

Volume 2
Issue 6
13th December
2024

Highlands Weekly



Dear Families,

We have had a very special penultimate week of the Autumn Term, with festive lunches and the Year 2 Nativity. The singing, joy and cheer the children demonstrated in their Show and Share assemblies was a joy to behold. Although the days are darker, the cheer within the Highlands family shines bright.

Winter Fayre

Please do remember that we have our annual Winter Fayre on Wednesday 18th December, we look forward to seeing you all there. Tickets are available now in the playground before and after school. Thank you very much to all the families that have offered to run stalls.



Reminder

A reminder that we break up for the Christmas Holidays on Friday 20th December, children are to be collected at 1.30 p.m. from the playground. School returns for the Spring Term on Tuesday 7th January.

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 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

Over the last few weeks, our attendance hasn't been up to our usual high standards. We know that there are a lot of winter viruses going around so please take extra precautions with washing hands to keep germs away. It is very important that your child attends school unless they are really unwell. Please do refer to the guidelines (see link below)

Also next week we are finalising our learning and making our final assessments. It is really important that children are in school right up to the last day to enable us to complete these successfully.

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 this week we have had a busy week, continuing with our Christmas story and learning about Christmas and people who celebrate it. On Wednesday we went on a trip to the Church and enjoyed exploring the features of a Church. After our trip we made our own map linking it to the trip and the story we are reading, 'Mouse's Night Before Christmas'.



Nursery

The children have enjoyed our new role-play area: Santa's grotto. They have had the opportunity to write letters to Santa and post them in Santa's post box. We have read 'Dear Santa' and the children have been cutting out pictures of their favourite toys and sticking them on the letters. We have been learning about arctic animals through our playing in the Small World area where we felt the snow. We have had our first parent workshop about the Nursery curriculum and the parents had the opportunity to engage with their children during choosing time and to observe them at group time. We thank all the parents who attended and we hope it was helpful. Next week the Nursery will be open until Thursday; this day will be our last day before the holidays and we will have our class Christmas party. That day, the children can wear their party clothes and the school will provide the party food. We ask parents for a £1 donation to buy the party food.



Reception

In Reception this week we have finished reading the story 'Stickman' and completed our story map and actions. The children have become very familiar with the story and drew pictures of the character, setting and events and wrote captions to match. We have now learnt all of Phase 2 sounds finishing with the digraphs ll, ff, ss and reading and writing them in words. Sufyaan (Red Class) noticed that these digraphs come at the end of words like 'mess'. The children were fascinated to learn about schools in other countries such as India and China and compared them to our day at school. They found it interesting to see how the children in other countries get to school. In Maths we met Ten Town 10 and we learnt how to match quantity to numerals. The children learnt how to use non-standard measures to explore length and measured different objects around the classroom using cubes to compare. We had a lovely winter walk to the park where we followed our own Stickman Trail. The children have enjoyed learning about how people celebrate Christmas, they all looked wonderful in their Christmas jumpers and enjoyed a lovely Christmas dinner altogether! We also had a very exciting zoom call from Santa and the children got to ask some questions about his job!



Year 1

We have had an exciting week in Year 1. As part of History and English we visited the Young V&A Toy Museum in Bethnal Green. We had a wonderful time seeing the old toys and new toys. Zayyan 1An said "I enjoyed playing in the play area because I used magnetic tiles to build". Wildan 1Ga said "I made a spaceship with my friends".



In Maths, we revised the topics taught over the term such as using number lines and the fact families. In RE, we learnt about how Jewish people celebrate Hanukkah. In Computing, we continued creating Pictograms on PurpleMash. In Reciprocal Reading, we completed reading the story of Biscuit Bear and really enjoyed the happy ending.

Year 2

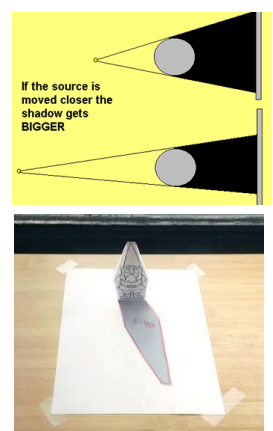
This week in Art we have sketched our final self-portraits using the techniques that we have learnt over the term. We compared the outcome to our first draft and evaluated our work. In Music we performed our Samba song and learnt the new note "G". In Maths we have been adding one digit numbers to two digit numbers bridging ten. We have been practising "regrouping". Well done Year 2 on your Show and Share. You have worked so hard to practise your lines and the songs. Thank you to parents for all of your support with this. We are heading into our final week and looking forward to the end of term.

Year 3

This week in English, the children have been writing diary entries from the perspective of Max, the hedgehog from *"The Hodgehog"*. They have used emotive language to vividly express Max's feelings and the challenges he faces. One entry read, *"I was so scared, my tiny heart pounding as I tried to cross the road. The noise from the mental monsters was deafening, and I felt so small, so helpless. Why does everything have to be so big and frightening?"* Through their writing, the children have shown a deep understanding of Max's emotions, capturing his fear, determination, and the struggle of facing the unknown. It has been wonderful seeing the children use language to bring a character's internal world to life.

This week in Maths, the children have been learning about the 2, 4, and 8 times tables and how they are related to one another. They have explored the patterns within each table and how they build on each other. The children discovered that the 4 times table is essentially double the 2 times table, and the 8 times table is double the 4 times table. This understanding of relationships between numbers has helped them see multiplication as a series of interconnected patterns, making it easier to learn and remember their times tables.

For Science, children have been exploring the fascinating topic of shadows. They have been investigating how shadows are formed and how their size and length can change depending on the position of the light source. Through hands-on activities, the class has observed that when the light source is closer to an object, the shadow appears larger and shorter, while moving the light source further away makes the shadow smaller and longer. These experiments have helped students understand the relationship between light, objects, and shadows in the world around them.



Year 4

We have had another fantastic week in Year 4. In English we are finishing off our newspaper articles, which use the text we have been focusing on to share the disappearance of the character Cherry. The children have really thought carefully about purpose and audience. The children have been looking at friendship and trust in RHE. In Maths we have been continuing with multiplication and division, looking at different patterns and trying to consolidate our learning of the times tables. We had a really wonderful opportunity to learn all about how to manage our emotions with our brain buddies session on Tuesday. The children really engaged well with the kinds of emotions they may experience and the different ways in which they may look at managing these in different situations. We are looking forward to our last week of term and wrapping up all our learning for the Autumn term.

Year 5

Our young historians have been delving into the fascinating world of the Vikings and Anglo-Saxons once again! They have been passionately sharing their prior knowledge, discussing the events that led these powerful groups to conquer Britannia, and exploring their remarkable achievements whilst comparing this to the stereotypes used to describe Vikings. It has been truly inspiring to see their enthusiasm for history come to life! In DT children have applied their understanding of textures and designs to create their own design for a soft toy. This week they reached the stage where they have drawn and cut out templates and are using them to begin to put their soft toy together. They have used their prior knowledge of running - , cross- and back- stitches to ensure their toy is secure and safe to use.

Year 6

This week in Year 6, the children have been completing their second mock SATs week. They have been working really hard to do the best they can as they are eager to see the impact of their learning on their progression. In Maths, we have consolidated our learning on division and will be moving forward onto fractions. In English, the children have been editing and publishing their non-chronological reports. To conclude our learning on WW1, we looked at the role of Sikh and Muslim soldiers during the war and the impact they had. In RHE, the children have been looking at values they believe are important to have. For their task they looked at different scenarios and had to consider what values the individuals in the scenarios were missing. This then helped them to create a class pledge for what we are going to do under each of our values to ensure we are displaying them to everyone. The children across the cohort had a fantastic experience at KPMG. The opportunity allowed them to get a rich experience of the working world. They were incredibly passionate and eager to present, please see the accompanying pictures below.

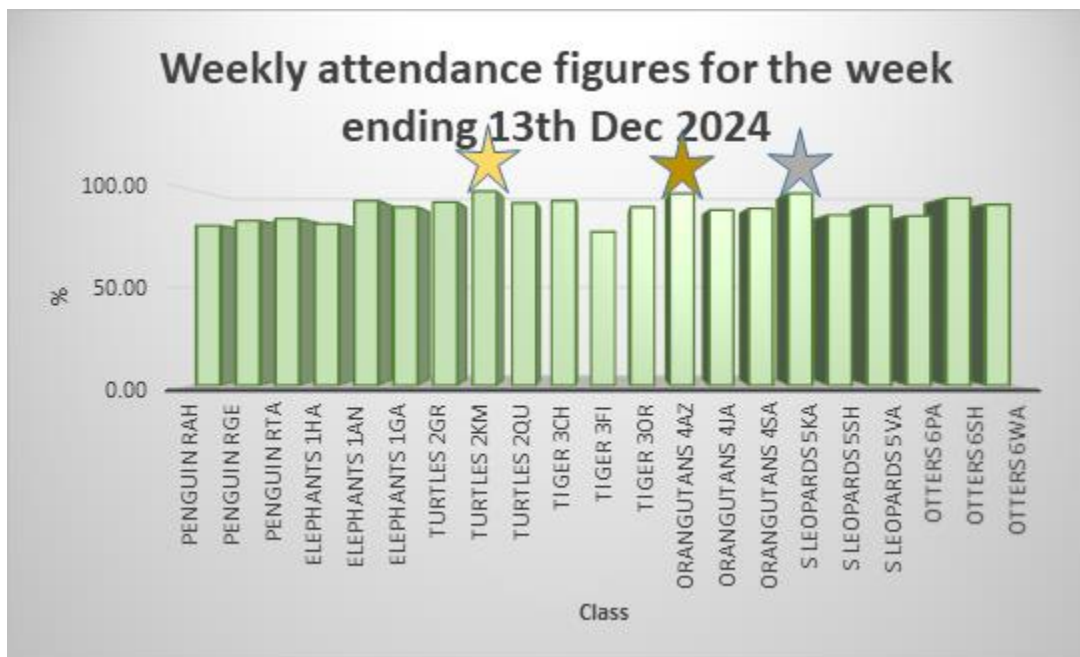




Attendance

This week's attendance figures (9.12.24-13.12.24) are as follows:-

Total school attendance for this week is 90.16% 🎯



This week's winning classes are:-

Gold Award 2KM with 98.89%

Silver Award 5ka with 97.79%

Bronze Award 5va with 97.78%

Well done! to all 3 classes

Birthdays

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



