



**HIGHGATE**  
PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Headteachers' Newsletter

September 2025

Dear parents

Welcome back to the new school year and a special warm welcome to all the new children and parents who have newly joined us. It has been lovely to see so many happy, enthusiastic and positive children around the school, settled and engaged in their new classrooms.

### New Toilets



Apparently, you can always judge the quality of an establishment by the quality of its toilets. Congratulations to Lee and our excellent site team for carrying out such a professional refurbishment of both the boys' and the girls' toilets over the summer. With finishing touches provided by mural artist Eloisa Henderson-Figueroa, the results are completely stunning.

### Night Owls

Those of you with children who regularly come along to the school's after-school club, Night Owls, will have heard about the launch of The Owl Cafe. With cookery teacher, Lorraine, overseeing things, children are now able to enjoy excellent food in the cafe which is open every day from 4pm. To book a place at Night Owls, please use the booking form on the school website.

## Paterson Joseph



The month of October will feature a number of events planned to celebrate Black History month, including a visit by actor, and now children's author, Paterson Joseph. Many of you will know Paterson from his work on television dramas and film, however it is his book '10 Children who Changed the World', that will provide the basis for his talk.

## Wellbeing Resilience Week

As was the case last year, the final week of the half term has been set aside for a special curriculum week. This year, our focus will be on activities designed to support children's wellbeing and to develop their resilience.

## Welcome to our new Mandarin Teachers

We are delighted to welcome two new Mandarin teachers to Highgate Primary, Chen Cheng and YiLe Zhu. This means we once again have a fantastic team who are teaching right across the school. Nursery children sing Mandarin songs twice a week and in Reception classes, our new teachers run daily hands-on Chinese cultural activities and regular mini language lessons. In Year 1, Julie Zhou leads Mandarin teaching and the children also enjoy table-top language activities to support their language learning. YiLe teaches in Years 2 and 3 and Chen Cheng in Years 4 and 5. Finally, in Year 6, children are taught Mandarin by Rhoda. Our new teachers have already settled in beautifully and are a wonderful addition to the school.

## Highgate Art Fair



I am delighted to share news that the school will once again be hosting the Highgate Art Fair. This high-profile event is scheduled to take place in the school hall over the weekend 8th/9th

November. With more than 50 artists, recent graduates, a children's exhibition and workshops in the art studio, it promises to be an event not to be missed. Early Bird tickets are currently on sale through the following link  
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/highgate-art-fair-7th-9th-november-2025-tickets-1712454671019>

### Meeting for New Parents

Parents who are new to the Highgate Primary school community are invited to a welcome meeting at 9.15am on Thursday 9th October. This will be an opportunity to hear more about the ways in which parents can become involved in the life of the school and learn about the work of our Parent School Association, the PSA.

### Nursery



It has been a delight to welcome our youngest children into Highgate Primary this month. There have been a few tears and lots of cuddles, but only three weeks in, the children are very happy learning the new routines, making new friends and doing what they do best, playing! The children have also planted daffodil bulbs in the garden with school gardener Flo. In collaboration with art teacher Andrea, the children have produced some beautiful art pieces using pastels, ink, paint and pens. This week we even ventured out of school to the allotment to look for spiders and ladybirds and to pick apples, blackberries, tomatoes, nasturtium flowers and herbs to bring back to Nursery. What a fantastic start to the year!





## Reception



September in Reception is a very special time and the children have enjoyed an amazing adventure exploring what starting school is all about. We read lots of starting school stories, before moving on to our first key text, *Dirty Bertie*, featuring a child with some rather unsavoury habits. The children are having a hilarious time helping Bertie to learn what's ok and what's not! The classrooms and profile books are starting to fill with gorgeous handprints. We are thrilled to have started daily phonics and weekly Mandarin and music lessons too.



## Year 1

It has been a fantastic start to the year with all the children in Year 1 settling in to the routines and their new classrooms beautifully. On 'In-day' we celebrated and investigated our new topic 'The World Through Our Senses', with the children tasting, smelling, touching, listening to and looking at an exciting array of sense-busting things. One activity that the children particularly enjoyed was pressing apples to make a delicious apple juice using a large wooden press – a very tasty and seasonal treat.



We have also been exploring our new Forest School site in Highgate Woods. This has included observing the changing seasons and hunting for treasure in the form of acorns and other falling seeds. Well done Year 1 for making such a great start to the school year.

## Year 2



Year 2 children have also had a great start to the year. The children have already met many animals including a live water monitor lizard when 'Safari Pete' came to visit. They've been writing about 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears' and have learnt about habitats and food chains in science. They even found time to visit London Zoo where they had a wonderful time spotting lions and tigers, and marveling at the giraffes and penguins. Year 2 are most definitely on the way to becoming true animal experts.

### Year 3



Year 3 have been honing their historical and scientific skills this month in our fantastic topic 'From Paleontology to Archaeology'. First, they explored the school and searched for the remains of dinosaurs, before researching and writing informative dinosaur reports. They enjoyed working collaboratively to make Stone Age cave paintings which now decorate the walls of our classrooms. After discovering that fossils are in fact rather special rocks, we have started comparing and investigating a range of rocks and their properties. Finally, the children have been fascinated by the story of the pioneering fossil hunter and paleontologist, Mary Anning, who made her first remarkable discovery at the tender age of 12. This story has inspired some of the children to go digging to find their own fossils in the hope that they too might discover something wonderful.

### Year 4



Year 4 have settled in beautifully upstairs and are enjoying all that this year's varied curriculum offers. Launching straight into the 'Masks and Minotaurs' topic on our In-day, the children designed their own labyrinths and navigated one themselves. They even



faced and defeated the Minotaur, although some reported he had familiar footwear. Since then, we have enjoyed learning about Greek Gods, heroes and mythical creatures. In Geography, the children learnt about the physical features of Greece, identifying its many mountain ranges and creating a 3D map. Finally, Year 4 have started their swimming lessons, impressing us with their resilience, kindness and maturity.

## Year 5



Year 5 have hit the ground running with all things Victoriana. In our topic, "A Victorian Education," the children are honing their history skills to investigate the lives of ordinary people, especially children, during the Victorian era. We have investigated jobs that Victorian children had such as shining shoes, sweeping chimneys, catching rats and even finding "pure." Ask the children what pure is. We have also looked at individual characters in the wider geopolitical lens of the British Empire and discussed what that means for different groups of people around the world. 5DC kicked off this year's assemblies with a highly entertaining recreation of Highgate Board School in 1877.

## Year 6



Why can't you play hide and seek with mountains?  
They always peak.

That is the sort of hysterical joke that has welcomed this lucky group of children to their final year at Highgate Primary School. In case you haven't already heard, they will be heading to Pendarren in November - and in preparation for that week, our first topic is all about mountains. Geography lessons have looked at the Brecon Beacons and the surrounding area, and how it differs from humble Highgate. Both classes can now identify the world's major mountain ranges, classify the different types, and use Ordnance Survey maps to better understand a landscape. Mountains have

long been a source of inspiration for writers, so it comes as no surprise that our English lessons have been very varied. They have already written their own mountain poems, short adventure stories and biographies about Tenzing Norgay. What a start!

### Football News



Congratulations to our girls for an excellent performance at the first sports tournament of the year. Disappointingly, they just missed out on a semi-final place on goal difference - by a single goal. So close, but plenty of opportunity to regroup in time for silverware at the next one!

### SEND news

Thanks to so many of you for giving feedback as part of the first step of our PINS project (Partnership for the Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools). We had many more parents giving their views than the other schools taking part, and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive with helpful suggestions as to how we can further improve our provision. We look forward to putting many of your ideas into place. Thank you too to parents who have attended our SEND drop-in surgeries. The dates of the next few drop-ins are Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October Monday 17<sup>th</sup> November. Sessions start at 2.00pm and run to 3.30pm

### Cooking News



The Cookery Studio is once again open for business, and what a busy time we've had so far this year. Year 1 made the most of lovely fresh produce from our allotment and a family's garden by making a spectacular 'Apple and Blackberry Crumble', rubbing in the butter and flour like professionals! Year 3 used ingredients that early man would have foraged, carefully crafting 'Ammonite Swirls' out of fruit and berries by wrapping them in filo pastry. A light dusting of icing sugar was the perfect finishing touch. Year 2 ditched meat in favour of beans and vegetables to make a nutritious and tasty Spicy Bean Burger; proving that there is no need for meat. Year 4 were influenced by a Greek favourite,



Spanakopita. They took their time to master folding filo pastry around a spinach and feta cheese filling, before brushing each triangle with melted butter to make this crispy savoury delight. Yummy!

### Friends of Highgate Primary



At Highgate Primary, we are extremely proud of our unique topic-based curriculum that enriches every aspect of children's experience of school. Government funding on its own is no longer sufficient to maintain the richness of what we currently offer, which is why, last year, we launched the initiative 'Friends of Highgate Primary'.

We are asking everyone with a connection to our school to consider becoming a Friend of Highgate Primary, which means making a commitment to giving a monthly donation to the school. This could be any amount, large or small and should be no more than you can afford. All donations make a significant difference, are entirely voluntary and are treated in confidence.

To become a friend of Highgate Primary, you need to register your involvement using the form on the 'Make a Donation' page on the school website:

<https://highgateprimaryschool.co.uk/support-us/make-a-donation>

Please make sure you tick the box 'make an ongoing commitment to help' at the bottom of the form.

### Lost Property

It's only September and the school's lost property cupboard is already overflowing. But we have a plan...

On Monday, lost property will be displayed for families to retrieve what is rightfully theirs. The lost property cupboard will be open for the rest of the week until Friday, when you will have the opportunity to help yourself to second-hand clothes before everything is taken to charity shops or recycled. You have been warned!

## PSA Laser show



Dig out the wellies and the winter coats as the PSA's Laser Show is set for Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October in the school playground. Entertainment including great music, a barbecue, a range of refreshments and a spectacular light show will make for an exciting festival atmosphere. More information to come nearer the time but do keep the date in mind. As always, volunteers will be needed to make this memorable family evening possible.

## Dates for your diary

|                                    |                                      |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> September | Individual photos                    |
| Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> October   | Meeting for new parents 9:15am       |
| Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> October    | PSA Laser Show                       |
| Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> October   | Years 1 and 2 Harvest 9:30am         |
| Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October | Year 3-6 Harvest 9:30am              |
| Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October  | Nursery and Reception Harvest 9:30am |
| Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> October    | Last day of the half term            |

Thank you for taking the time to read what's been going on in an eventful start to the year. I look forward to seeing you very soon at the school gates or at one of our many events.

With best wishes

*William*

William Dean  
Headteacher