



**High Down Schools**

Believing | Achieving | Learning for life

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup>  
September  
2018**

## NEWSLETTER 1

Dear Parents,

A big, warm welcome to all of our families and staff to this new academic year. We hope you have had a lovely summer break and are looking forward to the new school year ahead. The children have come back to school with a positive attitude and have made an excellent start to Term 1. We look forward to working together with you all this year.



### 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 donations and the sale of produce in the Infant School 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/>

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## Junior School Harvest

We will be holding the Junior Harvest Festival in our assembly on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> October. Rev Chris Judson 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 assembly on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> October with the sale of produce taking place after school. This will give you the opportunity to purchase some wonderful fresh produce. All the money raised will support our charity. Please can the children bring in fruit and vegetables on that day to create a colourful Harvest display. It is always a pleasure to see the range of exotic and not-so-exotic fruit and veg that families kindly donate!

## Election of a new Parent Governor

Today, you will have received a letter containing information about the election of a new parent governor. We hope that all parents and carers will take part in this election and look forward to welcoming our new parent governor in the coming weeks.

## Thank you

I am sure you have noticed the many new features around our school, from the recently developed Nature Area in the Juniors, to the wonderful rocket which can be seen on the Infant playground. We would like to say a big thank you to our fantastic site team who have been busy working over the summer break.

## Community Matters Initiative

Message from Waitrose, Portishead:

Congratulations, the amount raised through Community Matters for the month of August 2018 for High Down Junior School was £282.

We are already thinking how best to spend the money raised!

## School Uniform

Thank you 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.

## Junior Parent Curriculum Meetings

Next week, the Junior School will be holding their Parent Curriculum Meetings across the week. We hope to see many of our families join us for these incredibly useful sessions.

Year 3 Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> September at 2.40pm

Year 4 Monday 10<sup>th</sup> September at 2.45pm

Year 5 Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> September at 2.45pm

Year 6 Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> September at 2.45pm

All sessions will be held in the school hall

# Secondary School Admissions

Message from Gordano School:

Tom Inman, Headteacher at Gordano School, has asked us to let you know that they have sent a letter to all Year 6 parents which includes a paragraph (below) highlighting the sibling rule on admissions.

*'The strong success that we enjoy as a school makes it a community that staff and families want to be a part of. We are in the fortunate position of being over-subscribed. To cater for the increased number of children living in the local area we have, from this September, increased our intake number to enable us to provide school places for students from our local community of Portishead and Portbury. To support this, the Governing Body have slightly amended the admission criteria, which no longer gives a preference to siblings of current students living beyond our 'catchment area' over those students living within it.'*

## Key Diary Dates- Term 1

Thursday 13th September - Infant PSA AGM, 7.30pm in the Infant Hall

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> September PM Walk the World

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> October Infant Photos

Week beginning 8<sup>th</sup> October Junior Parents Evenings

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> October Harvest Festivals

Week Beginning 22<sup>nd</sup> October Infant Parents Evenings (Monday and Wednesday)

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October Junior Photos

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October INSET

Have a lovely weekend

Yours sincerely,

Mr Rhodri Hopkins  
Executive Deputy Headteacher

