

Volume 2
Issue 5
6th December
2024

Highlands Weekly



Dear Families,

We have really enjoyed our week across the school, starting with festive Christmas jumper photos and Elf Day. We also had our Nursery children share their magical Nativity performance with such magic and wonder. Well done Nursery children.



A reminder that next week we have the school Christmas lunch and Christmas jumper day on Wednesday 11th December.

We are really looking forward to our annual Winter Wonderland Fayre on Wednesday 18th December. Tickets will be available for you to buy from next week in the school playground.



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>

Festive Events



Please see attached an overview of whole school events leading up to the festive Christmas period to support your family planning of events.

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.

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

On Tuesday 3rd December a squad of 10 children from Years 5 and 6 attempted to defend their title in the William Greaves Cricket Competition at Redbridge Sports Centre. In a highly competitive group stage the Highlands team emphatically won their second game but narrowly lost their first and third games meaning they missed out on a place in the final. The team learned a lot on the day and are ready for the next competition! Well done to:

Kiyan 5Ka
Yousaf 5Va
Irtaza 6Pa
Jasser 6Pa
Mikaal 6Pa

Aairah 6Wa
Kaab 6Wa
Safwa 6Wa
Sara 6Wa
Zaynab 6Wa



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 to read a new story 'Mouse's Night Before Christmas'. We learnt about Christmas and made a Christmas list. On Monday we planted a pinecone and on Tuesday it grew into a Christmas tree. We then decorated the tree. On Friday we learnt some reindeer names and made yummy chocolate reindeers.



Nursery

We have started the week taking a Christmas individual picture. On Tuesday, the children performed the Nativity Show for Reception and Year 1 children. On Wednesday and Thursday, the parents came to watch the Nativity Show that the children were preparing during the last few weeks with much interest and emotion and we hope the parents enjoyed it. We have read the 'Dear Santa' story and the children have started to make



Christmas decorations for the classroom. We have continued practising our Phonics skills guessing the instrument sound. We have been learning about the properties of 2D shapes. Next week we will have our first Nursery Parent workshop and Stay & Play session. We hope to see all the parents next Tuesday.

Reception

This week in Reception the children had the pleasure of watching the Nursery perform their Nativity, they all did so well! On Monday we discovered some Elves in our classrooms and they have been getting up to lots of mischief. We have all enjoyed getting into the festive spirit wearing our Christmas jumpers and Elf outfits. All of the children were excited to decorate our classrooms and Christmas trees. In Maths we have been learning about the composition of 3 and 4 – as Nurah explained "3 and 1 makes 4!" We also learnt how to use different types of scales to measure weight and compare the objects from around the classroom. We met number 10 in Ten Town and practised writing it. We began the story 'Stickman' - the children have really enjoyed listening to different Julia Donaldson stories. We began making a class story map which the children will use to retell the story. The children wrote some fantastic sentences this week all about what they want to be when they grow up and they drew a picture of themselves wearing the uniform and using special equipment in their jobs. We would like to say a big thank you to all of the families for attending our 'Frosty Festival' we hope you and the children enjoyed it. All of the money raised will go towards some very exciting events happening in our Spring term!



Year 1

This week in English, we have continued with letter writing and discussing the features of a letter. In Maths, we have been learning about 2D and 3D shapes, we have used appropriate vocabulary to describe the shapes such as a cube has 8 vertices. We talked about the differences between 2D and 3D shapes and how to find them in real life objects. In DT, we made our own fruit salads. We chose our fruits and then chopped them into sizes of our choice and then mixed them up before we tasted them. We discussed how to describe the fruits such as the texture, colour and shape. In Computing, we created our own pictograms on PurpleMash. In Reciprocal Reading, we answered comprehension questions about the part of the story that we have read. In RHE, we learnt about personal space and what to do and what not to do when somebody is in our personal space. In Science, we continued learning about materials and objects that can be made of different materials, we also talked about the properties, for example fabric is flexible.



Year 2

This week in English we have continued reading "Hansel and Gretel". We improvised and did a role play to act out the characters in the book. We have also looked at using adverbs to describe different scenes from the story. In Music we have learnt more of the Samba song and participated in different musical days. In RE we looked at the qualities that make a good

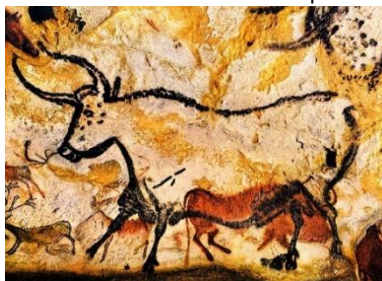
leader and relating them to different religious leaders. In RHE we looked at healthy eating and why it is important to have a balanced diet and exercise. We have also been practising for our Show and Share assembly. We are continuing to practise our lines and the songs. We have had a busy week in Year 2!

Year 3

This week in English, Year 3 children have started their writing diary entries as Max, the curious hedgehog from "*The Hodgehog*" by Dick King-Smith. They have been exploring Max's adventures and using the first-person perspective to describe his feelings, challenges, and observations. Children have been practising how to express emotions, such as Max's excitement and fear, and how to create vivid imagery of the world around him. The children have shown great creativity as they imagine what Max might be thinking and feeling during his journey. Next week, they will continue to develop their diary entries, focusing on adding more detail and building suspense.

In Maths this week, Year 3 Children have been learning about multiplication and division by 3. They have been exploring the concepts of grouping and sharing, helping them understand how multiplication and division are related. The children have developed their skills in multiplying by 3 and dividing into equal groups. They have also practised solving word problems that involve both grouping (multiplication) and sharing (division), which has strengthened their understanding of numbers. Next week, we will continue building on these concepts with more challenging exercises.

In History this week, Year 3 children have been exploring non-written sources to learn about the Stone Age. They have been studying artefacts, cave paintings, tools, and other evidence from this period to understand how people lived, what they ate, and how they communicated. By examining these historical objects, the children have gained a deeper insight into life in the Stone Age, beyond what is written in books. They have also discussed how historians use these resources to piece together the past, developing their skills in observation and interpretation.



Year 4

Year 4 have had another great week. 4Sa have welcomed their new teachers and have shown us what superstars they are!

This week we have been looking at newspaper articles in English. The children have been considering the key features of a newspaper article and are beginning to think about how they will write their own newspaper article based on the story 'The Giant's Necklace'.

In Maths we are continuing to look at multiplication and division facts and the children have continued to practise our 9x table.

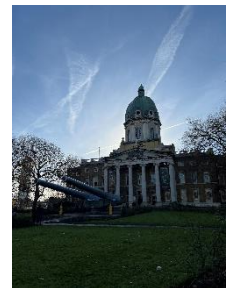
We have been continuing with our brass lessons in Music - the children are doing really well and are enjoying what they are learning. In History we completed posters to showcase our learning about Ancient Egypt and in RE we have learnt about different prayers. Next week we will also have a Brain Buddies session which will consider different strategies we can use to manage our own emotions and behaviours. We are looking forward to another great week next week.

Year 5

The Year 5 children have been learning about the history of the Blues during their Music lessons. They explored the distinctive characteristics and emotional depth of this classical genre, understanding its significance and impact on music. They are beginning to master the 12-bar Blues structure and the Blues scale, which is allowing them to experiment and create their own improvised pieces. This hands-on experience has allowed them to truly appreciate the power of the Blues, fostering a deeper connection to this timeless musical form. In RE, the children have been learning about the Islamic concept of Zakat, a significant pillar of faith that involves donating a portion of one's wealth to those in need. This act of charity is seen as a way to purify one's wealth and strengthen one's connection with God. The children have learned how Zakat helps alleviate poverty, supports charitable causes, and fosters a sense of community and compassion. By understanding the importance of Zakat, these young learners are developing a deeper appreciation for giving back and making a positive impact on the world around them. In English, the children have embarked on a writing journey, writing a non-chronological report centred on the concept of a refugee. By looking into research, they've gained a solid understanding of what it means to be a refugee and the challenges that arise when individuals are forced to leave their homes. Drawing inspiration from Ahmet's experiences, as a refugee from the book "The Boy at the Back of the Class," the children have developed a deeper empathy for these challenges. They've expanded their knowledge through further research, gaining insights into the complex realities faced by refugees worldwide. Furthermore, they have used their research and the information they have collated, to write their first draft of their non-chronological report.

Year 6

This week in Year 6, the children have continued writing their non-chronological report using their learning in History. We have continued consolidating our learning for formal written methods of division; we have been applying our knowledge to word problems. Additionally, the children have envisioned themselves as young entrepreneurs for Enterprise work. They have been working in groups to create an ethical brand and product which they will present to the employees at KMPG. They have thought carefully about their product design, the costing of their product, the marketing campaign, the manufacturing of their product as well as the sales pitch they will present. The children have been really excited about this experience and are eager to present their ideas. Last week, we visited the Imperial War Museum to culminate our learning on WW1 - below are some images from the visit. Well done for another great week, have a joyful weekend.

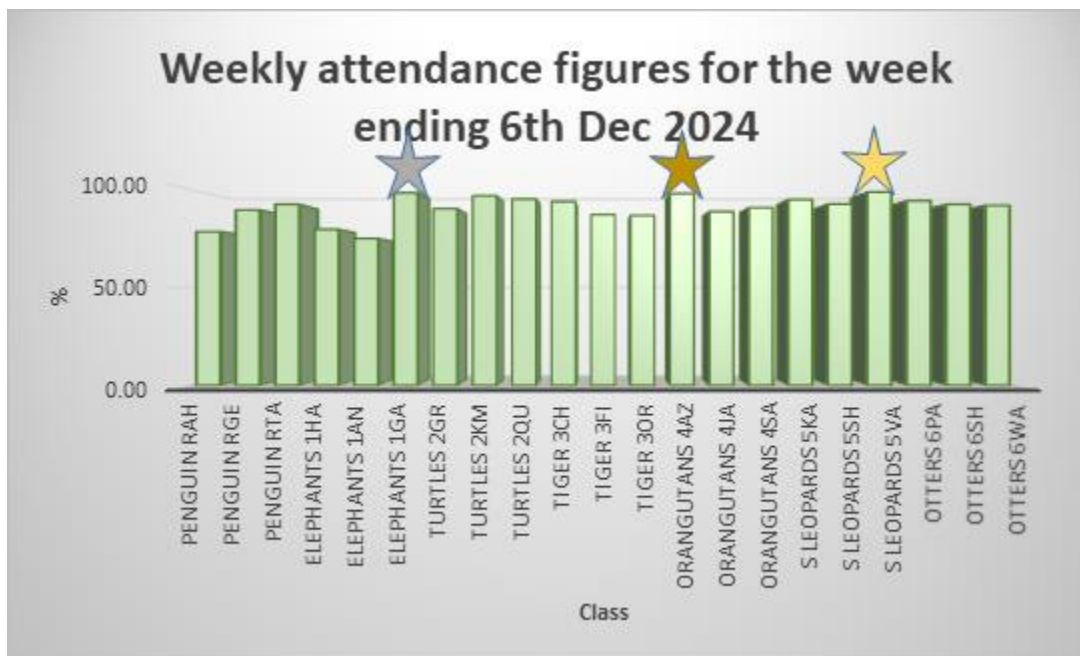




Attendance

This week's attendance figures (2.12.24-6.12.24) are as follows:-

Total school attendance for this week is 90.57% 🌟



This week's winning classes are:-

Gold Award 5Va with 98.52%

Silver Award 1Ga with 98.15%

Bronze Award 4Az with 97.79%

Well done! to all 3 classes

Birthdays

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



