



**Friday 5th
October 2018**

High Down Schools

Believing | Achieving | Learning for life

NEWSLETTER 3

Dear Parents,

We have continued to have an incredibly busy but productive term, where we have provided a number of exciting learning opportunities for your children so please ask them what they have been learning this week.



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!

Walk the World

Later than originally planned due to the weather, High Down Schools took part in the annual Walk the World event on our school field. Both Junior and Infant children took part and walked for around 90 minutes completing as many laps as possible. It was a fantastic effort by everybody and raised almost £1200 which will be shared between Action Aid and outdoor play equipment for the school. We would like to say a big well done and thank you to all of the children who collected sponsorship money.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Last Friday, the staff at High Down Schools held a special coffee morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. The staff room was filled with delicious cakes where some had even been homemade by the staff themselves! The total raised was £153.09. A big thank you to all of the staff who contributed to this wonderful charity and to Miss Arnall for organising this event.

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Junior Family Learning Conferences

North Somerset and High Down Schools are advocates of the work of Ron Berger (*Leaders of their own Learning*) and Dame Alison Peacock (*Creating Learning without Limits*), who have both demonstrated the benefits of creating opportunities for children to have a greater sense of ownership of their learning journey. In light of this, and in order to enable your child to be more involved in this process, we are asking him/her to select some work to share with you at the conference. It will be an opportunity for your child to talk about his/her learning journey, including achievements, challenges and targets.

If there is anything you wish to discuss with your child's class teacher, which you do not want your child to hear, then your child can wait outside of the classroom. We look forward to you attending these incredibly valuable meetings in the coming weeks.

Infant Parents Evenings

Sign up lists for Infant Parents' evenings will be available from Monday 8th October. If for any reason you cannot make one of the listed times, please talk to your child's classteacher to arrange an alternative. These meetings are an incredibly important part of our home/ school partnership, supporting all aspects of your child's learning and development.

Junior School Harvest

We will be holding the Junior Harvest Festival in our assembly on Friday 12th 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 12th October with the sale of produce taking place after school in the school hall. 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!

Social Media

High Down Schools understands and appreciates the benefits of social media. However, whilst there are many positive benefits to using social media, there may also be some significant negative impacts, such as cyber bullying, which the school does not tolerate. Parental responsibilities regarding use of social media:

- Not posting photos, videos or comments that include other children at the school
- Not using social media on their own devices while on school premises
- Not accessing social media while helping at school or on school visits
- Raising queries, concerns and complaints directly with the school rather than posting them on social media – whether on their own pages or in closed groups
- Not posting anything malicious about the school or any member of the school community

Thank you for your support

Nursery

A big welcome back to our Nursery returners and newcomers. The Nursery children have settled into schoollife with ease and excitement. They have been incredibly busy learning lots of new things and making new friends. Here are some photos of what's been going on but remember to check your child's ILD (interactive learning diary) to see what your child has been learning about this week.



Reception

Reception children have settled into school amazingly – thank you for all of your hardwork and preparations in helping this be such a success. We have been busy learning about our new topic 'Marvellous Me' and the children have been talking about and drawing the special people in their lives. Here are a few photos of their learning this week but remember to check your child's ILD (interactive learning diary) to see what your child has been learning about.



Y3 Windmill Hill City Farm trip

The Year 3 children were an absolute credit to the school when they recently visited Windmill Hill City Farm in Bristol. The farm is a charity that provides recreation, education and therapy using food, farming and the environment as a theme. The children found the day incredibly useful and will link in well with their topic of Healthy Eating.

Year 4

Year 4 have been exploring the outdoors investigating a variety of different habitats. In the classroom, the children have been involved in science, art and English projects linked to their outdoor learning including

poetry, instruction writing, sketching, colour mixing, and the science of food chains. We are all looking forward to exploring habitats and food chains further afield at Folly farm next week too.

A message from the Friends of High Down Junior School

The Friends AGM took place on Wednesday 26 September. Thank you to those who attended - it was a great evening of celebration! The Treasurer's report was presented by Hannah Jones & was a credit to the fundraising energies of the 'Friends' for 2017/18. We will once again be able to support the junior school in 2018/19 with the money raised going towards Arts Week, the Science Dome, Eisteddfod, new library books and the Junior Garden.

Debbie Brown, Chair, thanked the 'Friends' volunteers for all their efforts throughout what had been a very successful year.

Amongst others, The Christmas Fair, Quiz n Chips & Summer Festival were all great fundraisers. The Book and Games Drop's were well supported, as were the Happy Bags and the children's discos and picnic ice lollies well received.

It was however noted that it was extremely disappointing that in a school that has over 400 pupils that the 'Friends' meetings are attended by the same 6 - 8 people. Core member numbers have continued to decline. Debbie made a personal plea for more volunteers and highlighted that there are just 10 meetings in the year, which she is committed to keeping to 2 hours in length.

Next Meeting: Wednesday 7 November '18, 7:30pm @ The Ship

We're very aware that lives are busy but let's juggle them together!

Please join us - share your input and support the fundraising that benefits all the children in the Junior School.

AGM minutes & reports are available on request via friendshdjs@gmail.com

Key Diary Dates- Term 1

Week beginning 8th October Junior Parents Evenings

Friday 12th October Harvest Festivals

Week Beginning 22nd October Infant Parents Evenings (Monday and Wednesday)

Tuesday 23rd October Junior Photos

Friday 26th October INSET Day

Infant School Celebration Service

28th September 2018

Toby & Elaina (Owls), Archie & Aaron (Falcons), Richard & Reuben (Pelicans), Tygns & Lottie (Ducks), Mollie & Jacob (Swans) and Joseph & Millie (Penguins)

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James and Tess (Owls), Gus and Nia (Falcons), Mia and Mason (Pelicans), Calab and Oliver (Ducks), Florrie and Zeke (Swans), Logan and Archer (Penguins)

Junior Golden Book Service:

28th September 2018

Years 3 and 4 – Belle & Sonny 3L, Clio & Connor 3T, Emily & Jack 3AB, Lila & Nathan 3W, Lucas & Finley 4F, Maia & Ava-Lea 4D and Luke & Heidi 4M.

Years 5 and 6 – Rosa & Lia 5W, Sammy & Maddison 5C, Femke & Florence 6HW, Isaac & Abi 6G, Ammar & Tori 6D and Sophie & Pablo 6B.

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Years 3 and 4- Lily and Poppy 3L, Nevaeh and Poppy 3T, Kyle and Cecily 3W, Annabel and Ludo 3AB, Louis and Willow 4M, Frank and Amelia 4D, Holly and Dominik 4F.


Years 5 and 6- Ollly and Caroleen 5C, Harrison and Louisa 5S, Ty and Hattie 6B, Kezia and Harvey 6HW, Eva and Daniel 6G, Joshua and Kodi 6D.

A reminder from Year One - Shark Wow Day and parent pop in

Have a lovely weekend

Yours sincerely,

Mr Rhodri Hopkins
Executive Deputy Headteacher
High Down Schools




Year 1
Shark WOW Day


On **Monday 8th October** Year 1 are experiencing a Shark WOW day as part of our expeditionary learning project.

The children will take part in a rotation of different activities with each Year 1 class teacher throughout the day.

Children need to wear school uniform as normal.



Home learning



Together choose a shark to research.

You can write facts / draw / paint/ collage a picture or even make a 3D model.

Be as creative as you like!

Please can you bring in your home learning in to school to share with your class on **Monday 8th October**. We will share and display the work throughout the week. If you would like to visit your classroom to see all our shark work, the classrooms will open for viewing on **Friday 12th October** after dismissal.

If you have any interesting shark books or resources that we can share please send in with your child (named).

Thank you for your continuing support
Year 1 Team

