



HIGHGATE
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Headteachers' Newsletter

October 2025

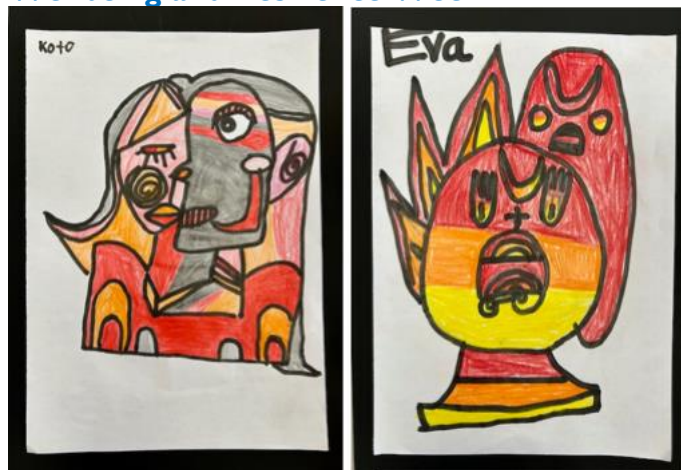
Dear parents

We're halfway through the Autumn Term and what a lot of autumn fun we've had. The laser show was spectacular, the harvest celebrations beautiful and there's been so much more. Read on to find out all about the month of October at Highgate Primary.

Harvest Celebrations

This week's Harvest celebrations have been so uplifting, with every child involved from the Nursery right up to Year 6. The quality of singing was of the highest standard and, in my opinion, 'Big Red Combine Harvester', 'Harvest Tango' and 'Digging the Garden' have never sounded better. Our choirs produced three very accomplished performances, filling the hall with rich harmonies. The food donations, strong community message and soup share was quite literally, heart-warming. Congratulations to Hilla, the school staff, our BN signers and our amazing children, some of whom have only been at school for a few weeks.

Wellbeing and Resilience Week



This week the children have been exploring their emotions and produced fantastic work based around zones of emotional regulation: red for anger, yellow for anxiety/excitement, blue for sadness, and green for calm and focus. Eva's and Koto's angry artworks based on pieces by Picasso, are particularly expressive! The children have explored how their emotional brains work – did

you know that you have a guard dog and a wise owl living inside your head? We have tried different ways to calm down our guard dogs – deep, regular breathing, moving our bodies, spending time in nature, making lists of things we are grateful for, visualising our happy places, escaping into a good book and dancing or meditating to a great piece of music. Do talk to your children about what they have learned and try out some of the techniques over half term. There will be a workshop for parents on how to support children's emotional regulation at 9.30 am on Thursday 6th November in the Family Centre. More details will follow after half term.

Paterson Joseph



Key Stage 2 children had the pleasure of meeting Paterson Joseph, actor and now children's author, as one of a number of events to celebrate Black History month. Many of you will know Paterson from his work on television dramas, however it is his book '10 Children who Changed the World', that provided the reason for his visit and basis for his talk. With music and fantastic accents, Paterson charmed the children and brought the story about William Cuffay, who campaigned for all adults in Great Britain to be allowed to vote, to life. Paterson also brought with him the only remaining 'Hoverchoc' bar from the most recent film 'Wonka', which delighted fans of the film. It was a real treat.

PSA Laser show



Last Friday's laser show was an incredibly successful event. The spectacular display, great music and range of stalls produced a wonderful community atmosphere, whilst raising a significant sum of money for school funds. Thank you to all the families and staff

members who came along, and to Maria and the PSA volunteers, for once again pulling off a memorable evening.

Highgate Art Fair 2025



Highgate Art Fair returns to Highgate Primary School the weekend after half term, showcasing an exciting selection of work from both international and local artists. The 2025 edition of Highgate Art Fair has grown significantly since last year, doubling in size from its inaugural year. With over 48 artists, galleries, and collectives taking part, the event promises a diverse range of artwork across various mediums, from paintings to sculptures and prints. The real highlight of the weekend however, is a spectacular exhibition of our children's art curated by our specialist art teacher, Andrea Rodriguez Lagartos. The children's work will be professionally displayed in one of the art fair's studio spaces and promises to be breath-taking. Further information on Highgate Art Fair including timings, admissions and art workshops for adults and children, can be found at <https://highgateartfair.co.uk/>

Nursery



What a way to end the first seven weeks of nursery - joining the reception children on the stage for the first time for a joyful and enthusiastic Harvest performance. This year, 'One Two Three Little Acorns' joined the repertoire, along with 'Big Red Combine Harvester' and 'Qiūtiān Nǐ hǎo'. It was wonderful to see our littlest children delighting a packed audience of parents, grandparents, aunties and uncles, and big brothers and sisters. The nursery children have also been exceptionally busy at the art table producing beautiful tissue paper collages, printing with potatoes and discovering how to mix red and yellow paint together to make orange. Many of our stories have been autumn themed and have inspired the children to collect leaves, conkers and acorns on their way to school. Add to this a lot of making friends, sharing and playing together and it's been a very busy month. Well done Nursery!

Reception



Reception's first half term has come to a spectacular finish with a wonderful Harvest performance. The children really loved performing The Dingle Dangle Scarecrow, a special Mandarin Autumn song and more. It was a wonderful reminder of how confident and joyful the children have been this October. The children are really enjoying learning so many new phonics sounds and starting to put them to use in their writing, including magic spells and harvest vegetable shopping lists. A little extra dynamism and inspiration came from making delicious energy balls in the cookery studio and autumnal images in the art room!

Year 1



Throughout October, children in Year 1 have continued their wonderful journey exploring the world through their senses - and what a joyful experience it has been! They've deepened their understanding of how we communicate with our Deaf friends and have also been introduced to the Braille alphabet, a meaningful step in learning about inclusion and empathy. Autumn has brought with it the spirit of Harvest, and the children truly embraced it. They sang their hearts out in our Harvest celebrations, filling the room with warmth and pride. At the allotment, they've been busy digging, picking and gathering; getting their hands dirty in the best possible way. Back in the classroom, they've written lovely captions for our Farmer's Market, where eager shoppers snapped up potatoes, strawberry plants, carrots, apples and fragrant herbs,

all flying off the tables at prices that brought a few raised eyebrows and a lot of laughter. It's been a rich and rewarding month of learning and discovery.



Year 2



After a fantastic trip to London Zoo, Year 2 wrote brilliant recounts of their day out. They also wrote their own updated versions of 'The Tiger Who Came for Tea', in which their animals got up to all sorts of mischief. In science, the children created food webs, learnt about micro-habitats and produced collages to show how different animals use camouflage to hide. Our animal topic culminated in a brilliant trip to Hampstead Heath, where everyone hunted for mini-beasts in a secret garden and had a go at pond dipping. And this year, no-one fell in!

Year 3



This month, Year 3 have been exploring the life of early humans through stories and artefacts. First, they showed off their knowledge of the period by writing detailed historical stories, set in the Stone Age. Next, they travelled back in time to wildest Hertfordshire, to experience a Stone Age day as hunter-gatherers. They learned how to make spears from flint and then practised using them to hunt woolly mammoths in the woods. They constructed impressive shelters and foraged for food, before crushing herbs to make a tasty soup. Finally, a demonstration of fire-making showed just how difficult it can be when you only have two sticks to rub together! Back at school, the children moved through time to study the Bronze and Iron Ages. They discovered how new materials and technology can cause huge changes in lifestyles; not always for the better, given the evidence of warfare that archaeologists have discovered. A salient lesson from prehistory for our modern age?

Year 4



The last few weeks have been action-packed for Year 4, with a fantastic trip to the British Museum and both classes performing their assemblies about Greek mythology. They blew us away with their historical knowledge, confident delivery of lines and comedic timing. In English, they have become experts in the Ancient Greek tradition of storytelling, writing a battle scene between a mythical creature and a hero or heroine of their design. To complete this wonderful topic, the children coded their own labyrinths on

Scratch, having crawled through a labyrinth on their very first day in Year 4.

Year 5



October has been as busy as ever in Year 5. The children continued their 'Victorian Education' with an excellent trip to one of the original ragged schools in Mile End. The children experienced an 'authentic' class lesson from 1895, which included handwriting, recitation and attempting to comprehend the rather complicated currency system.



Earlier in the month, the children visited The Royal College of Music for an interactive jazz/funk gig. There was singing, dancing, clapping and general great fun to be had – all while listening to very high-quality live music (videos can be seen on the school Instagram account). Keeping on topic, this was followed by a picnic lunch in the shadow of the Royal Albert Hall and Albert Memorial in Hyde Park, discussing Victorian and imperial symbolism in the architecture.

Year 6



As Highgate erupts in a riot of autumnal colour, our first half term draws to an end. Year 6 began October the same way they finished September – by studying the story of the first ascent of Everest. Except that instead of writing a biography, they were now focussed on producing a diary account of Edmund Hillary's journey. From there, their attention turned to persuasive writing. They researched techniques for effective rhetoric and used this to write a letter arguing that more needs to be done to protect the UK's national parks.

In computing lessons, they have tried using both Canva and Pixlr to design Top Trumps cards for the different mountains of the world. Of course they were all eager, or Eiger, to find a mountain that scored maximum points for both its 'danger' and 'wonder' scores!



Slightly smaller scale, but no less wondrous, was the trip to Highgate Woods. This allowed the children to put into practice some of the classification skills they have been learning about. They went on a scavenger hunt for particular leaf species, then classified them using yes or no questions such as 'does it have pointed edges'? There even remained some time to consolidate their compass point knowledge, building Andy Goldsworthy style compasses from natural materials!

Friends of Highgate Primary



We are immensely proud of the rich curriculum we are able to offer the children here at Highgate Primary School. With specialist teaching in art, music, drama, cookery and sport, it has been designed to promote creativity and provide rich experiences, creating memories that last forever. But the truth is we can only do this with your help. The funding we receive from government does not cover any of this enrichment activity. Every year we need to fundraise nearly £60,000 to balance the books. That's why we launched Friends of Highgate Primary School. If every family that could afford to, made a monthly contribution to the school, that would go a long way to meet our funding challenge and ensure the survival of our creative curriculum.

We are very grateful to the 30 families that already donate in this way. Some give a lot, some give a little. All of it makes a difference. If you would like to join them and help safeguard our amazing school offer, please use the link below:
<https://highgateprimaryschool.co.uk/support-us/make-a-donation>
Don't forget to check the box to 'make an ongoing commitment to help' if you would like to make a regular donation.

Important Dates for Your Diary

Half Term Week	w/c 27 th November
Return to School	Monday 3 rd November
Emotional regulation talk Family Centre	Thursday 6 th November
Highgate Art Fair	Friday 7 th to Sunday 9 th November
w/c 10 th November	Year 6 Pendarren Week
SEND surgery drop ins Family Centre	Monday 17 th November 2.00-3:30 pm
Parent Consultations Meetings	Wednesday 26 th November 4.00 – 6.30pm
Parent Consultations Meetings	Thursday 27 th November 4.00 – 6.30pm
INSET Day School Closed for children	Friday 28 th November 5.30 – 8.00pm

Have a wonderful half term break. Look forward to seeing the children skip in on Monday 3rd November.

With best wishes

William

William Dean
Headteacher