

Volume 2
Issue 3
22nd November
2024

Highlands Weekly



Dear Families,

It has been a very colourful day at Highlands Primary School with children dressing in their brightest clothes to raise awareness of road safety and being seen in the darker mornings and evenings. We launched our Blue Zone Walking Bus today and it was fabulous to see so many children joining in with a community walk to school. We are reviewing all the learning from today and will set up the daily walking bus shortly.



Children In Need

Thank you so much for all the contributions to Children In Need last week. We raised **£282**



Shoe Box Appeal

The School Parliament would like to say a huge thank you to all families that contributed to the Shoe Box appeal for those less fortunate than ourselves. On Monday the children will personally deliver the boxes on behalf of Highlands and make us very proud.



Parent Forum

Thank you to all the families that contributed to the Parent Forum meetings this week. We are collating all the feedback and will share this as a report and future actions with you next week. We are already planning monthly sessions led by Mrs Gani to keep up the community working partnership. Watch this space

Sports at Highlands

On Wednesday this week 10 children across Years 3 and 4 took part in a Tag Rugby Skills Festival at Wanstead Rugby Club. The first half of the day was spent with the children learning skills such as passing, dodging, scoring and defending. After lunch the children played some friendly matches against other schools where they were able to put to use the skills they had spent the morning learning and practising. The squad were able to pick up a few wins which were well celebrated especially considering that the vast majority of the children had never played any form of Rugby before! Well done to:



Elisha 3Ch
Harry 3Ch
Ali 3Fi
Zeenia 3Fi
Wilfred 3Or

Zafreen 3Or
Nara 4Az
Easa 4Ja
Zayaan 4Ja
Elia 4Sa

Punctuality



Please can we remind families that school starts at 8.50 and that the gates will be locked at 8.55. We allow 5 minutes grace for families, but anyone arriving after 8.55 will be asked to report to the front office to be registered as late. If you need any support with tips on how to make your mornings more punctual in the best interests of the child see the link below.

<https://www.theschoolrun.com/9-secrets-stress-free-school-mornings>

Article 19 (protection from violence, abuse and neglect) Governments must do all they can to ensure that children are protected from all forms of violence, abuse, neglect and bad treatment by their parents or anyone else who looks after them.

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.

Curriculum in Action

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

Oak Class

In Oak class this week we have continued reading our sensory story 'Room on the Broom.' The children enjoyed meeting the fierce Dragon and seeing how clever the animals were in saving the Witch. The children enjoyed making their own messy monsters using Oobleck. In Maths, we have been learning about prepositions such as in, on, under, next to and in between.



Nursery

We have started the week with some very special visitors: owls. The children have learned different facts about the owls and they have had the opportunity to take a picture with an owl on their shoulder. We have been reading 'The Colour Monster' story, and learning about feelings and colours. The children have been exploring colour mixing using different colours and guessing what could happen when they mix them. We have introduced our 'emotional regulation zone' to the children to support them to self-regulate their feelings. In



Ten Town, we have met 'Thelma Three', and the children have had the opportunity to paint Numberblocks 3 using a square. We have introduced Numicon, which helps children to make connections between numbers. As part of our Phonics learning, this week the children have been practising good listening skills, they were listening to different sounds and guessing what made each sound. We have started going to the hall in the 'big school' to practise our Nativity Show.

Reception

Reception began the week with a very exciting visit from some wonderful Owls following on from the story we shared last half term, Owl Babies. We learnt so much about them and were amazed to see them fly so close above our heads. We had some fantastic helpers from each class who held the owls and allowed them to fly on to each other's hands and collect some food. We hope you enjoy the lovely photos! Elian (Yellow Class) commented "they fly so quiet we can't hear them when they are close." In Maths we shared the book 'Actual Size' which inspired the children to measure the different parts of large animals and compare them to smaller animals. We used cubes or counters to help us with measuring. We learnt all about number 8 in Ten Town. The children continued to learn the next 2 sounds 'e' and 'u'. They applied their phonic knowledge to write and read words. We taught the children that the tricky word 'to' cannot be sounded out, instead the children need to remember it when reading and writing. We would like to thank families for attending the Reception Stay and Play, the children enjoyed showing off their classroom and playing with you all. We are also glad that we were able to share with you how we teach Phonics at Highlands and how you can help at home. We will also share a video version on the Highlands school website.



Year 1

What an exciting week! Year 1 had a visit from NiteOwls. The children really enjoyed learning about different owls and some brave volunteers helped to feed and fly them.

In English, we finished reading the story 'Lost in the Toy Museum'. Children received an exciting letter from Jim who works at the Toy Museum. Jim shared few facts about his favourite and is curious to know about the toys children have. We started to look at what a letter is, and different features of a letter. For example, a letter will consist of an address, date, greeting, introduction, main part, and conclusion and who it is from. Children have started planning and writing letters to send back to Jim. In Maths, we have continued learning about subtraction using number lines for the first time. Children used the method of counting back to find the answers. In History, we looked at how the first teddy bear was invented and how it has changed over the last 100 years. Children completed a timeline to show these changes.

Congratulations to this week's stars:

1An – Ansal 1Ga – Athirai 1Ha – Jamila

Year 2

This week in Music, we practised our song The Samba. We sang along to the song and used our recorders to play the notes A and B. This week in Maths we have been adding 1 digit numbers to 2 digit numbers. We first used dienes to practise and help with our learning. In English, we have completed our explanation text about The Great Fire of London. We have learned so much about this event and have produced a leaflet to showcase this information. In Science we looked at what we would need to effectively look after a pet, and created

posters. In PE we are continuing to look at the fundamentals of dance and are using them to create our own motif. Lastly, we enjoyed going to Cineworld Ilford for the Film Festival to see The Super Mario Bros. We have had a lovely week of learning and are looking forward to next week.

Year 3

This week in Year 3 English, the children have been focusing on the features of a diary. They have been learning how to write in the first person, using "I" and "my" to make their entries personal and reflective. The children have also explored the importance of including the date at the start of each entry and using a conversational tone to make their writing feel more informal. They have been practising sequencing events using time adverbs such as "first," "next," and "finally," and are developing their ability to express their thoughts and emotions clearly in their writing.

For PE, the children have been exploring dance, learning how to express themselves through movement and rhythm. They have been practising different dance steps and routines, focusing on co-ordination and creativity. In addition to developing their dance skills, the children have also been introduced to the **Six Principles of PE**.

In Maths, the children have been learning about the process of **inverse operations** and how to use them to check their calculations. They have explored how addition and subtraction are linked, and how understanding the inverse of an operation can help solve problems and verify answers. The children have also been practising **estimating** numbers to get a rough idea of answers before performing calculations. This skill helps them make quick judgments and check whether their results are reasonable. They have enjoyed using these strategies to strengthen their problem-solving skills!

Year 4

This week in Year 4 we have continued our learning about Judaism. We have been learning all about Passover and the Sedar plate and what each item signifies, from the story of Exodus. As you know last week we made our blueberry and lemon muffins, this week we evaluated our muffins and explained what we found tricky and if there was anything we would like to change if we were to remake them. Furthermore in Maths we have been learning all about area and measuring the area of different shapes by counting squares.

Year 5

This week the children in Year 5 embarked on an exciting virtual learning experience with the Royal Air Force. The children delved into the fascinating world of aviation, exploring the key differences between gliders and airplanes. This knowledge served as the foundation for a hands-on design challenge, where they were tasked with creating three unique glider models, each featuring distinct wing shapes. The ultimate goal was to determine which design would excel in flight performance, measured by distance, time, and speed. Through this engaging project, the young learners gained invaluable insights into the principles of aerodynamics and the innovative design processes employed by aviation engineers. In their PE lessons, the children have been delving into the captivating world of dance. They've explored a variety of movements, understanding the importance of synchronization to create a harmonious performance. Working collaboratively in groups of six, they've mastered a six-step routine, ensuring their



movements align with the rhythm and enhance the overall dance experience. In Geography, the children learnt about Fair Trade, exploring the network of workers involved in the banana supply chain. They learned about the diverse roles of farmers, harvesters, packers, and transporters, each contributing to the journey of a banana from plantation to the consumer. By comparing the costs of wages of each worker, the children gained a deeper understanding of the significance of Fair Trade, and how it helps the workers that are at more risk of getting paid less money. They realized how Fair Trade practices can empower workers, ensuring they receive fair wages and working conditions, ultimately improving their quality of life whilst making links with our right respecting values.

Year 6

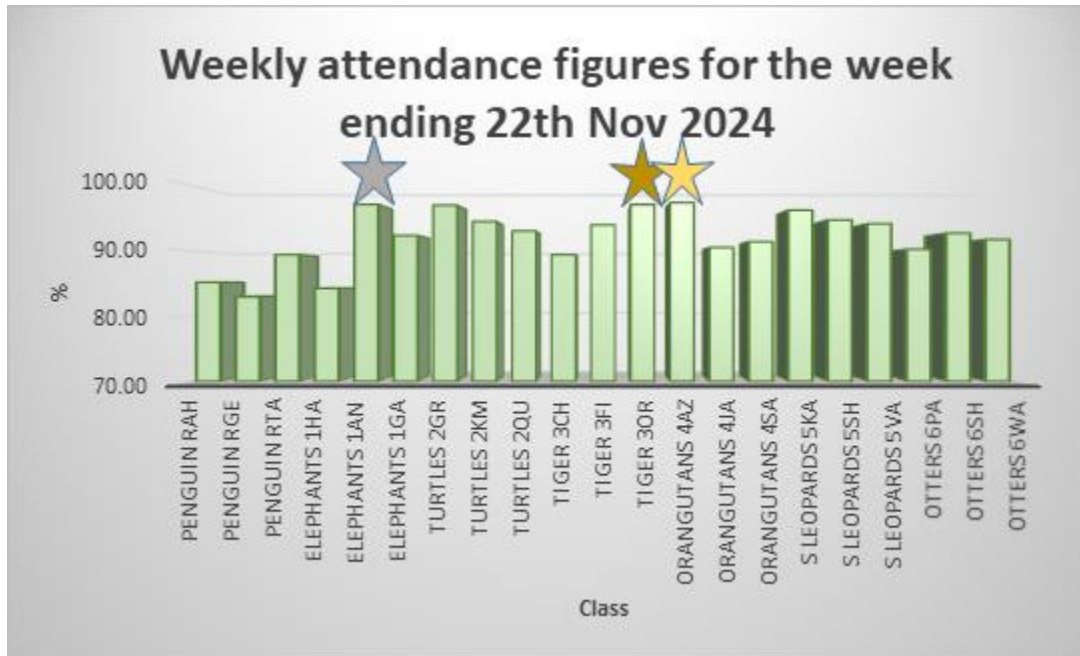
Year 6 have had another great week at school; the children have adjusted to the 8am starts and it has been lovely to see them so eager and passionate about their learning. In English this week, we planned our non-chronological report about WW1. We looked closely at some examples to identify technical vocabulary, formal language and sentence starters they could use to support their writing. Additionally, we looked at subordinating conjunctions and clauses, focusing on how they can be used to add more detail to a sentence. In Maths, the children have begun focusing on division in more depth. They will be completing this unit over the next few weeks before beginning fractions. For Science, we continued our learning on light. The children investigated how opaque objects cause shadows to be formed and how the distance of the light source can alter the size of the shadow. In DT, the children made their healthy pizzas, they developed their knife skills to cut and prepare all the ingredients for their sauce and the toppings. To share the importance of road safety, the children wore bright colours on Friday, so they are easily identifiable when walking to and from school. We wish you all a lovely weekend.



Attendance

This week's attendance figures (18.11.24-22.11.24) are as follows:-

Total school attendance for this week is 92.12% 🎉



This week's winning classes are:-

Gold Award 4Az with 97.32%

Silver Award 1An with 97.06%

Bronze Award 5va with 97.04%

Well done! to all 3 classes

Birthdays

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

