



**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup>  
March 2019**

## **High Down Schools**

Believing | Achieving | Learning for life

### **NEWSLETTER 13**

Dear Parents,

As we reach the penultimate week of Term 4, I have been privileged to have seen some superb learning and wonderful performances over the past few weeks. I attended the North Somerset Dance Festival on Wednesday, where some of our fantastic Y3 children performed at the Playhouse Theatre. They were absolutely brilliant and I was so proud to see our children take part in this incredibly worthwhile event. Our Year 1 children also recently visited St Fagans and despite the rain and high winds, had an excellent time. Our children were as always an absolute credit to the school.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Rhodri Hopkins  
Executive Deputy Headteacher  
High Down Schools

### **Thank you**

Thank you to the children who are coming into school safely and not riding on their scooters and bikes on the school site.

### **No cake and sweets policy**

Just a reminder that due to the number of children with allergies across both schools that we ask that cakes and sweets are not sent in to share with their class for birthdays or other special occasions.

### **Bandana Day- Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March**



Next Friday, High Down Schools will be joining other schools across Portishead in raising awareness for HeadSmart. This is an awareness campaign which informs and empowers parents and healthcare professionals to recognise the signs and symptoms of brain tumours in children and teenagers to reduce diagnosis times. **We are asking that children wear a bandana for the day to help raise awareness.**

**Why is HeadSmart important?**

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**Early diagnosis of brain tumours can reduce long-term disabilities and save lives**, but diagnosing brain tumours is often not easy as the initial symptoms may mimic those of less serious illnesses. As a result, parents or teenagers may put off visiting their doctor, and doctors may not feel confident in their ability to spot a brain tumour and refer the child or teenager appropriately.

To help overcome these issues, HeadSmart has developed a range of resources and materials to raise awareness and provide support for parents/carers, teenagers and healthcare professionals. They are developed from an evidence-based clinical guideline and include a website, animation, small symptoms card, quick reference guide for GPs and clinical posters.

To date, the campaign has helped to reduce average diagnosis times from over 13 weeks to 6.5. HeadSmart is now hoping to reduce this to 4 weeks.

With this letter we have included a HeadSmart symptoms card which lists the common signs and symptoms across three age groups – babies, children and teenagers. Please read the card and ensure you know the signs and symptoms. If your child is a teenager, you may want to show them the campaign animation which explains the symptoms in a teenager-friendly way: [headsmart.org.uk/sam-animation](https://headsmart.org.uk/sam-animation). For more information on HeadSmart visit [headsmart.org.uk](https://headsmart.org.uk). You can also follow the campaign on Facebook (@HeadSmartCampaign) and Twitter (HeadSmartUK).

Further details on how to recognise symptoms will be coming home with the children next Friday. Thank you for your support.

### **Travel Plan**

A big thank you to the majority of parents who are safely walking their children to school or parking considerately in accordance with the school travel plan, which is available to view on the schools' website. If you are still unsure about any aspect of road safety, please contact the schools' office on the number above.

If you are interested in joining the school travel plan committee we would be pleased to hear from you.

### **Red Nose Day**

THANK YOU! High Down Schools raised £611 for Comic Relief 2019.



In Reception we are now well under way with our topic of “Around the World”. We have spent two weeks learning about the polar regions and this week saw a wonderful drumming and dance extravaganza to introduce Africa!



### World Book Day Potatoes

Y3



Y4



Y5



Y6



## Sam Gayton Visit



[Author Sam Gayton Visit](#)

Last Monday, Years Five and Six were treated to an exciting visit from the author Sam Gayton. He began with a dramatic entrance, having first told us how to build up into a wild and excited audience for when he appeared from behind the curtain.

Sam spoke to us about his new book - 'The Last Zoo'- reading extracts from it. He also spoke about how to build up a story by firstly making us think of two words 'what' and 'if'. Sam then gave us the opportunity to come up with ideas such as, "What if... all the teachers were abducted and your classroom turned into a spaceship?" and "What if... you ate a turkey sandwich then in the morning you opened your bedroom door and found a turkey who said 'Oi you ate my brother'?" He talked to us about taking these ideas forward and searching for story sparks. Sam made us really think and laugh about some of our suggestions.

Sam then showed us some extraordinary photos of animals doing some really weird things and we had to come up with names for the animals, such as Kung Fu Kitty. We finished the morning listening to Sam reading another extract from his book and talking about the story.

We really enjoyed our morning with Sam, it was fun filled, exciting and stimulating.

Emily and Blythe 6HW

## Message from the FHDJS

The **Quiz 'n' Chips** fundraising evening was a tremendous success, the event went smoothly, there was lots of laughter amongst the quizzing and an Applebys chippie supper kept us all going.

Big congratulations to team 'David's Lucky Night' who were the winners, remember to shower them with praise if you see them at school - they're the ones wearing medals and silly smiles! Check out the photos on our Friends FB page.

We raised over **\*\*£1200\*\*** on the night - a spectacular start to replenishing the money pot. Thank you High Downers & thank you to the Friends volunteers who helped set up and run the evening. #FUNdraising

The school **Textile Collection** took place on 20 March - thank you to the volunteers who collected the bags and of course thank you to those of you who donated. Every little counts.

Easter Discos for Y3/4/5 & 6 on 3 April (eve) - make sure the date is in your diary!

FHDJS



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## Weekly class winners

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 4M

## Junior Golden Book Assembly:

### **22<sup>nd</sup> March 2019**

**Years 3 and 4** – Daria and Leila 3T, Annabel and Lauren 3AB, Beau and William 3L, Joel and Romilly 3W, Matthew and Amelia 4D, Dylan and Heidi 4M and Reuben and Callum 4F.

**Years 5 and 6** – Jess and Jasper 5S, Bonnie and Luke 5C, Ed and Richard 5W, Sophie and Tori 6D, darcy and Seb 6G and Euan 6HW.

### **15<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

**Years 3 and 4** – Leo & Billy Jo 3T, Oliver & Ludo 3AB, Sophie & Florence 3L, Poppy & Lily 3W, Ellie & Megan 4D, Amber & Arche 4M and Phoebe & Libby 4F.

**Years 5 and 6** – Rio & Millie 5S, Harrison & Robert 5C, Abbie & Tierra 5W, Lani & Jaydn 6D, Finlay & Jame 6G and Milan & Albie 6HW.

### **8<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

**Years 3 and 4** – Louis & Josh 3T, Lewis & Alfie 3L, Isaac & Sophie 3AB, Levi & Arthur 3W, Beth & Elsie 4D, Ellie & Sophie 4M and Daniel & Finley 4F.

**Years 5 and 6** – Richard & Dylan 5W, Rhys & Harvey 5C, Ruby & Alexander 5S, Callum & Angelica 6B, Ella & James 6D, Sophie & Alex 6HW and Rosie & Alfie 6G.

## Infant Celebration Service:

### **22<sup>nd</sup> March 2019**

Isla and Bella (Parrots), Mabel and Nelly (Robins), Louise and Daniel (Swans), Jamie and Richard (Pelicans)

### **15<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

Harrison & Amelia (Puffins), Lucy & Lilly-Ray (Ducks), George & Alfie (Penguins), Bella & Lucy (Falcons), Reuben & Adam (Owls).

## Key Diary Dates

### **Term 4**

Week commencing Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March Junior Science Week

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March MAWS performance at The Winter Gardens

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March Y6 Lifeskills Trip

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March Y4 Caerleon Trip

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April Junior Discos

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April Last day of term

## **Term 5**

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April Term 5 begins

Week commencing Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May KS2 2019 Assessments for Year 6

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May NSPCC non-uniform fundraising day (£1 donation)

Last day of term for children

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May INSET Day