



**Friday 18th
January 2019**

High Down Schools

Believing | Achieving | Learning for life

NEWSLETTER 9

Dear Parents,

First of all, we would like to wish a Happy New Year to all of our families and we sincerely hope you have a wonderful 2019!

After two weeks being back in school, we have been in full-swing with a number of learning opportunities for your children. From Year 1 and 4 working together sharing their learning, to Year 2's recent visit to the theatre. The children have made a superb start to the year and we have seen a number of examples of our school values being displayed across both schools. What a fantastic start to the year it has been!

School value term 3: Optimism and Hopefulness

Our School Values this term 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 Learnersaurs Tryatops and Icanasaur.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Rhodri Hopkins
Executive Deputy Headteacher
High Down Schools

Parent Governor Election

We are currently running a ballot to fill our parent governor vacancy, for which two parents have volunteered. Their candidate statements were sent out by ParentMail last week, and (yellow) ballot papers sent home with children. Each parent and carer has one vote, regardless of the number of children that they have at our schools. If you haven't already done so, please put your completed ballot paper in the voting box in the school's reception area *by 3.30 pm on Thursday 24 January 2019*. Thank you.

With many thanks

Cathryn Butler

Clerk to Governors for High Down Schools

Times Tables Rockstars



High Down Junior School subscribes to Times Table Rock Stars. This is a system that the children use to practise the instant recall of their multiplication and division facts, which helps them achieve thorough times table knowledge.

When it comes to times tables, speed AND accuracy are important – the more facts a child remembers, the easier it is for them to complete harder calculations. Times Table Rock Stars is a fun and challenging programme designed to help children master the times tables. To be a Times Table Rock Star they need to answer any multiplication fact up to 12×12 in less than 3 seconds!

World famous rock musicians are the best at what they do because they've spent hours practising guitar chords, writing music or playing on the drums. It's just the same with times tables – all Times Table Rock Stars need to practise and practise and practise.

Research shows that daily practise is the best strategy for children to learn these important facts. Short bursts of daily practise are much more effective than spending hours once a week.

Parental support is critical in this area. For children to be fully motivated and for them to get the best out of the practice, they need an adult's help. Without a parent's praise and reminders, without sitting down together or checking their work, practising times tables will not feel important.

Each class or group within a class will be set a schedule of times tables to work on by their teacher. The quicker a child can answer a times tables question, the higher their Rock Status.

There will also be an emphasis in celebration assembly on a Friday on those classes who've been putting in the effort with the introduction of a brand new 'Rockstars cup' trophy to be awarded to the class with the most active players that week.

Congratulations to 3AB for winning the trophy this week!

Year 2 theatre trip

Year 2 thoroughly enjoyed their theatre trip on Thursday 17th January to see 'The Borrowers' at the Tobacco Factory Theatre. We are very grateful to the PSA for funding this trip and enabling all our children to have such a magical childhood experience.

Year 1 visit to Year 4

On Friday afternoon, Year 4 invited Year 1 to share their habitat learning journey with them. Expectantly, Year 4 prepared their books and work to share before waiting patiently. Soon, the excited voices of Year 1 rippled through the air and in Year 4 the expectation and anticipation grew! When Year 1 arrived, they happily crept into the classroom before being paired with a waving, smiling Year 4 children. A happy chatter followed, as stories and non-chronological reports were shared alongside science food chains, webs and keys, art and home learning. Many Year 4 children were so proud to share their recent work too that poems were read, maths books shared, times table Rockstar games demonstrated and Year 1 children were given lessons in using handwriting pens as personal bests and pen licences were also explained. The experience was so enjoyed by all that stopping brought an air of disappointment, so we have already discussed possible future follow-up dates. Thank yous and smiles were happily shared before each class returned to their base to continue further learning activities whilst taking home happy, proud memories to share with family and friends.



Thank you!

Christmas Jumper day raised £260.06 for Save the Children. Many thanks for your support.

PaintPals Christmas Visit



Last term the children enjoyed spending time with residents at the Norewood Lodge Care Home creating some Christmas art. Take a look at our website to see what other activities they have been up to throughout the year. <http://highdownschools.co.uk/community/paint-pals/>

Junior Golden Book Assembly:

11th January 2019

Years 3 and 4 — Jessica and Evelyn 3L, Eliza and James 3W, Aiden and Lema 3T, Dexter and Mia 3AB, Oliver and Joe 4D, Jo and Molly 4M, Ollie and Ethan 4F.

Years 5 and 6 — Josh and Polly 5C, Lucy and Tierra 5W, Eden and James 5S, Grace and Jacob 6B, Jamie and Igor 6G, Milan and Ceri 6HW, Sophie and Lani 6D.

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Years 3 and 4 – Asia and Alfie 3T, David and William 3W, Maggie and William 3L, Cathryn and Sophie 3AB, Alex and Issac 4D, Charlotte and Thaliya 4M, Corey and Kristiyan 4F

Years 5 and 6 – Kieron and Libby 5S, Ben and Dylan 5W, Cara and Charlie 5C, Olivia and Liam 6D, Myah and Ben 6B, Edward and Will 6HW, Amelia and Isy 6G

Infant Celebration Service:

11th January 2019

Will & Orla (Robins), Freya & Isabelle (Pelicans), Louie & Chloe (Parrots) and Daniel & Isla (Swans)

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Louisa and Reuben (Puffins), Ava D and Emme (Ducks), Pearl and Gabriel (Penguins), Braxton and Emily (Falcons), Hollie and Oscar (Owls)

Infant Celebration Services

Celebration Services are a little different this term as Reception children now come into the hall to join the Year Ones and Twos. Each class is involved in Celebration Service once a fortnight. The children love hearing their names read out in front of the other classes and teachers, especially if they are one of the 'stars of the week'!

TIMES OF THE SCHOOL DAY

INFANT SCHOOL TIMES

School starts	8:50am
Break	10.35am - 10.55am
Lunch break	12.00 noon - 1.15 pm
School closes	3.15 pm

Children must be in school for **registration**, which takes place at 8.55am PROMPTLY. The cloakroom doors will be open at 8.50 am in order to allow the children to take off their coats and organise their lunch boxes. Lessons commence immediately after registers have been taken.

If children arrive after registration has taken place they will be deemed to be late. However, if they are more than 45 minutes after they will be marked as an unauthorised absence.

JUNIOR SCHOOL TIMES

School starts 8.50am (Children can arrive at school from 8.40am – please note gates are locked until this time)

Break	10.40am – 11am
Lunch break	12.10pm – 1.10pm
School closes	3.20pm

Registration will take place at 8.55am PROMPTLY.

If children arrive after registration has taken place they will be deemed to be late. However, if they are more than 45 minutes after they will be marked as an unauthorised absence.

The time of the morning break may be altered as the need arises. Throughout lunchtime supervisory assistants are on duty.

Children must not leave the school during any break time of their own accord.

Responsibility for pupils on the premises is only accepted for ten minutes on either side of the official starting and finishing times. Therefore all children should vacate the school grounds promptly, unless the children are taking part in a planned school activity.

Key Diary Dates

Term 3

Monday 7th January INSET Day

Tuesday 8th January First day back for children

Week commencing Monday 4th February Children's Mental Health Week

Thursday 5th February Safer Internet Day

Friday 15th February Last day of term