



**High Down Schools**

Believing | Achieving | Learning for life

**Friday 22nd  
September  
2017**

## NEWSLETTER 1

Dear Parents,

I hope you all had a lovely Summer holiday. A warm welcome back to what promises to be another fabulous year here at High Down. The children have settled well in their new classes and there are numerous special activities, visits and visitors planned for this first term. A special mention for our Reception children who are now full time and have settled in so well!

As I write, the weather is fine (fingers firmly crossed!) and the whole school is preparing to **Walk the World** this afternoon raising money for Action Aid and more playground equipment. There is always so much to enjoy and celebrate here at High Down.



### School Values

Our School Value this term is **Care and Kindness** one of the school's five Core Values. We want the children to be happy and successful at school and have set high expectations for how we treat each other around the school and in class - being and trying our best!

### Harvest Celebrations

At Harvest, we reflect on all the wonderful things we have and maybe sometimes take for granted – as well as food and water we talk about shelter, health, family, friendship etc and look at how we can share with those less fortunate than ourselves and in the words of one of our Harvest songs “Make someone happy by showing we care.”

This is an important part of our Care and Kindness Value and the school's rationale “to make our community and the world a better place.”

This year all money raised from the INFANT HARVEST FAIR and JUNIOR school donations will be sent to “Caring in Bristol” who provide:

- *The 365 Shelter, providing fifteen rough sleepers with a safe alternative to a night on the street*
- *Bristol Nightstop, which involves the recruitment of hosts for young and vulnerable people facing homelessness*
- *Caring at Christmas, where 800 volunteers help to provide shelter, food and clothing for people in need over the festive period*
- *The publication of the Survival Handbook, which provides valuable information to people in crisis in our city.*

<http://caringinbristol.co.uk/>

Believing | Achieving | Learning for life

## Junior School Harvest

We will be holding the Junior Harvest Festival in our assembly on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September. Rev Rob Eastwood Dewing from St Peters Church will be joining us to lead our service. This year, the junior children are invited to bring to school on Harvest morning a **non-perishable food** from the store cupboard and/or a **charity donation**. Harvest food will be distributed locally and money collected given to Caring in Bristol.

## Infant School Harvest

Harvest celebrations for the infant children will be part of our assemblies on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> October with our Harvest Fair the following morning Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October. Please can the children bring in fruit and vegetables to create a colourful Harvest display or non-perishable food. P

Please support our Harvest Fair the next day, it's a lovely family event and proceeds from the Harvest Sale will be donated to Caring in Bristol.

## Our new High Down Schools Website is launched!

We are very excited and proud to announce the launch of our new website. One joint website for High Down Schools! Our main aim was to improve accessibility for families – a one-stop shop for nursery, infant and junior school families. The website provides key information and news for parents and carers; it also shares a number of statutory documents and will provide a showcase for photos of school life. We also want the website to be a useful source of news ranging from termly curriculum topics, terms dates, latest news and a calendar of events at the school.

Our new site offers aims to provide a much improved experience for all users and we look forward to developing it further in the months ahead. Do take a look and check back regularly for updates! We hope that you find it really useful.

A big thank you to all involved in creating the new website and a special thanks to Mrs Michelle Harrison, our website administrator, who has spent many hours preparing and uploading the information and photos ready for the September launch – what a task!

<http://highdownschools.co.uk>

## School Uniform

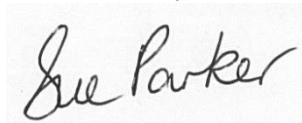
Thankyou for following the school uniform code. The children have returned to school looking really smart in their uniforms. Please ensure that clothing and coats are all clearly labelled – lost property soon mounts up but if it is labelled we can simply return it to the child.

## Newsletters

Newsletters are usually sent out fortnightly on a Friday. If you have registered for Parent Mail they are sent electronically to your email address, otherwise you will receive a paper copy. Newsletters are also available on the school websites. They are a great insight into school life and often contain important information and dates of school events. If you do not receive a newsletter or would like another copy, please contact us.

**All at High Down are looking forward to working together in the year ahead.**

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Sue Parker, Associate Headteacher  
High Down Schools

## Infant School Christmas Performance dates 2017 (all 2pm)

Tuesday 5th December  
Thursday 7th December  
Friday 8th December  
Tuesday 12th December  
Thursday 14th December

Puffins/ Ducks  
Robins/ Kingfishers  
Finches/ Penguins  
Swans/ Pelicans  
Owls/ Falcons

We have been back at school for 3 weeks and are already starting to think about Christmas! It is so important to the children to see their mums and dads in the audience – please put your date(s) in the diary without delay! Mrs Atherton

### Diary Dates

Please find attached with this Newsletter key dates for the Autumn Term. They will also be on our school website. We love having parents join us in school throughout the year and it is hoped, that with advanced warning, you will be able to include our events in your busy schedules.

### Year One “Under the Sea” Learning Expedition

Year One children have settled really well into their new classes and routines. They loved sharing their holiday boxes with their teachers and with each other. Thank you to all the parents who helped to make these super mementoes, which prompted such high quality speaking and listening from the children. Our Topic this term is ‘Under the Sea’ and the children have been busy learning lots of information about sea creatures and making lots of sea art including an underwater diorama and brusho paintings.



### Year Four Habitat Learning Expedition

Year 4 have been exploring the school grounds in search of creepy crawlies and other living things as part of the launch of our Habitat learning project. The children are working through several activities, such as quadrant identification, food chain activities and observing different types of trees around the school site.

There have been many interesting questions asked by the children, who are all eager to learn as much as they can about the different habitats found around the school site. We will be learning more about habitats as we move

Believing | Achieving | Learning for life

through the term.



## Junior School Environment Committee

**T**he first nature environment club children met on Wednesday and enjoyed fresh air weeding the front gardens for everyone to enjoy.

Our nature area representatives for each class are planning to meet soon to share ideas for developing the nature area which will lead into a meeting enabling interested adults to become involved too-so please watch your communications.

In the meantime, if you should have any gardening trowels, waterproof coats/trousers or wellies which your family has grown out of, or no longer uses, we would be very grateful of your donations please. A labelled box will be placed outside the office for them to be placed in please.

Thank you very much. Mrs Fackrell

## Junior School House Captains 2017/8

**During this morning's celebration assembly we proudly announced and introduced this year's House Captains and Vice-Captains. Their first official duty will be helping to distribute the Harvest produce.**

### **SS Great Britain**

House Captains: Daisy Knott and Morgan Pennell

Vice Captains: Billy Marsh and Riya Dahnoun

### **Waverley**

House Captains: Finlay Grant and Emily Crees

Vice Captains: Charlie Pratt and Ella Fox

### **Matthew**

House Captains: Caden Best and Hannah O'Connor

Vice Captains: Hamish Bryant and Esmee Audain

### **Balmoral**

House Captains: Milly Elliot and Dan Johnston

Vice Captains: Rachel Crees and Seb Whitmore

## Year 6 Ancient Greek Learning Expedition

The children have settled really well in their new classes and are rising to the challenge of being role models for the younger pupils. We are well underway with our Ancient Greek topic and many children have already produced some super writing. We definitely have some budding poets in Year 6! We were very proud of the effort many of our Year 6s put into Bikeability training- braving heavy rain to learn how to cycle safely on the roads.

# Secondary School Admissions

Letters have already gone home with details about how to apply for a secondary school place. If anyone requires any support with this please see your child's class teacher. It is **really important** that these are completed in time!!



## Parliament Visit

On Wednesday, a selection of children including our School Council, visited the Houses of Parliament, London. The children were given a tour of the House of Commons and the House of Lords together with a democracy workshop led by the Parliament Education Service. To top off this wonderful trip, the children were then treated to a boat trip along the River Thames, where they saw the spectacular sights and famous landmarks of London. The behaviour of the children throughout was impeccable and were a real credit to themselves and the school.

I would like to give a special mention to Mr Culverhouse for organising this fantastic experience for our children and for the volunteers who helped to supervise.

Mr Hopkins

*Welcome back to school from*

*The Friends of High Down Junior School & welcome to all our new Year 3 students and families!*

*We hope you all had a good summer and are looking forward to the exciting events that the FHDJS have planned for the coming year to raise much needed funds for our amazing school.*

*Thank you to those of you that came to the AGM - the existing committee were voted back in and we welcome aboard Hannah Jones as our new Treasurer.*

*We've rebranded - we hope you like our new logo - it was chosen from a selection at the AGM. Our next FHDJS meeting has been rescheduled for Thursday 12 October at 7:30pm in The Ship. Come along to see how you could help with any of the events coming up, see what we do and what the plans are for the year! Enjoy a drink and a chat with everyone - it's very informal.*

*Keep a look out for dates for your diary - we appreciate all help - however big or small - many hands make light work - & keep the stress levels down!*

*Thank you*

*Debbie, Amanda, Hannah & Liz*

*FHDJS*

# Junior School Golden Book Children

## 15<sup>th</sup> September 2017

**Years 3 and 4** – Phoebe & Callum 3R, Ava & Oliver 3L, Dominik & Elizabeth 3W, Rio & Louisa 4D, Rosa & Sofia 4S and Alfie & Chloe 4F

**Years 5 and 6** – Meadow & Jacob 5C, Thomas & Frankie-Jo 5S, Reuben & Will 5W, Shannon & Isla 5B, Will & Emily 6G, Taaliah & Beth 6HD and Thea & Sam 6HB

## Pupil Absence

Planned absence e.g. a scheduled medical appointment: Please notify class teachers in writing if there is a planned absence so that the attendance register can be updated accurately.

Unplanned absence e.g. a child unwell: Please ensure that school is informed on the day that your child is absent by phoning the school and leaving a message