



HIGHGATE
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Headteachers' Newsletter

November 2025

Dear parents

As we reach the final three weeks of the Autumn Term and the school turns its attention to all things festive, the Headteacher's Newsletter brings you up-to-date with everything that's been happening at Highgate Primary School during the month of November.

Nursery



November in Nursery began with an 'Under the Sea' theme and a new role play area with fishing nets, deep sea creatures, seashells and a sunken treasure chest. 'The Rainbow Fish' was a favourite story that inspired beautiful artwork and conversations about friendship, sharing and kindness. There was only one place to go next... 'Space'! The children loved dressing up as astronauts, and talking about the moon, stars, rockets and space travel. They created fantastic collaborative splatter paintings with toothbrushes

depicting the night skies, and made sponge painted rockets in the style of Oliver Jeffers' lovely book 'How to Catch a Star'. The excitement levels reached a new high last week, when the children's favourite alien, 'Beegu', was discovered in the playroom after her spaceship crash-landed nearby. They looked after Beegu extremely well and produced wonderful drawings illustrating her day in Nursery. Phonics lessons are now well underway. The children are experts in hearing the sounds: s, a, t and p, and we hear that they are already correcting their parents with their pronunciation! Well done, Nursery!



Reception



As Reception children turned their attention to the topic 'Into the Woods', the classes wasted no time in getting out to Highgate Wood on a beautiful morning for the annual autumnal Gruffalo Hunt. The children spent their time hunting for creatures from the story, as well as playing, investigating and, of course, enjoying the customary explorers' hot chocolate. Back in the classrooms the children have been having fun role-playing, drawing and writing about the characters from The Gruffalo, as well as those from the 'Percy the Park Keeper' stories.



Year 1



Year 1 have been loving their new topic, 'Celebrations', started the festive season by marking the Hindu festival of light, Diwali. The children loved learning all about the story of Rama and Sita and colouring intricate Rangoli patterns. Sticking with the theme of lighting up the darkness, the children were captivated by the story of Guy Fawkes and loved finding out all about why we celebrate Bonfire Night. They made bonfire carrot cupcakes, wrote beautiful bonfire poems and to top it all off, had our own, sensational, Year 1 firework display. Apparently, it was the best day ever.

In the buildup to the festive season, we were very excited to be welcomed into the Highgate Synagogue to see their preparations for the upcoming celebration of Hanukkah. It was fantastic to see the beautiful stained-glass windows, visit the Rabbi's home and to

smell the freshly baking Challah bread. We will soon be decorating the classroom in the run up to Christmas. What a busy time it is!

Year 2



Year 2 are becoming expert historians, learning all about the causes and consequences of the Great Fire of London. Both classes performed brilliantly in their assemblies and are now writing information books about the events of 1666. In science, the children have investigated different materials and in art, created silhouettes of the Great Fire. At Forest School, the groups made their way to the school allotment where they had great excitement learning how to make sparks with a fire steel, before building a campfire to toast marshmallows – an essential life skill.

Year 3



This half term, Year 3 has a truly delicious topic: 'Chocolate'! Not only have the children tasted an array of different chocolates, they have also designed and made their own chocolate bars, complete with attractive wrappers, catchy names and slogans. The Cookery

Studio sessions have been the perfect opportunity to reinforce how materials can change state from solid to liquid, and back again. Having discovered that chocolate comes from cacao trees, the children used their atlas skills to locate and map the rainforests where they grow. Inspired by the story of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, the children wrote scrumptious descriptions of chocolate rooms and are now busy researching and writing explanations of how chocolate is made, from bean to bar. All this, and a trip to the tropical rainforests of Kew Gardens to look forward to next week, where we hope to spot real cacao pods growing.

Year 4



What a busy month in Year 4. We launched our sound and vision topic with a carousel of eight investigations, which inspired the children to think scientifically. They planned and carried out experiments to investigate questions about shadows and volume. Our personal favourite was an afternoon of exploring the link between instrument size and pitch – the banging of drums could be heard throughout the school. A visit to 'Wonderlab', a completely immersive experience that encourages curiosity through play, was an absolute highlight. What better way to learn about static electricity than by conducting it themselves?



Year 5



Year 5 have been continuing their studies of The Industrial Revolution, the science behind some of the most significant inventions of the last 200 years and the ongoing debate around the benefits and drawbacks of technological advances, such as driverless cars and AI teachers. Practical experiments allowed the classes to explore reversible and irreversible changes, create crystal growing apparatus, act out the molecular behavior of the states of matter and, possibly most importantly, discover whether a classroom eraser is flammable or not. An upcoming trip to the 'Wonderlab' in the science museum will further deepen Year 5's understanding of the truly amazing technologies that are omnipresent in our daily lives.

Year 6



We thought October was a busy month, but it pales in comparison to November. The return to school after half-term

brought with it a new topic, 'Our Island History', although our minds were very much set on the upcoming trip to Pendarren. It didn't disappoint! Over the course of the week, Year 6 scaled a climbing wall, summited a mountain, descended into a cave and traversed an abandoned railway tunnel in the pitch black among several other activities. Spending four nights away from home can be a challenge, but our children did remarkably well, gaining a growing independence that will serve them well as they continue to mature. Back at school the hard work continued. The school welcomed Kate Stilitz back for the annual performance of Beowulf. In the space of a few days, a captivating show came together, telling the story of the brave warrior's quest against fearsome and terrifying beasts. It featured atmospheric chanting, dramatic choreographed routines, and a wonderful Year 6 band. In fact, it proved to be so powerful, blood spattered and hair-raising that Year 1 was not allowed to watch it! Since then, the classes have been learning more about the story, learning how to write an effective setting description and studying the ways in which characters are introduced through 'show not tell'. Keep it up, Year 6!

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.

The Winter Fair

It's that time of year again and the Highgate Primary Winter Fair is all set to take place this coming Saturday. Be prepared for entertainment for all the family, the smell of mulled wine and, I'm told, a visit by the man himself. Doors open at 11.30am, with the fair running through to 4.00pm. Do come along and get into the festive spirit.

Important Dates for Your Diary

Saturday 6 th December	PSA Winter Fair
Wednesday 10 th Dec 2.00pm	The Jungle Book
Thursday 11 th Dec 2.00pm	The Jungle Book
Tuesday 16 th December 9.30pm	Reception Nativity
Tuesday 16 th December 2.45pm	Nursery Concert
Friday 19 th Dec 1.45pm	Term ends
Monday 5 th January 2026	Spring Term starts

With best wishes

William

William Dean
Headteacher