6

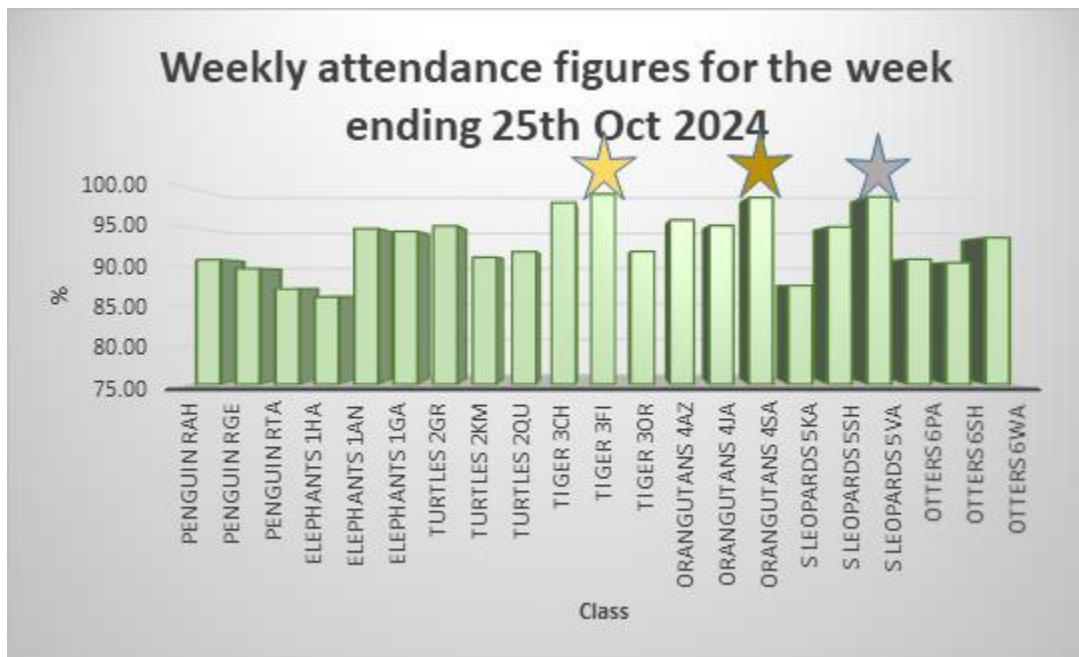
We went on an educational trip to the Gurdwara to learn about the significance of this, as a place of worship to Sikhs. We were told about the values in Sikhism and how this is demonstrated in the Gurdwara. We saw where the Guru Granth Sahib is kept and how Sikhs come in to worship and show their respect. After our learning session, we were taken to the Langar Hall to be given our lunch. It was brilliant to see so much of what we had learned in action and better understand how sewa (selfless service) is displayed in a Gurdwara. In English, we completed and published our newspaper reports on the infamous football match which took place in WW1. We continued to build and consolidate our learning of addition and subtraction in Maths. In History, we researched using secondary sources to find out what life was like for people in WW1 and the way it impacted them. We have had a wonderful first half term full of lots of learning. We are looking forward to continuing this after a restful break!



## Attendance

Total school attendance for this week is **93.20 %**

This week's attendance figures (21.10.24-25.10.24) are as follows:-



This week's winning classes are:-

**Gold Award** 3Ch with 99.26%

**Silver Award** 5va with 98.89%

**Bronze Award** 4Sa with 98.81%

Well done! to all 3 classes

## Birthdays

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

