



HIGHGATE

PRIMARY SCHOOL

Wednesday 6th November 2025

Nursery Newsletter Autumn Term 2

Dear Parents

Welcome back to our second half of the autumn term. It has been lovely to see the children so excited to return to Nursery after the break.

Autumn 2 curriculum

This half term our themes are Under the Sea, Space and Rockets and Celebrations. These themes will be reflected in many of the stories we read, the nursery rhymes we sing and our art activities. This week we have read 'The Rainbow Fish', 'Tiddler', 'The Storm Whale' and 'The Snail and the Whale'. We have also learnt the rhyme '1, 2, 3, 4, 5, Once I Caught a Fish Alive' and the children have really enjoyed playing in the new deep sea inspired role-play area.

Early phonics

This half term we are introducing phonics into our weekly routine. Phonics teaching in Nursery consists of developing the children's listening skills and their ability to distinguish individual sounds as well as appreciate rhythm, rhyme and alliteration through short, small group listening games. As part of this we will be introducing picture cards to represent each sound (phoneme) to prepare the children for learning the corresponding letters (graphemes) in Reception. For example, a picture of a tiger represents the sound 't', a penguin represents the 'p' sound and an iguana represents the 'i' sound. This is very exciting as it is the foundations for learning to read and write! We follow the excellent phonics and reading scheme called Little Wandle Letters and Sounds, which will continue into Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. This half term the children will learn the sounds **s, a, t, p, i, n, m**, starting with **s** this week.

Hurrah Cards

In Nursery we love celebrating each others' significant achievements. Please ask us for a Hurrah card if your child accomplishes something at home that you feel is special or important (e.g. learning to swim or ride a bike, getting dressed independently, drawing a beautiful picture, sleeping in their bed through the night, writing their name, helping to cook a meal etc), We will then share these special milestones with the whole class, giving each recipient a big Hurrah! and adding their card to our display.

Theatre Trip: Friday 5th December



Headteacher: William Dean Highgate Primary School, Storey Road, London N6 4ED

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This year, we have the wonderful opportunity to take the children to a concert hall in Kings Place at Kings Cross to see 'Mahler and the Mountain Adventure.' It is part of an Early Years project with the Aurora Orchestra and Haringey Music Service called 'Far Far Away', where musicians from the Aurora orchestra play classical music interspersed with story telling and lots of audience interaction. Given the time of the performance (10 am) and the age of the children, we will be hiring a coach to take us there and back, rather than taking the bus or tube. More information will follow, but please make a note of the date as we would love as many parents as possible to come too.

Nursery Christmas Concert: Tuesday 16th December

After the success of their brilliant performance in the EYFS Harvest Assembly at the end of last half term, the children will be returning to the stage and for the Nursery Christmas Concert on Tuesday 16th December at 2.45pm.

Staffing

Welcome Tina

As many of you know, we were hoping that Jo Bell would be joining the Nursery team as a teacher on Mondays and Tuesdays this year, but she is not yet able to return to work after a back operation in the summer. She is making slow but good progress and is very much hoping to come back in the new year. In the meantime, we are very fortunate to have Tina Constantinou joining us in Nursery as a teacher on Mondays, Tuesday afternoons, Wednesday mornings and Friday afternoons. Tina is a very experienced Early Years teacher having taught in Sydney and in London. She also has children at school in Year 2 and Year 5. Please introduce yourself if you haven't done so already.

Mouna

We are also grateful to have Mouna volunteering with us on Tuesdays and Thursday afternoons. Mouna may be familiar to some of you as she has a son in Year 1.

Parent volunteers

We always welcome parent volunteers in Nursery! If you would like to come in and read a story or two first thing in the morning or at the end of the day, accompany us on a trip to the allotment or even lead an art activity for the children, please let us know.

Contributions

We are always very, very grateful for contributions that you may be able to donate in order for us to enrich our craft activities and sensory play. Our current wish list includes:

- Shaving foam
- Cornflour
- Bubble bath
- Flour
- Cream of tartar
- Table salt
- Autumnal leaves, herbs, conkers & fir cones
- Chia seeds
- Sunflower / vegetable oil
- Baby oil
- Cotton buds

Nature Kitchen



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The children are really enjoying cooking with acorns, conkers, pumpkins, herbs and leaves in our outdoor Nature Kitchen. We are always grateful for donations of new ingredients to keep our kitchen well stocked. Thank you very much.

Lost Property

Please put your child's name in coats, hats and any other clothing that is likely to get lost. This really helps us to return clothes to you when they are found around the school.

Highgate Art Fair: art & workshops

And finally, the Highgate Art Fair is being held at school this weekend. It really does promise to be a fantastic event with exceptional art work from renowned artists as well as an exhibition of the children's art produced at school. There are also fantastic workshops running all weekend – including one run by Akriti - A Madhubani Painting Experience. For more information, to buy Art Fair tickets or book workshops, please go to the website www.highgateartfair.co.uk

Dates for the Diary

Saturday 8th & Sunday 9th November	Highgate Art Fair
Wednesday 26 th November	Parent Consultations 4-6pm (details to follow)
Thursday 27 th November	Parent Consultations 6-8pm (details to follow)
Friday 28 th November	INSET day (School closed to all children)
Friday 5th December	Trip to Kings Place: Mahler & the Mountain Adventure
Saturday 6th December	Highgate Primary Christmas Fair
Tuesday 16 th December	Nursery Christmas Concert 2.45pm
Friday 19 th December	Last day of term (AM only - all children finish at 12)

Thank you for all your support, we are looking forward to another fun-filled half term!

With very best wishes,

Kate and the Nursery Team



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