

Volume 2  
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# Highlands Weekly



Dear Families,

It has been a very special week for the Highlands community, including an Ofsted Inspection!.

We look forward to sharing the Ofsted report with you when it is published.

## School Parliament Shoe Box appeal

Our School Parliament went to Ilford Exchange this week to deliver our Shoe Box appeal gifts for those less fortunate than ourselves. Our children are very much engaged with charity work and wanting to give back to the community. We could not be more proud. Thank you to all families that donated so generously.



## Parent Forum Report

Thank you to all families that contributed to the Parent Forum sessions last week. As promised please find attached a report of our findings and action plan. We look forward to parents putting themselves forward for the Parent Ambassador role in the new year.

## Morning Punctuality

Please can we remind all families that school starts promptly at 8.50 and that gates will be locked at 8.55. We must reduce the number of families arriving at 8.55 to ensure your child does not feel worried that they have arrived after their friends have gone into school. Let's work together on this please.

## Parking

We have again had local residents sharing that they are upset about families blocking resident drives in the morning. You must not block drives, and it sets a very poor impression of our school values. We encourage you to park further away from school and walk a short distance.

## Winter HAF Activities

Please see a link to Winter HAF activities you can book for your children if you are eligible.

<https://eequ.org/redbridgehaf>

If you would like the school to make a professional booking for a place at the Winter HAF activities club please contact the front office on Monday morning and Mrs Lechmere will take all your information to make the booking.

Please see attached information.



## 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

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 finished reading our sensory story 'Room on the Broom.' The children sequenced the story on their very own broomstick. The children also enjoyed making their own wands using pineapples. They were delicious! In Maths, we focused on number recognition and addition.



### Nursery

This was another very busy week in the Nursery. We have continued reading 'The Colour Monster' story. The children have chosen their favourite colour monster to make a Colour Monster collage. We have been practising our counting skills, matching the number with the correct amount of stickers. The children have practised their fine motor skills cutting their favourite Colour Monster. They have been practising recognising different instrument sounds. We introduced the light table to the children, which the children have used to trace pictures independently, they have loved it! We have been practising for our next week's Nativity Show. We have been going to the 'big school' to practise and the children have worn their costumes for the first time. The children are really excited to share it with the grown-ups. We hope to see all the parents next Wednesday/Thursday for our show.



### Reception

This week the Reception children learnt more about different jobs and focused on the Fire service. Unfortunately due to an emergency the Firefighters were unable to visit us this week but we used non-fiction books and videos to learn more about how they help us in our community. The children were amazed to see that Highlands Primary School was once used by the fire service as they watched a black and white video filmed in 1942. Please do speak to your class teacher if there are any parents who would like to share their jobs with the children and we can give you further information. In Maths we introduced the concept of 'weight' and made comparisons of heavy and light shopping bags. Amelia P (Yellow Class) explained "Heavy shopping has to go on the bottom of the bag



so that it does not squash the light shopping" So we then put the food items in order depending on if they felt heavy or light. We began learning about 'part' and 'whole' and looked at parts of toys and put them together to make a whole toy. This then led on to learning about parts of a whole number. In Phonics we learnt the sounds 'h' and 'b' and used them in our word writing and reading. We are so proud of the children and the progress they have made so far with their writing and we are excited to see some of the children writing sentences and using words to extend such as 'and'. We have worked hard on retelling the story 'Zog and the Flying Doctors' using a story map. The children took it in turns to act out parts of the story taking on the role of the characters and remember the story language, it was wonderful to see how much they enjoyed this.



## **Year 1**

This week in English, we continued writing letters. We talked about the features of a letter such as the sender's address, greeting and conclusion. In our Mastering Number sessions, we have revised odd and even numbers. In Maths, we have been learning about 2D shapes and talking about their properties. In Computing, we created our own pictograms. In Geography, we created our own maps and included a key. We talked about the symbols that would be appropriate for different places such as using a cross for the Church and scissors to represent the barbers. In Art, we drew our final trees using a variety of mark making techniques such as cross hatching. We discussed how we improved our work and will be evaluating the final piece next week. In Reciprocal Reading, we continued reading the story of Biscuit Bear, we discussed how the author has used different types of font in the text to add interest for the reader such as using a shadow for the word "shadow". We also discussed the adjectives used in the story so far. There has been so much excitement around this story and we will be reading the final version soon. Well done to the Stars Of The Week: Yusuf 1An, Harrison 1Ga and Haris 1Ha.

## **Year 2**

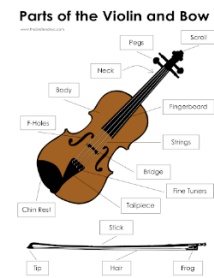
This week in English we are looking at a new book, "Hansel and Gretel". It is an alternative version of the traditional tale. We designed our own gingerbread houses and used similes to describe them. In Geography we decided whether we want to live in a cold or hot place. We talked about the differences between climate and weather. In Maths we have been using number bond known facts in addition and subtraction to help us answer larger equations. In PE we are practising a dance motif to the soundtrack of Encanto. We have done lots of incredible learning this week. Well done Year 2!

## **Year 3**

This week, as part of Film Festival Week, the children had the exciting opportunity to attend the cinema and experience the magic of film. The event emphasized the importance of creativity, teamwork, and cultural appreciation. It was a wonderful occasion for them to explore new perspectives, develop their imagination, and reflect on the power of storytelling. The trip also highlighted the school's core values of curiosity, respect, and open-mindedness, encouraging the children to embrace diversity and learn from the world around them.



In Music, the children have been working incredibly hard on their violin lessons, showing great dedication and progress. We are grateful for the continued support from parents, which has played a key role in their development. To help them succeed, we encourage all the children to keep practising at home and remember to bring their violins to school every Thursday. This commitment reflects our school values of perseverance and responsibility, as the children are learning the importance of consistent effort and taking ownership of their learning. We are proud of their hard work and look forward to seeing their continued growth in Music.



In English, the children have started drafting their diary entries, and it has been wonderful to see how many children are confidently recalling and applying the key features of a diary. They have been using first-person narration, including personal thoughts and feelings, and incorporating time-connectives to create a sense of sequence. It is especially exciting to witness their creativity and attention to detail as they bring their own experiences to life through writing. This task has not only helped them practise essential writing skills, but has also encouraged self-reflection, as they think about their day-to-day experiences and express them in a thoughtful and engaging way. We look forward to seeing their final entries and are proud of their progress.

## Year 4

This week children have completed some great learning. In our English lessons this week, children have been inferring a character's thoughts, feeling and motives. They have written short thought bubbles regarding our main character, Cherry. In our Maths lessons this week, we have been consolidating our learning on multiples of 3, 6 and 9. Children have been working hard to find the relationship between their multiplication and division facts. Moreover, in our Geography lessons this week, children located and learnt more about cities in the UK, in particular Blackpool and Birmingham. They explored what these cities are famous for and what changes have occurred over time to the cities. Keep up the good work year 4!

## Year 5

This week children have had an exciting week showcasing their work and sharing their love of learning with the special inspectors that visited our school. In Geography, the children delved deeper into the world of Fairtrade. Building on their knowledge from the previous week, they explored how to gather and analyse data on consumer choices related to Fairtrade products. They created survey questions, with the aim to gather data on consumer awareness and preferences, demonstrating their growing understanding of ethical consumption and its impact on global communities. In English, the children have looked at non-chronological reports, gaining a comprehensive understanding of their structure and purpose. They have grasped the concept that these reports do not follow a sequential timeline, unlike narratives. Moreover, they have distinguished between main headings, which introduce key topics, and sub-headings, which provide further details within these broader themes. Furthermore, they explored the various writing devices employed when writing a non-chronological report, such as the use of the third-person perspective, the use of technical language, and how visual aids have an impact on the report.



## Year 6

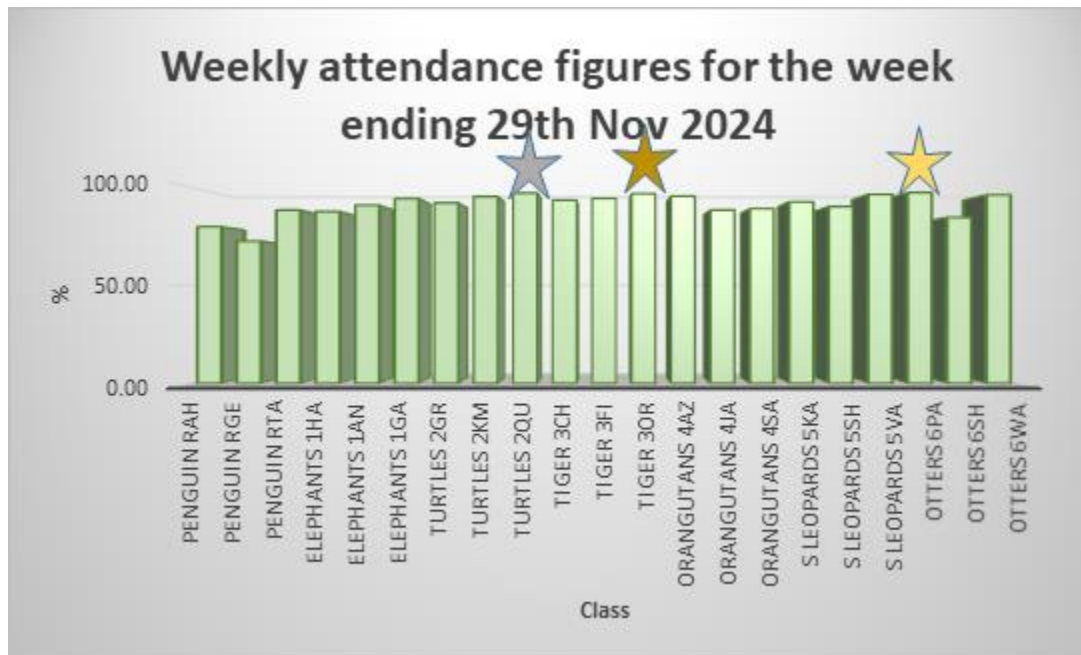
This week Year 6 have had another great week of learning. In English, the children have been writing their non-chronological reports about World War One. In Maths the children have been looking at the formal method of short division and long division, ensuring they are using the efficient methods to solve calculations. In Geography, the children continued their study of Brazil. This week, they focused on the saw Awá Tribe, an indigenous group of people who reside in The Amazon Rainforest. In Art, the children began their final piece of work for this drawing unit. On Friday, the children visited the Imperial War Museum to culminate their learning on World War One. Pictures will be added to next week's newsletter. Well done, Year 6, for your hard work this week! Have a lovely weekend.



## Attendance

This week's attendance figures (25.11.24-29.11.24) are as follows:-

**Total school attendance for this week is 90.99%** 😞😞😞



This week's winning classes are:-

**Gold Award** 6Pa with 97.23%

**Silver Award** 2Qu with 97.05%

**Bronze Award** 3Or with 96.70%

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.

