



## HIGHGATE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2025

Dear Parents

### Reception Newsletter Autumn 2

Welcome back to our second half term! It has been lovely to see how happy and excited the children have been about coming into school. Our topic this half term is 'Into the Woods' and we have lots of exciting activities planned for the next few weeks. For the majority of the day, the children will be playing and learning independently in the classrooms and outside – and taking part in art activities in the art area. We work with small groups of children at the guided group tables for writing or maths-based activities throughout the day and come to the carpet four times a day for short whole-class interactive teaching sessions: English first thing, phonics before lunch, maths after lunch and stories and songs at home time.

#### English

This week we have been enjoying 'The Gruffalo', with the children performing scenes from the story and having a lot of fun with retelling this classic story. We have been recalling the names of all the characters, matching character names and pictures and will soon begin creating our own Gruffalo story maps. We will be exploring lots more woodland stories over the coming weeks including 'Owl Babies' and 'Percy the Park Keeper.'

#### Phonics

In phonics we have been learning lots of new letter sounds (phonemes) and what their corresponding letters (graphemes) look like. We will be introducing four new letters and their sounds each week. An important part of our approach to reading is to encourage the children to blend the sounds they know – putting them together to make words e.g. p-a-t = pat, s-a-t = sat. To encourage fluency with reading, we then move children on to blending in their heads and saying the whole word out loud.

#### Maths

This half term we are focusing on counting and subitising (seeing a number of objects and knowing how many there are without needing to count). The children learn to recognise numerals and to count out objects accurately using one-to-one correspondence (the concept of numbering objects as we count them). We will also be exploring how numbers are made up, for example we can make three using three ones or two and one.



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

tel: 020 8340 7023 | fax: 020 8341 6266 | [www.highgateprimaryschool.co.uk](http://www.highgateprimaryschool.co.uk) | [office@highgateprimaryschool.co.uk](mailto:office@highgateprimaryschool.co.uk)

## Group Reading Sessions

Every week we will read with the children in small groups, up to three times a week. Every child will have their own copy of the book whilst we read together and this is the text that is assigned as an e-book at the end of the week, giving you the opportunity to see the book that your child has been practicing reading that week. In the first reading practice session we focus on de-coding; segmenting and blending (or 'sounding out') each word. The second reading will encourage the children to use their voices to really tell the story, using expression. The third will concentrate on developing comprehension and inference skills, using the pictures, the context and own experiences to discuss the book and share ideas on what might happen next and why.

## Reading books

As well as their reading practice e-book that is assigned each week, the children will choose a reading for pleasure 'real' book from the class library to bring home and enjoy with you. Although this book is for you to read to your child, as the year goes on, you will notice that the children will start to recognise more letters and simple words. They will enjoy talking about the story and the illustrations with you, and may ask you to read the book to them multiple times. These are all an essential part of learning to read. Please try and make the time to read a book or two to your child each day. We would be very grateful if you could return the class library book each **Wednesday** to allow time to choose a new book before the end of the week. Thank you for all your support!

## Book bags

It is great that so many of you are bringing book bags every day. We ask that everyone does their best to bring the book bag into school each day to ensure that library books, homework books, forms and other communications are less likely to get lost.

## Homework

We hope you enjoyed the Let Grow activity over the half term. We will continue to upload a new activity to the Google Classroom each Friday. It will reflect what we have been learning that week and will help give you an idea of what your children are doing at school. Please support your child with the activity and use Google Classroom to share the activity for us to see.

## Theatre Trip: Friday 5th December

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 storytelling and lots of audience interaction. More information will follow, but please make a note of the date as we would love as many parents as possible to come too.

## Resources and donations

We are always grateful for contributions of small boxes, cardboard tubes, takeaway containers and lids, plus we would be very grateful for donations of the following ingredients for use in the classrooms:

Bags of rice, lentils (red or green), oats, cornflour, pasta, salt, dried chickpeas or dry tapioca.

Cream of tartar, vegetable oil, essential oils, food colouring, herbs (fresh or dried), baby oil.

## Nature Kitchen

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



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

tel: 020 8340 7023 | fax: 020 8341 6266 | [www.highgateprimaryschool.co.uk](http://www.highgateprimaryschool.co.uk) | [office@highgateprimaryschool.co.uk](mailto:office@highgateprimaryschool.co.uk)

## 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.

## Volunteers

We always welcome parent volunteers! If you would like to come in and read a story at the end of the day, talk about an upcoming religious festival or help the children with an art activity please let us know.

## Key dates

Parent Consultations	Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> November (4pm – 6pm) Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> November (6pm – 8pm)
INSET Day – school closed for children	Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> November
Trip to see 'Mahler and the Mountain Adventure'	Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> December
Christmas Fair	Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> December from 2pm
Reception Nativity Performance	Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December 9.30am

Thank you for all your support.

With very best wishes

The Reception Team



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

tel: 020 8340 7023 | fax: 020 8341 6266 | [www.highgateprimaryschool.co.uk](http://www.highgateprimaryschool.co.uk) | [office@highgateprimaryschool.co.uk](mailto:office@highgateprimaryschool.co.uk)