



**Friday 19th
July 2019**

High Down Schools

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NEWSLETTER 19

Dear Parents,

As I am writing the last newsletter of 2018-2019, I can see the sun shining and I can hear the children taking part in a number of sporting events outside. We have been incredibly fortunate during the last few weeks where we have had superb weather. This newsletter sums up this term, where the number of activities that have been organised across the schools has been staggering- I am sure the children have enjoyed them thoroughly! Thank you to our wonderful staff who work so hard in providing these opportunities for your children. I would also like to thank the parents for supporting the school in a number of ways this year. Your support is valued so much and we all hope you have a fantastic summer break. We look forward to seeing you all in September!

Yours sincerely,

Mr Rhodri Hopkins
Executive Deputy Headteacher
High Down Schools

Our Final End of Key Stage Results 2019

I am delighted to share with you our excellent statutory results for Reception (GLD), Y1 (Phonics), KS1 and KS2:

Reception- Meeting GLD

84%

Infant School- Y1 Phonics

88%

Infant School Y2 (KS1)

At or above Expected standard

Reading 84%

Writing 80%

Maths 87%

Junior School Y6 (KS2)

At or above Expected standard

Reading: 78% (National 73%)

Writing: 81% (National 78%)

Maths: 84% (National 79%)

All the children (and staff!) have worked incredibly hard!

Fairwells

As we reach the end of another successful year, the staff and leadership team are sad to say goodbye to a number of long-serving staff. We will miss them all and wish them all the best for the future.

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Goodbyes – Infants

Mrs Cheryl Miller is leaving us after over twenty five years in the Infants, in a variety of roles. She first joined the school as a lunchtime supervisor and has also worked closely with children with additional needs. However, most parents and children will probably remember her as a caring and nurturing member of the Nursery team, always ready to offer timely and compassionate support to children and parents alike.

Mrs Jane Lovatt, who has worked in Nursery for 12 years is also leaving. Prior to joining us at High Down she had a long and successful career in a number of other school-based nurseries. She has been a key member of the Nursery team here (working with six different teachers over the years) and has cared superbly for every one of the many, many Nursery children in her charge.

Mrs Cath Savory, office administrator in the combined school office (and previously in the Infant School) is leaving after nineteen years. Parents and children will recall her welcoming approach, whilst staff can also point to her bubbly personality and enthusiasm for whole school events, all while providing quality administrative support as a key member of the office team.

On a happier note, we are saying a temporary 'good-bye' to Miss Arnall (Pelicans class teacher) as she leaves us to have her baby.

Goodbyes – Juniors

Miss Emma Lane, who has taught in the Junior School for 4 years. Emma has made such a positive contribution to the school and her dedication in supporting the children has been incredibly valuable. We wish her all the very best for her next adventure!

Mrs Elaine White is retiring after more than 30 years teaching in a variety of year groups across the school. Elaine has been a long-standing member of staff and has taught a number of children over the years, demonstrating her dedication and care.

Mr Bruce Green, who many of the children know as their computing teacher has worked at the school for 20 years. Bruce has also been instrumental in ensuring that our overall ICT structure is fit for purpose and has often saved the day by fixing a computer or changing a projector bulb! Bruce is moving to Denmark, where he will be continuing to teach- we hope that he and his family settle well.

Thank you!



High Down Schools raised a fantastic £349.86- thank you!

PSA Summer Fair

Many, many thanks to everyone who made the Infant Summer Fair such a success, especially the hard working organisers! The weather was kind and there was a good turnout on the day, but without all the preparation behind the scenes none of this would happen. The staff and leadership team are all



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extremely grateful for their efforts and the children will benefit from replacement iPads.

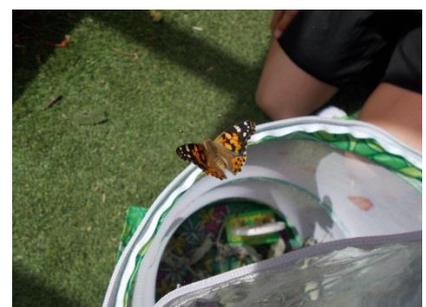
The PSA helps the school in many ways, not just through large scale events like this. If you are able to help in any way, please contact highdowninfantpsa@gmail.com You will be warmly welcomed!

Scooters

Thank you to the parents who continue to remind the children not to scoot on the school site. Whilst the school is keen to encourage scooting as a form of green travel and healthy exercise, we also need the children to follow our school value of Respect by showing respect and courtesy to other pavement users outside of the school site.

Y1 Natural Sculptures

In Year 1 we have been studying natural Sculptures by Andy Goldsworthy which inspired us to create our own. We have also been fascinated by watching our caterpillars change into butterflies and then releasing them!



We are also delighted to announce that all your plastic bags which were brought to create our Wave Art project in Year 1 has won the category for Years 1-3. The 'Celebration Showcase' exhibition will be between 20th -28th July in the Porthole room, Clevedon Pier. Please do go and have a look.



Infant and Junior Sports Week

What a week it has been for sport at High Down! Whilst the men's cricketers were winning the World Cup, High Down also added to their trophy collection by winning the Inter-schools swimming gala together with the Bailey Memorial Shield at Clevedon ASC Primary Schools Gala, meaning 2 swimming trophies in 4 days.



The whole infant school have been competing throughout the week taking part in Virtual leagues using different skills to win the coveted Golden Whistle for their teacher. Scores have been tallied up and

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checked:

Congratulations to Y2 Owls, Y1 Penguins and YR Puffins.

In quad kids lessons the children were introduced to Speed Staking. The children competed to complete individual times in 3x3 cups relays.

Congratulations to:

Y2

Noah and Emily (Falcons)

Isabelle G and Benjamin (Pelicans)

Bella and Chloe (Owls)

Y1 Ivy (Ducks)

Sophie J (Penguins)

Jacob (Swans)

YR

Cali (Parrots)

Sophie (Robins)

Also congratulations to the Reception Badger team in their outstanding team effort and score in the Reception Multi-skills sports afternoon.

As part of sports week this week, the children have also competed in a range of activities across the Infant and Junior school: Golf and Yoga in Nursery and Reception, Dance and Archery in Years 1 and 2, Year 5 and 6 have played Ultimate Nerf (vortex), tried Laser Pistol shooting and fencing, as well as finishing Friday afternoon with Orienteering. Year 3 and 4 have enjoyed their sports mornings with a range of competitive tasks (throwing, catching, and skipping), have improved their skills in Cricket and Rounders and finished the week off with indoor team-building exercises. These are just some of the activities our children have taken part in throughout the week. Thank you to Miss Skinner, Mrs Keys, Mr Sage and Mrs Davies in particular for organising this week.



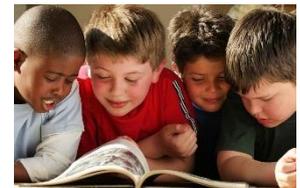
Gymnastics Success

On Tuesday 2nd of July, Y3/4 Level 1 and 2 and Y5/6 Level 2 all secured gold medals in the competition representing North Somerset. A fantastic achievement to all involved. A big thank you to parents and to Nia our gym coach for making it happen.



Summer Reading Challenge 2019

Children across both schools have enjoyed hearing about the Summer Reading Challenge, which started on Saturday 13th July. Below is more information from the library service.



We have been telling children how to take part in Space Chase, this year's summer reading challenge in libraries.

All they have to do is read six library books (they don't have to be about space) and visit the library regularly over the summer, collecting stickers along the way. It's fun and completely free.

Bring your children to your nearest North Somerset library and sign up and see the difference the Summer Reading Challenge makes to their reading. Space Chase starts on Saturday 13 July and continues throughout the summer until Saturday 7 September.

For more information about events in libraries over the summer visit www.n-somerset.gov.uk/events or visit the North Somerset Libraries Facebook page.

There is a YouTube link with more information : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=czDFvaXX4hl>

You can also find ideas for engaging children with reading over the summer holidays from the National Literacy Trust's website for parents, [Words for Life](#).

Y3 & 4 Countryside Day

Last week, Year 3 and Year 4 children joined more than 2000 other primary school children for the Countryside Day. This is a bi-annual agricultural show, arranged by the North Somerset Agricultural Society, which shows children how our food is grown on farms. We saw a range of farm animals, including a very cute 1-week old calf and some piglets. The children had a go at milking a (mechanical) cow and we enjoyed the dancing sheep at the sheep show. Countryside crafts we also demonstrated and the bees, dogs and the ferret stands were very popular. It was a hot day so Chew Moo's ice-cream went down very well at lunch time. The children behaved brilliantly.



Portishead in Bloom Winners

Infants

- 1) Aurora Age 7
 - 2) Alice Age 7
 - 3) Louis Age 5
- Highly Commended Rhys Age 5

Juniors

- 1) Bethany 9 4F
 - 2) Holly Age 9 4F
- Highly Commended Arthur Age 8

Environment update

Green Team update

What a wonderful way to end the school year.... the green team has been officially recognised as having an important (voluntary) role at High Down. We now have our own email address (highdowngreenteam@gmail.com) and the staff handbook has been amended to include all of the recycling initiatives that have been put in place since March. We hope to help High Down become even greener in the new school year but, in order to do this, we could still do with some volunteers. It would only take 10 minutes a week and would make a massive difference over the 40-week school year. So, please do let me (Roberta) know if you're able to help. Thank you.

Looking back to the school fairs, every bin was sorted by hand into metal, glass, paper, cardboard, food waste, rigid plastic and plastic film. It wasn't the nicest of jobs to do but it was a rewarding sight at the end and resulted in the reduction of waste of around 75%.

During the school holidays, if you find you need a new reusable bottle, the PSA has these for sale in lots of colours. These are bio-degradable and a bargain at just £2.50. Please email highdowninfantpsa@gmail.com.

Also, if you have a party on the horizon, the PSA has an eco-party pack which you can borrow in return for a small donation. There are enough plates, cups and jugs for a party of 30. This helps to reduce waste by using reusable instead of disposable items. All you need to do is collect it from school, enjoy it, wash it and return it. Brilliant.

Please could you take your crisp packets to Waitrose or Parish Wharf during the school holidays and not save them up for the eco-bots at the start of the new term. Dealing with 1,000 packets a week is quite enough. I can't imagine what 6,000 packets in one hit would be like!

And finally, if you find yourself out and about during the school holidays, please encourage your children to (safely) pick up a piece of litter and put it where it belongs. There are approximately 720 children at

High Down and 41 days away from school. Imagine what an impact they could make if 29,520 pieces of litter were taken care of properly. Then, imagine if a whole family did this. Thanks for reading this and if you have any green questions or comments, please don't hesitate to let me know.

Roberta George

Junior Golden Book Assembly:

Friday 12th July 2019

Years 3 & 4 – Sienna & Alysee 3L, Eva & Lydia 3T, Bethan & Dylan 3AB, Henry & Alex 3W, Callum & Joe 4D, Lucas & Szaffi 4M and Nia & Leon 4F.

Year 5 & 6 – Bonnie & Maddison 5C, Derin & Grace 5W, Violet & Jasper 5S, Kez & Albie 6HW and Tori & Morgan 6D.

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Years 3 & 4 – Jacob & Luca 3T, Lexie & Kye 3W, Alfie & Alice 3L, Sophia & Evie 3AB, Isaac & Matthew 4D, Caitlin & Charlie 4M, Olivia & Mia 4F

Year 5 & 6 – Polly & Alfie 5C, Samuel & Millie 5S, Amelia & Gabe 5W, All Year 6

Infant Celebration Assembly:

12th July 2019

Noah, Jesse, Evie, Edith & Elizabeth, Puffins, Alice, Amelia, and Ivy, Ducks, Archer, Alfie, Ayah, John & Myles, Penguins, Ella, Laraya, Lily, Luca, Aiden & Annabelle, Falcons, Finn, Octavia, William, Owls and Phoebe, Swans, Emily, Teo, Olly, Theo & Isaac, Parrots and Joshua, Martha, Louis, Rhys, Georgina, Istars, Enzo & Freddie, Robins.

Key Diary Dates

Term 1

September

2nd INSET

3rd Term 1 starts for children

3rd Y2 Meet the teacher (2.30pm)

4th Y1 Meet the teacher (2.30pm)

9th Y4 Curriculum meeting to parents (2.45pm)

10th Y3 Curriculum meeting to parents (2.45pm)

11th Y6 Curriculum meeting to parents (2.45pm)

12th Y5 Curriculum meeting to parents (2.45pm)

Tuesday 17th- Friday 27th September Y5 visiting Earthkeepers (classes on rotation)

October

4th Y5/6 author visit with Helen Lipscombe in Junior hall followed by book signing

8th Individual Photos – Infants

10th Individual Photos – Juniors

11th Junior Harvest Festival

Week commencing Monday 21st October Infant and Junior Parent Evenings (exact dates and times to be confirmed early in Term 1)

24 th	End of Term 1 for children
25 th	INSET

Term 2

November

4 th	INSET
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5 th -8 th	Parliament week (Juniors)
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5 th	Term 2 starts for children
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11 th	Anti-bullying week
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December

18 th	Infant Christmas Dinner
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19 th	Junior Christmas Dinner
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20 th	End of Term 2
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