



**Friday 11th
May 2018**

High Down Schools

Believing | Achieving | Learning for life

NEWSLETTER 13

Dear Parents,



All at High Down and across the community have been deeply saddened by the devastating and tragic news of our friend and colleague Del Shayler. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and loved ones.

This morning we had a lower and upper junior school service led by Rev Chris Judson from St Peter's Church. Chris also visited school last Friday and we really appreciate her support at this sad time. Chris is well known to the junior children having spoken at both our Harvest and Christmas services. During this morning's service she told a lovely story about water bugs and Dragonflies.

Support staff have made a special Memory Tree in the junior hall and as part of the service, representatives from each class brought out decorated leaves of memories and messages written by the children and staff members. The leaves will be placed on the tree. The Memory Tree will be in the hall for the remainder of the Summer Term and you are most welcome to come and see it or indeed to write your own leaf if you wish.

Moving forward the children have asked for something in memory of Del here at school. We are going to have a wooden story chair for the junior conservation area and basketball hoops which we hope will capture his warmth as a class teacher; gathering the children around him for stories and lessons, his passion for outdoors and environmental education and of course his love and encouragement of sport across the school and the community.

We would both like to thank you, on behalf of all at school, for your kind words during this difficult time. Your support means the world to us and clearly demonstrates the strength we have as a school community. Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Andrea Cowan, Executive Headteacher
And Mrs Sue Parker, Associate Headteacher,

Infant School Celebration Service

1st May 2018

Ava, Beau (Falcons), Jacob, Jacob (Owls), Chloe, Elaina (Penguins), Gracie, Isabelle (Ducks), Pearl, Belle (Robins)

Tuesday 8th May Reception and Year 1 Skipping Workshop



We were very lucky to have a skipping expert come into school. She taught us some skills to use when learning to skip. She also showed us different techniques and games that we can use at playtime. We came together at the end of the day and showcased our new skipping skills.

3rd May High Down Choir at Somerset Hall

Last Thursday evening, representatives from our upper school choir were invited to sing at the Chairman's Evening by Portishead Town Council Chair Lesley Cottrell. The children sang beautifully a selection of songs from Beauty and the Beast, Moana and The Greatest Showman. A personal thank you to parents who came along to watch for your support and sensitivity in appreciating how difficult this was. Sue Parker

Y6 staff message to children and parents

Dear Children (and Parents),

Next week you will sit your SAT tests for maths, reading and spelling, punctuation and grammar. We know you have worked hard, not just in year 6 but throughout your time with us at High Down, and you should be incredibly proud of your efforts and the progress you have made.

As we move into SAT week, there is something very important we want you to understand: these tests only assess a tiny part of how much you understand about one particular subject, on one particular day. You are a good person, special and unique, and talented in more ways than any test can possibly measure.

So, as we begin our SATs, all we ask is: that you believe in yourself (as much as we believe in you); you try your absolute best; and that you are proud of your efforts. If you do this, whatever the results, you will have succeeded. Thank you for being resilient and not giving up. Thank you for striving to be the best learner you can be.

Thank you for being YOU!

The Year 6 Team

**Junior School Reminder:
JUNIOR NON UNIFORM DAY NEXT FRIDAY 18th May
For donating items to the JUNIOR MAY FAIR 25th May**