



Autumn Term 2023
Friday 8th December

A MESSAGE FROM MS REDWOOD

Dear Parents/Carers,

Christmas

All the staff will tell you that this half term is everyone's favourite. As we lead up to Christmas, school is a very busy place as we celebrate through nativities, carol concerts, making gifts etc as well as continuing with our usual learning. We hope that you will be able to attend one of the many Christmas celebrations next week.

Changes to the school day and the excitement or sometimes worry about the Christmas holidays, can cause some children to become anxious, resulting in some challenging behaviours at home or at school. We aim to ensure that all children are aware of any timetable changes and prepare them as best we can for Christmas events.

Last Friday evening, Highweek singing group had the opportunity to perform at Exeter Cathedral. They joined a number of other choirs to perform collectively as well as having their own performance slot. It was a fantastic opportunity for all involved. I would like to say a big thank you to Mrs Kerry Slade for organising this event and to all the parents who joined us.

An inclusive school

At Highweek, we pride ourselves on being an inclusive school. What does this mean? It means that we aim to eliminate all forms of discrimination. We believe that all children have a right to a high quality education regardless of gender, abilities or characteristics. However, this does not mean that all behaviours are tolerated.

The following behaviours are not accepted at Highweek:

- Bullying
- Non age-appropriate physical violence against staff or other pupils
- Swearing
- Behaviour that results in damage to property
- Continual disruptive behaviour.

The vast majority of pupils at Highweek display excellent standards of behaviour. However, if any of the above behaviours are exhibited, any of the following could occur:

- Restorative conversations with all parties
- A child having to work separately to their classmates for a set period of time
- A child not being able to go out with their friends at break or lunch time for a set period of time
- Suspension from school for a set period of time (usually up to five days)
- Permanent exclusion from school.

If you have any concerns regarding the above, please make an appointment to come and see me or any of the following members of the leadership and safeguarding team:

EYFS- Mrs Jodie Jenkins

Years 1 and 2- Miss Charlie Ridge

Years 3 to 6- Miss Fran Lilly

Mrs Dawn Matthews (Deputy Headteacher and Special Educational Needs Coordinator) or
Mrs Eline Walker (Family Liaison Officer)

School Funding

Many schools, particularly in Devon are finding it increasingly difficult to afford the staffing levels and resources they would like in order to continue to provide the standard of education that our children deserve. You may be interested to know that the government funds schools differently depending on county and area. Devon receives far less funding than the majority of England. For example, schools in Tower Hamlets receive over £8000 per child compared to £5713 per pupil in Devon. I wanted to let you know that I recently wrote to Devon County Council, the current Education secretary and the shadow cabinet outlining my concerns around this issue. As a result of this, we are looking forward to welcoming a member of the Department of Education into school next week to discuss this further.

E-safety

Unfortunately, we continue to see the negative aspects of being online filter into school. There are numerous resources available to help you and your child(ren) navigate the world of social media. Please do look at the links below before the Christmas holidays if you are considering buying a tablet, phone or any other device for your child.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/#guides>

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers>

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/staying-safe-online/>

The following information around phones is taken from saferinternet.org.uk:

How to start a conversation with your child about using a phone safely:

Why do you want to get a phone?

Whilst deciding if it is time for your child to have their first phone can be a great opportunity to find out what your child expects to use their phone for. This could be for connecting with friends, playing games, for keeping in touch whilst out of the house or other reasons.

What do you like about using your phone?

You can ask your child about their favourite apps or games, what they like using their phone for, or you can ask them to show you how to play or use their favourite game or website.

What would you do if something worrying or upsetting happened on your phone?

You can ask them about the places they can go to find the safety advice, find out what they know about privacy settings, and ask them how to report or block on the services they use.

How can we do more online together?

Ask your child about activities or games that you could enjoy as a family, this can be a great time to establish a [family agreement](#) to manage your families time online.

Top tips



Talk with your child about responsible use of their phone

Discuss what is okay and not okay to use their phone for. Talk about time limits and expectations of where the device can and cannot be used, this could include things like the phone being charged outside their bedroom overnight.



Discuss what to do if something upsetting or worrying happens

Give them the strategies they need in case something concerning happens whilst they are using their device. This could be to lock the screen and tell an adult, to make a report to the platform they are using, or to block the user.



Explore parental controls

Take a look at the controls available both on the phone itself and on your home Wi-Fi. Talk these through with your child too. Parental controls are a helpful tool, but an open conversation with your child is the most important thing.

As always, if you would like to raise any issues or just want to have a general chat regarding school or how we can support you and your children further, please do get in touch via the school office.

Have a fabulous last festive week of term!

Ms Claire Redwood



DECEMBER

Friday 8th - PTFA Christmas Fayre: 3:45pm - 6pm.

Monday 11th - KS1 Nativity 9:30am. This is a ticketed event.

Monday 11th - Singing club performing Christmas songs at Tesco 2pm.

Please come and support us.

Tuesday 12th - KS1 Nativity 5:30pm. This is a ticketed event.

Tuesday 12th - Singing club performing Christmas songs at Asda 2:15pm.

Please come and support us.

Tuesday 12th - Rowcroft Rudolph Run.

Wednesday 13th - Year 3 & 4 Christmas songs in the school hall at 3pm. Parents invited.

Wednesday 13th - Christmas Jumper Day.

Wednesday 13th - Christmas Dinner.

Deadline for ordering has now passed. If you have not pre-ordered please provide a packed lunch for your child.

Wednesday 13th - Lantern Parade in Newton Abbot town centre.

Wednesday 13th - EYFS Christmas show Whoops-A-Daisy-Angel 2:30pm in the main school hall.

Thursday 14th - Year 5 & 6 Christmas singalong in the hall: 3pm.

Parents invited.

Friday 15th - Last day of Autumn Term.

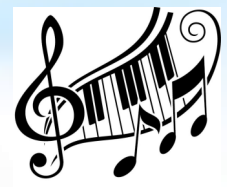
JANUARY

Wednesday 3rd - School re-opens at 8:50am.

PIANO/VOCAL LESSONS

We are delighted to share that Ilana Jacobs, an experienced vocal teacher, will now be offering 1:1 vocal and piano lessons on a Thursday afternoon. These lessons will take place during the school day and will be starting after half term.

- 20 minute vocal or piano lesson 1:1 = £11
- 30 minute vocal or piano lesson 1:1 = £16.50



(Pupils in receipt of Pupil Premium will receive a 50% discount for the first term).

If you are interested in finding out more or arranging lessons for your child, please contact Ilana via email: ilana_jacobs@yahoo.co.uk Places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

Friends of
**W
h**
Highweek
Primary School

TODAY

Christmas
FAYRE

FACE PAINTING, GLITTER TATTOOS & HAIR BRAIDING SECRET SANTA ROOM

CHOCOLATE TOMBOLA BURGER GRILL REFRESHMENTS

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE PIN THE NOSE ON THE REINDEER

JEWELLERY STALL HALF PRICE UNIFORM BOTTLE TOMBOLA

BOUNCY CASTLE (WEATHER PERMITTING) CAKE STALL

STOCKS HANDMADE CHRISTMAS ITEMS

CANDLES

AND MUCH MORE!!!

JOIN US FOR AN AFTERNOON OF FESTIVE FUN
FRIDAY 8TH DECEMBER
3:45PM – 6PM

Well done to our
Accelerated Readers

100,000 words Poppy Chapman, Paige Smith & Elizabeth Cookson.

250,000 words Sam Palmer, Elizabeth Cookson, Eloise Lidster & Ignas Silevicius.

500,000 words Sam Palmer.

750,000 words Felix Miller-Sledge.

PTFA UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday 6th February 2024
KS1 Valentine Disco 3:45pm-5pm

Thursday 8th February 2024
KS2 Valentine Disco 3:45pm-5pm

ATTENDANCE

Class	W/C 20th Nov	W/C 27th Nov
Taw	77.5%	92%
Mole	84.8%	90.4%
Mardle	91.8%	89.3%
Bovey	95%	92.8%
Tavy	94.7%	94.1%
Plym	93.2%	93.9%
Exe	93.6%	92.9%
Dart	97.9%	98.6%
Tamar	92.9%	82.5%
Torrige	95.5%	96.2%
Teign	95.1%	97.1%

Dart class had 97.9% attendance for the period of 20th - 24th November 2023.

Dart class had 98.6% attendance for the period of 27th November - 1st December 2023.

Remember our whole school attendance target for the year we are working towards is 96.2%.

It is essential for children to attend as much school as possible if they are to get the most from their education and achieve their full potential.

School Matters!

Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow

Ways to Wellbeing

A space for how to stay mentally and physically

This week let's talk about...

Kindness



I'm Tia Austin,
EMHP. Mental Health
Support Team



Acts of kindness can make the world a happier place for everyone. They can boost feelings of confidence, being in control, happiness and optimism. They may also encourage others to repeat the good deeds they've experienced themselves – contributing to a more positive community.

How can you be kind today?

Also, remember your 5 ways to wellbeing: [Five ways to wellbeing - Mind](#)

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Parking around the school can be an issue, therefore please could we ask that Parents and Carers are mindful of where they park at drop off and collection times.



Please do not park in front of driveways or on the roundabout. **And please do not drive on or park on the pavements.** If you are able to walk please do so.

Can we also ask that smokers refrain from smoking or vaping around the school site.



Thank you for your help and co-operation with this.

EVENTS THIS WEEK

Once again, it has been a busy week of sport as we continue to provide as many extra-curricular activities to inspire and motivate our children into being as active as possible. Our footballing success continued with a thrilling 4-3 home win against Rydon Primary with Highweek scoring the winner in the last kick of the game. On Tuesday, Year 5 pupils had an exciting afternoon at Newton Abbot College attending an invasion games festival. They were joined by other schools and participated in many different sporting activities.

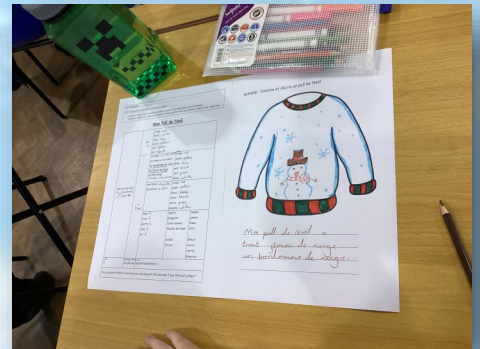
On Thursday, our Year 2 children were invited to NAC to take part in an aesthetics festival where they were given opportunities to learn and practice many core skills in gymnastics, dance, yoga and pilates. Thank you to NAC Sports Leaders for running these activities.

A gentle reminder that we have our Rudolph Run next week (Tuesday 12th December).

We are raising money for Rowcroft, so please try and get those sponsor forms filled in and returned to us by Wednesday 13th December.



'A few of our year 6 pupil's were invited to Newton Abbot College to attend a festive workshop, which was run by both staff and students. The children got to learn about French Christmas traditions, some fabulous new vocabulary and order some snack in French to enjoy at the end. The morning was full of engagement, games and exploration, which will hopefully inspire them as they move into secondary school next year.'



Well done to our Friday Flyers.

Our Friday Flyers promote our work around developing Growth Mindset and a can do attitude.

Theme	Learning from feedback		Able to examine mistakes	
Date	Friday 1st December		Friday 8th December	
Bovey	Rose Green	Rey Underwood	Cody Richards-Bearne	Freya Hubbard
Dart	Felicity Godfrey	Freya Paris	Hugo Palla	Ben Barnes-Jones
Exe	Gregory Cooper	Oscar Estlick	Amaya Daniels	Freddie Collins
Mardle	Isaac Mathias	India-Rose Holdway	Hope Mitchell	Harper Auchterlonie
Plym	Alex Avery	Freya Curran	Ethan Holdway	Sylvie Yonkova
Tamar	Samuel Joint	Alex Fairweather	Esme-Rose Lawson	Taiylor Peart
Tavy	Ethan Evans	Eleanor Hardy	Millie Harrison	Primrose Tremlett
Teign	Sofia Ralph	Paige Smith	Lily Hannigan-Train	Ashton Underwood
Torrige	Josh Fare	Lily Stickley	Jack Churchill	Benjamin Williams