

Volume 1  
Issue 2

# Highlands Weekly



Dear Families,

We have had the most magical week at Highlands Primary School with our wonderful children showcasing their many talents. Our Highlands Got Talent evening performance was a real success and enjoyed by families at the sell out event! Many congratulations to all the children that took part. Please do enjoy pictures from the event below. We are also delighted to share that we managed to raise £600 towards our OPAL playground Project.



## UNICEF Visit



We were also honoured to welcome the new CEO of UNICEF UK, Dr Phillip Goodwin. He chose Highlands Primary School as his first trip and shared how inspired he was by the culture of; empowerment, learning and growth. The children were again such a credit to the community. A special thank you to our RRS Ambassadors who led a whole school pupil led tour

## Homework Update

**Following on from the parent feedback sessions last term please see below for an overview of homework practices across the school.**

- Homework is always to practice and rehearse skills, not to learn anything new, so children should always be able to complete homework independently.
- Homework is not optional, overtime this builds a good study habit to prepare children for managing their independent learning at secondary school.
- For Maths, the majority of year groups (1-4) are using My Maths, which is homework set online and the children receive immediate feedback on their performance. For years 5 and 6 teachers provide a mark scheme for the children to assess their learning.
- The balance of teachers time marking every piece of homework does not equate to the 'impact gains' for the child. Teachers always look over homework but are not expected to mark this. Children are tested on their spellings every week.
- It is essential that parents also support the school and ensure children are completing their weekly home learning.
- Below you will find a table to highlight homework practices in each year group.

## Homework

Year Group	Reading	Maths	Spelling	Topic	Other
1	20 minutes daily and completed reading record.	My Maths	Weekly Spellings and tested in school	Half termly topic grid list of activities to complete	
2					
3					
4				Times tables	
5		Weekly Topic Maths		Weekly Topic	
6		Weekly Topic Maths			SPAG and Comprehension

In addition, there will be a half termly family project homework that families are welcome to share with the school. As Spring Term is short we shall set one for the entire Spring Term and the project will be to design a welcome guide to Highlands Primary School for new families made by existing families. When completed please send your projects in to Mrs Gani.

## 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 14 (freedom of thought, belief and religion) Every child has the right to think and believe what they choose and also to practise their religion, as long as they are not stopping other people from enjoying their rights. Governments must respect the rights and responsibilities of parents to guide their child as they grow up.**

**Rights Respecting Article 24 Every child has the right to the best possible health. Governments must work to provide good quality health care, clean water, nutritious food and a clean environment so that children can stay healthy. Richer countries must help poorer countries achieve this.**

## Reminders

### Children's Mental Health Week

A reminder that next week we have Children's mental Health Week and children are invited to 'Dress to Express themselves' on Friday.



## OPAL Playground pupil Survey

Please do take the time to complete the playground survey with your child this was sent as a link to all parents this morning.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LY7HZQ8>

## 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

This week in Oak we travelled to Turkiye. We have been looking at the flag and the weather. We looked at the activities that they take part in there and made a beach collage. We looked at the water parks and played with sand and water in the classroom. We tried Turkish rice and cheese bread called 'Pocha'. All the children tried the food and enjoyed this experience. We also learned some Turkish words such as hello 'Merhaba'. The children have taken part in activities such as 'Look listen and do', 'Tac Pac' and turn taking games.



## Nursery



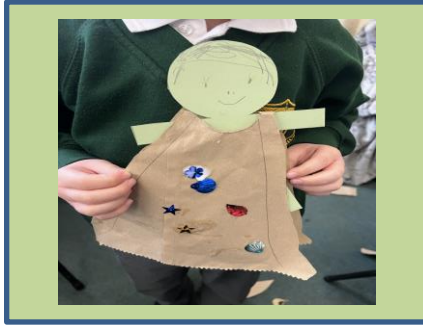
As we continue to read '**Handa's Surprise**', on Thursday we went to the shops to buy healthy food, just like Handa does in the story. We decided to pick some fruit, and the children practiced their cutting skills as they prepared fruit salad to take home. The children have also enjoyed the new role-play area, which is set up like a shop where they can pretend to buy both healthy and unhealthy food. We celebrated Chinese New Year by learning about the animal of the year, which is the snake. The children made cards to wish their families a happy Chinese New Year, and they even tried eating noodles with chopsticks. We used the story *Mr. Tongue* to help the children explore the different parts of their mouth and understand how sounds are made. Additionally, we introduced the concept of *responsibilities*, and the children have started taking turns as fruit monitors during snack time. They have also been practicing their subitising skills and rhyming words.

## Reception

This week in Reception, we have been busy exploring lots of exciting new learning opportunities! In Maths, the children have been practicing how to use the phrases 'fewer than' and 'more than' to describe and compare quantities of different objects - Abigail (Red Class) explained, "it doesn't matter if the colour or size is different, it matters how many there are". We met Number 14 in Ten Town. In Phonics, we have been learning the 'qu', 'ch' and 'sh' sounds, along with the tricky word 'was'. The children have also recapped what a non-fiction book is and learned about the features of fiction books, discussing their differences and looking at examples. The children have also enjoyed learning about the traditions of Chinese New Year, how it is celebrated, and the story behind it - they then had fun creating their own lanterns, drawings, and festive cards. A highlight of the week has been our treasure hunt activity! As a class, we created a big map of the classroom and worked in small groups to follow directions, using our positional language skills (e.g. forwards, backwards, next to, on top, right/left) to find the hidden treasure. The children also had the opportunity to make their own maps during choosing time. Well done to all the children for their fantastic enthusiasm and engagement this week! We look forward to another week of exciting learning ahead.



## Year 1



This week in Year 1, the children have been continuing to work really hard on their show and share practise! Thank you for all of your support at home with learning lines! The children are really excited to show their amazing assembly next week!  
The assembly will be on Friday 7th February at 9:30!

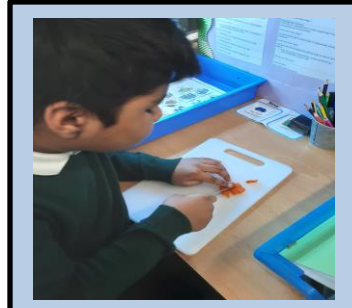
In Art, the children were using their knowledge of primary colours to mix secondary colours. They were able to create orange, purple, green and brown. They used the colours they mixed to paint trees.



In English, the children had a special delivery! They were sent some paper bags to create their very own dresses for the Paper Bag Princess whose dress got ruined! They carefully followed instructions and were able to create some wonderful dresses!

In History, the children were continuing to look at Monarch. They learned all about a Coronation Ceremony. They talked about why we have them and what happens in the ceremony. The children then acted out their own Coronation Ceremonies with their friends.

## Year 2



The children in Year 2 have been working extremely hard this week. In English, we read some more of our text 'Bob's best ever friend' and looked at features of a diary in more detail. As a class we created a writing tool kit (checklist) and added actions and annotations just like our model text. This will help the children when they come to writing their diaries. In Science, the children continued their topic on materials. They learnt new vocabulary absorbent and non-absorbent and sorted materials according to these categories. They later made predictions and wrote out a method for their experiment to check what material is the best to make a pet bed using fair testing. The children will carry out their experiment next week. The children thoroughly enjoyed their DT lesson this week, as they learnt how to identify an appropriate piece of equipment to prepare a given food. The children received an exciting letter from Jamie Oliver briefing them to design a nutritious and well-balanced wrap. The children had the opportunity to practise good hygiene as well as using their skills to cut, grate and slice ingredients such as avocado, cheese and coriander. They will be designing and making their wraps in the coming weeks.

### Year 3

In Year 3, the children did an experiment in Science on Friction. The children measured lengths in centimetres and millimetres in Maths. In Computing the children were learning basic skills to make you a quicker and more efficient typist. In DT, the children really enjoyed designing their own castles using different shapes and taking inspiration from castles they have seen and visited. They are very excited to bring their designs to life using different materials in the upcoming weeks!

### Year 4

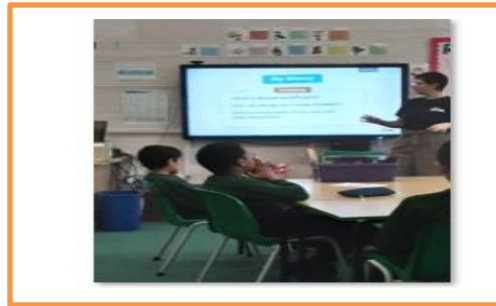
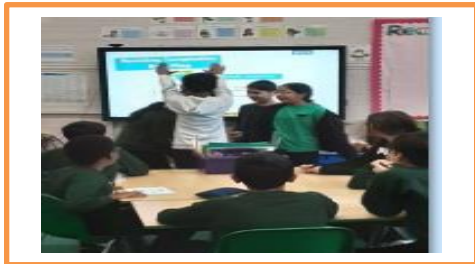
Year 4 have had another fantastic week of learning. We are continuing to look at our book 'The Queen of Darkness,' in English. This week, we have been re-visiting what we will need for our diary entries and how we can use our knowledge of characters in the text to write in role. In Maths we have been continuing to focus on multiplication and our times tables. The children did really well in their recent soundcheck and it's clear that many children are practicing at home regularly. This is really helping them improve. In Science, we have continued to look at sound, using some of the musical instruments that we have created. In DT we looked at our new project- Night Lights. We considered current torches on the market, who they are made for and how suitable they are. We will use this to create our Night Lights. In History, we looked at Boudicca and some of the key things she did during the Roman times. Next week is Children's Mental Health Week, and we look forward to continuing our learning journey.



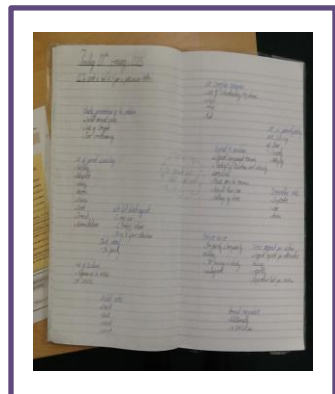
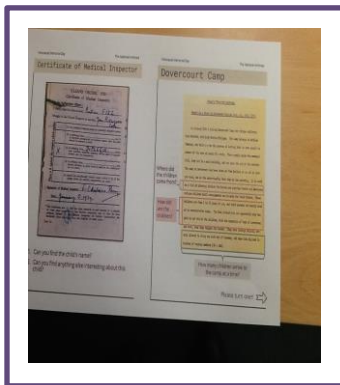


## Year 5

Our young historians have been immersed in the Tudor era once again, enthusiastically sharing their existing knowledge and discussing the period's lasting impact on modern Britain. They recently participated in a Redbridge Drama Centre workshop, where they brought historical figures to life through role-playing. Stepping into the shoes of people living during the reign of King Henry VIII, the children gained valuable insights into the challenges of a hierarchical society and the diverse roles individuals played. This hands-on experience fostered a deeper understanding of Tudor life and its complexities. In addition to their historical explorations, the children have also taken part in a My Bank workshop focused on adult financial literacy. They learned about the various expenses adults face and the government's statutory requirements, gaining a clearer picture of how much money is typically saved after all outgoings are considered. This practical exercise encouraged the children to reflect on their own wants and needs, prompting them to think about budgeting and financial planning for the future.



## Year 6



On Monday we took part in a special workshop to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day. The workshop was led by the National Archives which we learned has 17 million boxes of historical documents. We explored a document about a child who travelled to the United Kingdom on the Kindertransport. We learned that after the children arrived in the UK some of them were sent to Dovercourt Camp - originally a Butlins holiday camp.

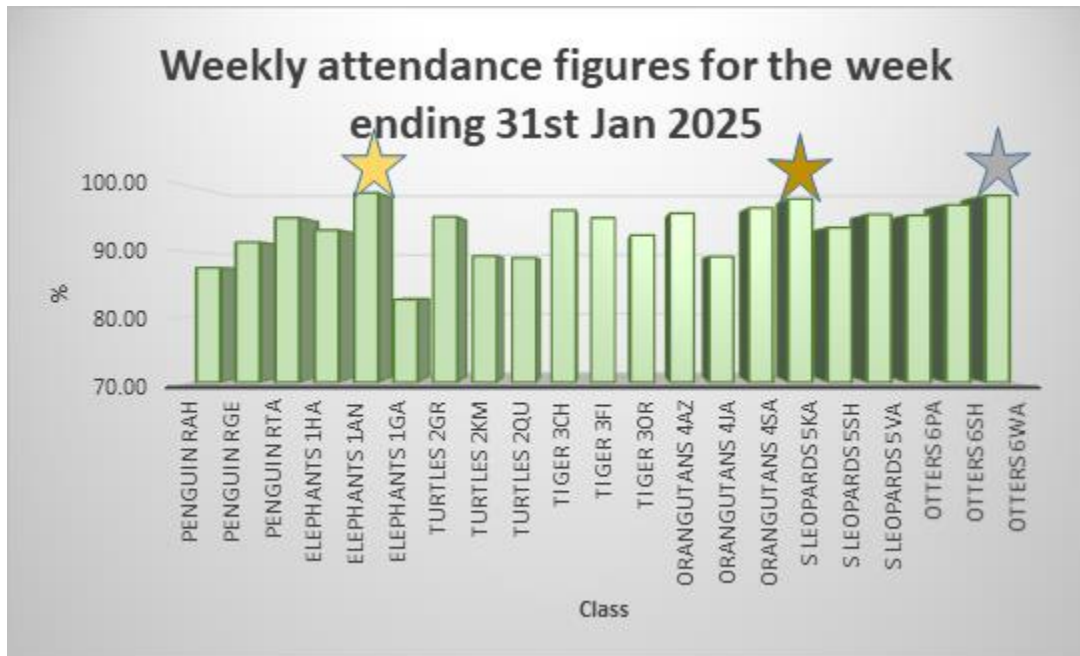
In our Science learning, we have extended our knowledge of animals to include invertebrates. We used our data handling skills to record the different types of invertebrates that can be found in the woodland habitat.

In English, we have continued to read 'No Ballet Shoes in Syria'. We looked closely at our structure of model text and identified how the writer created a formal persuasive tone. We then created a tool kit to enable us to write our own persuasive formal letters. Using some of the tools for example formal language and appealing to emotions, we wrote our own formal sentences. We are looking forward to using these tools to write our own formal persuasive letter



## Attendance

Total school attendance for this week is 93.68%



## Birthdays

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