



**Friday 21st
December 2018**

High Down Schools

Believing | Achieving | Learning for life

NEWSLETTER 8

Dear Parents,

Our final newsletter of a busy 2018! This morning the infants had their special Christmas service led by Mrs Cowan. The junior school had a Christingle Service where each class shared a Christingle thank you message and an unaccompanied gentle song in the darkened hall lit only by our Christingle candles - a time of quiet reflection and spirituality.



Thank you to all of our families for the support throughout this year. I would also like to say a big thank you to all of our staff who have worked so hard enabling your brilliant children to flourish. It has been a busy year where the school continues to go from strength to strength and we sincerely hope you have a fantastic Christmas break.

School value term 3: Optimism and Hopefulness

Our School Values for term 3 are Optimism and Hopefulness. This will be a focus both in assemblies and in class. We will describe to the children that our values Optimism and Hopefulness are important because they are all about believing that we can make things better in our own lives and for others. Believing that we can make ourselves, our relationships, our learning, and in the wider sense, our world, a better place through our personal efforts and commitment.

As we all know, we can achieve our best by working hard, putting in lots of effort and believing in ourselves. These are really important messages for our children. The Optimism and Hopefulness Value corresponds to our P-BEST learning superpowers: Perseverance and Believing in myself: and our Learnersaurus Tryatops and Icanasaur.

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Infant Christmas Fair - Message from the PSA

The PSA committee would like to say a huge thank you to all who attended and supported the recent Christmas Fair. The donations we received were overwhelming and it goes without saying that the event couldn't have happened without the support of the parents and teachers in the build-up, running and clearing of the fair.

Through all our joint efforts, we've raised in the region of £2,700 for the school.

We'd also like to wish you all a very Happy and Fulfilled Christmas and look forward to seeing you in the New Year.



All the staff add their thanks to everyone who helped. Particular thanks go to the PSA committee for all the hard work and organisation in advance, which really paid off on the day.

Year 1



In Year 1 this week we have been very busy creating wonderful table decorations ready for our Christmas party.

Penny Brohn Concert



Our wonderful school choir recently took part at the Penny Brohn Concert at the Clifton College Chapel. The whole event raised £6000 for this worthwhile charity. Thank you to those who supported this event

and also to our children who performed so well.

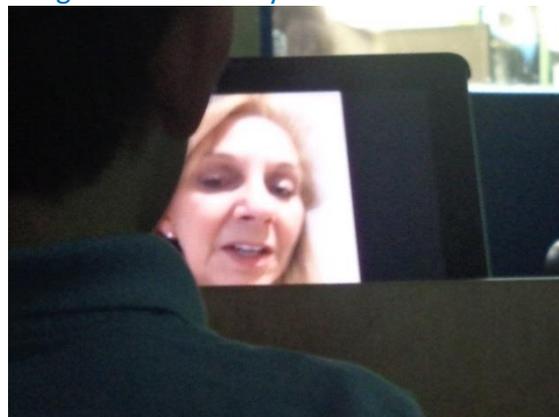
Junior Christmas Carol Service



On Monday, the junior school made the annual trip to St Peter's Church for our special carol service. Thank you to those who came to the service and well done for all of our children who took part.

Year 6 Skype session with author – Hilary Robinson

Hilary Robinson, a well-known author of many books, wrote the text that the year 6 have been using in the autumn term – A song for Will and the Lost Gardeners of Heligan. Mrs Hankey got in touch with Hilary to tell her about our work and Hilary generously offered her time to chat to all of us. Hilary told us about what had inspired her to write the book: she had been approached by a family member – Will's great, great nephew - who really wanted the story of Heligan and its gardeners to be known. The story is aimed at primary school children and tells the story of the Heligan gardeners during World War 1 through a series of letters. It is beautifully illustrated by Martin Impey. Hilary told us about meeting Fred's son - who is still alive, and aged 80. Fred was one of the gardeners of Heligan. Hilary told us about how she approaches writing her books. Firstly, she thinks of an ending and then maps out the start, middle and end. Once she has written it, she drafts and re-drafts, and often re-drafts, until she is happy with her writing. Year 6 had an opportunity to ask Hilary lots of questions. She told us who her favourite authors were as a child – Roald Dahl and Enid Blyton – and what her favourite book was - Dr Seuss, The Cat in the Hat. Ideas for stories come to Hilary all the time and she's currently working on a space story about a dog called Jasper which she said she would send for us to read to get our opinion. She's writing it because it is the 50th anniversary of the moon landing next year. It was great to chat with Hilary – a real author! She really inspired us and we look forward to reading more stories by her soon.



By Year 6 Book Club

Year 6 Skype session with author – Helena Duggan

It's been a busy term for year 6 and we've been lucky enough to talk to another author. This time it was Helena Duggan, the author of A Place called Perfect and the recently published -The Trouble with Perfect. Her publishing company sent us some goodies before the Skype session. Helena read us the first chapter of her first book – A Place called Perfect – which many of year 6 have read and would highly recommend. We then we had an opportunity to ask her questions about her books, her work as an author and what inspired her when she was a child. What is really good is that we have seen that behind these books that many of us love to read, there are real people who are real authors. These real authors wanted to get their stories out into the world and so they worked really hard to get their first book published. This really inspired us as one day this could be one of us!



By Year 6 Book Club

Junior Christmas Lunch



Many of our children enjoyed a superb Christmas lunch this week where we all very much got into the Christmas spirit. Standing behind the counter serving over 400 children really made me appreciate what a fantastic job our lunchtime team do across both schools.

Junior Golden Book Assembly:

Friday 14th December 2018

Years 3 and 4 – Wils, Alice 3L, Miah & Will 3AB, Louis & Eva 3T, Max & Joel 3W, Charlie & Beth 4D, Oscar & Caitlin 4M and Elizabeth & Matthew 4F.

Years 5 and 6 – Sarah & Dino 5C, Dylan & Ben 5W, Harrison & Evie 5S, Georgina & Leon 6B, Charlie & Kady 6G, Abi & Evan 6HW and Rose & Tia 6D.

Infant Celebration Service:

Friday 14th December 2018

Zach and Olivia (Owls), Nate and Maria (Falcons), Oliver and George (Pelicans), Xander and Anais (Penguins), Eleanor and Henry (Ducks), Lola and Daniel (Swans)

Key Diary Dates

Term 3

Monday 7th January INSET Day

Tuesday 8th January First day back for children

Thursday 5th February Safer Internet Day

Friday 15th February Last day of term

May I take this opportunity to wish all of our High Down families and staff a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We will look forward to seeing you all in 2019!

Yours sincerely,

Mr Rhodri Hopkins
Executive Deputy Headteacher
High Down Schools