



in partnership with Blanche Nevile

## Headteacher's Newsletter March 2010

Dear Parents and Carers

Children in reception were very excited this week to show me the first daffodil of the year - it really is starting to feel that spring is just around the corner. Despite a cold month, the children have been out and about during the month of February and my newsletter brings you news of all that has been going on in our community.

### Special assemblies



The school has enjoyed a number of special assemblies. 1SM put on a delightful assembly in which they performed three of our favourite children's stories: 'Hairy Maclairy', 'Each Peach, Pear, Plum', and 'The Little Stripy Zebra'. The finale was an inspired dance to 'Lily the Pink' taught to and performed by the whole school!

3LM entertained the school with a history of space exploration in which we learnt about the solar system and the space programme. The finale was a memorable performance of Space Odyssey performed by a very convincing, although slightly smaller, David Bowie.

And today, to celebrate World Book Day children in 2RV put on a brilliant performance about the enjoyment of reading in which they introduced us to all their favourite book characters.

### Year 4 trip to the Golden Hinde

On Friday 5th February Year 4 enjoyed a trip to The Golden Hinde on the River Thames. The children got to explore all decks of the ship and learnt about how hard life was on board Sir Francis Drake's vessel as it sailed westwards to discover that Earth isn't flat, but round! Overall it was a day packed full of learning and surprises about how Elizabethan privateers and their crews sailed the seas over 400 years ago.

### Inspire Events

A number of classes have held their annual Inspire event this term, where parents work alongside their children on a range of exciting activities.

On Thursday 11th February children in Year 3 got to work with a chosen adult to make and launch a rocket. They had to follow instructions to make it and then experiment to see how to make their rocket fly the highest. Overall it was a great experience for the children and adults who really enjoyed learning together.



On Friday the 26th Feb class 5NL enjoyed a practical and very watery inspire event. The children got to make Cartesian divers and learnt about Archimedes' principle of buoyancy and Pascal's principle of pressure in a fluid. Overall it was a great success with lots of learning and very little water spilled.

Finally this week, Year 4 brought in their best toys from home, from which they made some very cleverly designed newspaper chairs.

### Superheroes for Haiti

On Friday 12th February, children came to school dressed-up as superheroes, and helped to raise a staggering £1100 for the Haiti Earthquake Appeal.



In addition children contributed a significant amount of shoes, medical equipment and water purification tablets, which will be shipped out to Haiti by the organisation United Haitians in the UK. Special thanks to Angela McCadden who helped transport all the donations to the depot in East Finchley.

### Author Visits

Earlier this week children in Year 3 and 4 were entertained by the extremely funny and entertaining author, Guy Bass. Guy brought his books to life with exciting props, costumes and

role play. The children thoroughly enjoyed meeting Guy and are looking forward to reading his books in class and at home.

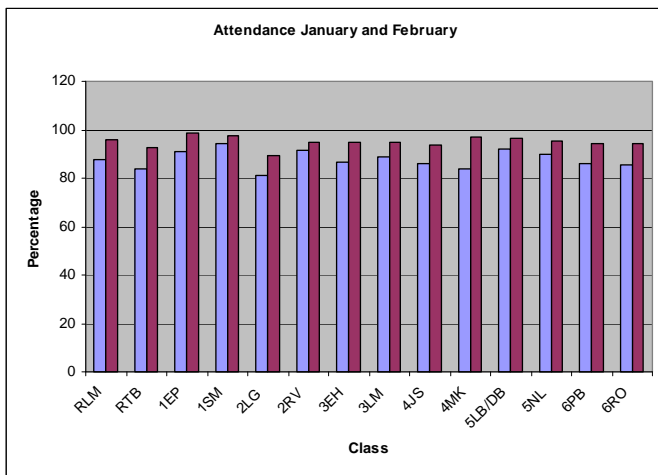
On the same day Children in 4JS visited Haringey Library on Thursday where they were entertained by Canadian author Joan Lennon.

### Better Reading Partners

A big thank-you to everyone who attended the 'Better Reading Partners' training just before half-term. The course trained parents and teaching assistants in an intensive intervention programme designed to support children's reading, which will be rolled out over the coming weeks.

### Attendance and Punctuality

The attendance figures for the month of January and February are printed below, and show a good improvement. Thank you to all the children and families who are arriving on time at school each day.



### Mobile Phones

I wanted to remind parents that children are not allowed to have mobile phones in school unless they travel to and from school independently. Any phones must be handed in to the school office on arrival.

The school is required to keep a register of children who travel to and from school on their own and request that parents notify the school in writing if this is the case.



### Play, advice, health and fun for the under 5s and their families

The new Children's Centre has got off to a great start since opening last week. It has been lovely to have so many parents popping in to look around and say hello. Our Wednesday morning Dads' Club is proving to be a great success. Seven dads and their babies and toddlers came this week and we have room for a few more. Next week Riaan will be leading toddler football during the session. So to all the Highgate Primary dads out there with under 5s – come along next week and join in!

The Baby Clinic on Tuesday mornings is now up and running. You can drop in to have your baby weighed, chat to a trained breastfeeding counsellor, make an appointment to see the Health Visitor and stay and play.



We also have Gill Turner's homeopathy clinic, baby massage, yoga for new mums, a music class and lots of stay and play sessions.

Come over, book in for an activity or pick up some leaflets and timetables.

Finally, thank you for all the positive feedback so far. Please do come and tell us what else you'd like the Children's Centre to provide for our community and we'll do our best to make it happen!

### And also coming up this term.....



### Helping in Schools

An information meeting for the Summer Term's course 'Helping in Schools' is being held in the Children's Centre on Friday 12th March at 2.00 pm. Parents who are interested in doing the course, but are unable to make the meeting, need to pick up a form from the school office.

### Parenting group

Over the next four weeks our Parent Support Advisor, Simona Balletti, is running a parenting group in the Children's Centre on Tuesdays between 1.45 - 3.15 pm. This will provide a forum for parents to share problems and solutions they have found to those common parenting issues that we all face. Please feel free to drop in.

### Rhythms 4 Life

A group of our parents who helped to lead the very successful Black History Month activities in October, have set up an organisation called 'Rhythms for Life' with the aim of expanding

horizons and creating opportunities for children and parents. Please look out for their questionnaire which will be circulated shortly.

### Parent Consultations

Just to remind you that you should by now have received your time for the parent consultation meetings which are taking place next week. If you are unable to attend, it is essential that you arrange another slot with your class teacher at a mutually convenient time.

### Rainbow Day 26<sup>th</sup> March

The now well-established Rainbow Day will soon be upon us, when children are sponsored for the number of colours they can wear to school. Last year over £500 was raised. Letters and sponsorship forms will be coming home soon. Please remember to ask sponsors to Gift Aid their donations as this helps in increase the sponsor money by 25%.

### Easter Egg Raffle

The Easter Egg Raffle will be drawn in the playground at the end of Rainbow Day, with the chance of winning a fantastic Easter basket filled with lovely goodies or an Easter egg. Tickets will be coming home in a couple of weeks and additional tickets will be available in the KS1 playground after school in the week preceding the raffle.

### Sport Relief



The school is getting involved in Sports Relief on the 19<sup>th</sup> March with all children taking part in a mile run in Highgate Woods. There is no requirement for sponsorship, however children are invited to wear the rather wonderful Sports Relief socks which are going on sale in the school playground, priced £2, as soon as they arrive in school. Further details will be sent nearer the time, and parents are welcome to join in.

### Sainsbury's Active Vouchers

Just to let you know that once again the school is collecting Sainsbury's Active Vouchers. In previous years this has been very successful, with the school benefitting in a variety of ways. Last year the vouchers were used to buy PE and sports equipment, classroom resources and a range of cooking equipment. The vouchers can be popped into the box in our reception area.

### Recycool



The school has signed up to a new programme for recycling empty printer cartridges and unwanted, reusable mobile phones. For each item we collect, the school receives a small payment and 'Recycool' plants a tree on the school's behalf. Please help us to be a greener school community by putting your old mobile phones and printer cartridges in the 'Recycool' box in the school entrance.

Yours sincerely

William Dean

Headteacher



## Dates for Your Diary

Parenting Group – First meeting	Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> March
Parent Consultations 4.00 – 6.00 pm	Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> March
Parent Consultations 6.00 – 8.00 pm	Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> March
1EP Class Assembly	Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> March
'Helping in Schools' Information Meeting	Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> March
2LG Class Assembly	Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> March
Sports Relief Run	Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> March
Year 2 Cake Sale	Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> March
Rainbow Day	Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> March
Easter Egg Raffle	Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> March
Year 6 Legoland Trip	Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> March
Term Ends	Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> April
Staff Training Day School Closed	Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> April
Children return for Summer Term	Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> April



## Blanche Nevile Newsletter

### Coffee morning

Thank you to those parents and friends who came to our coffee morning. The assembly was lovely and a reflection of all the hard work of children and adults. Our workshop and discussions on behaviour management strategies was very lively and many parents commented that the discussions were helpful. Thank you for contributing your ideas. Jude will be sending out a brief feedback form, which will help us to plan the next session with a view to continuing to support you and work together.

### Visual Phonics workshop

A reminder that the visual phonics workshop on Monday 8th March at 12 o'clock is for any parents/carers or governors who were unable to attend in January and would like to know more. Please let me know if you would like to attend.

### World Book Day

To celebrate World Book Day on Thursday, your child has been given a free £1 off voucher, which you can spend in any bookstore. There are some books available for just £1 or the voucher can be used as £1 off the value of any book - please see the details on the letter. Have fun choosing, buying and reading a book with your child!

### Kaos choir

A reminder that there is a celebratory Kaos choir concert tomorrow at St Mary's church, South Woodford E18 2PA. Children are asked to arrive for 2:45pm and wear jeans and Kaos T-shirts.

### Parent Consultations

Chloe and Jane will be meeting Foundation Stage parents on Tuesday 9th March in the morning. All other classes will have parent/teacher meetings on Wednesday 10th March between 4pm and 6:15. We look forward to seeing you.

Best wishes,

Sarah McLay  
Deputy Head Teacher, Primary Leader