



Autumn Newsletter

Welcome to New Children and Families

It has been wonderful to welcome both existing and new families and children back to Highgate after the summer break. Our new reception cohort are settling in very well and we all wish our new families welcome.

Welcome to New Staff

We are thrilled to welcome Miss Gourlay and Miss Sewell to our staff.

Miss Gourlay is our new Personal care assistant, she will be supporting those who need help with personal care across the school and will also be supporting learning in the classrooms.

Miss Sewell is our new Reception class teacher. As well as leading EYFS, she is also our Reading Leader and will be championing our Read Write Inc phonics programme across the school.

All About Us

Our whole school topic this half term is 'All About Us. It'. Our classes are exploring this in creative ways.



Our Reception class are looking at who we are and what our place is in the world.

They are looking at themselves and what makes them unique. They are also learning about the different ways we may feel and how we can recognise and describe those emotions.

They will be also be looking at different homes and starting to think about history - how homes in the past differ from homes today.





In year 1 they are learning about two famous nurses from history Edith Cavell and Mary Seacole. They are also learning more about their bodies in science and have a role play hospital in the outdoor learning area and a wellness salon inside the classroom.



In year 2 the children are learning about the UK, its countries, capital cities and characteristics. They are also learning about how to keep their bodies healthy including hygiene, exercise and diet.



After half term all classes will be thinking about Celebrations, in this country and around the world. We will start to talk about this topic during our Harvest celebrations on October 25th and whilst learning about Firework and Bonfire Safety on November the 4th.



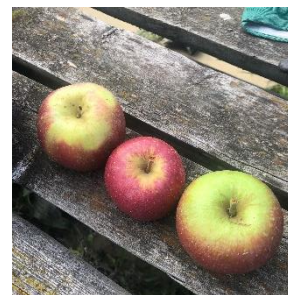
Jury Service

Miss West has been called for Jury Service starting on October 7th. This means that she **may** be in court in Kings Lynn and not at school from October 7th. If she is not required to serve, she will be in school as usual. We will keep you informed regarding class cover if and when Miss West is required in court.

The chances of being called for Jury Service vary depending on where you live. In England and Wales, the chance is 35%. Only about half of those people will spend any time in court.

Allotment

The school allotment is in great need of TLC. The children do a great job of taking care of the vegetables we plant, but some jobs can be a bit big and we need a little help! If you are able to help us out from time to time – whether as a weeder, waterer or with a bit of DIY or maintenance then please see let your child's class teacher or Mrs Kirby's know or speak to our allotment champion Mrs Griffin.



Home School Reading

Children reading at red level and above bring home 3 books, a library book, the book they have read in Read Write Inc and a book bag book that compliments the book they have been reading in Read Write Inc. Children reading sound blending books and Ditties will bring home a Library book and a book focused on learning to blend to read.

Children new to the school and those learning the first 16 sounds will bring home a library book and can practice the sounds they are learning using the Read Write Inc pages in the Reading records.

Attendance

Going to school regularly is important for your child's future. For example, children who miss school often can fall behind with their work and do less well in exams.

Arranging appointments and outings after school hours, at weekends or during school holidays will help to prevent disruption to your child's education and to the school. Under normal circumstances you should not expect the school to agree to your child going on holiday during term time.

Please ensure you phone the office every day if your child is not well enough to attend.

PE



Children need to bring PE kits to school so they can change into their PE kits for every PE lesson. This term the focus for our PE is dance.

School Lunches

Don't forget to check out the menu and encourage your children to try the range of school meals we have on offer. If you send a packed lunch it needs to be healthy and balanced. Please do not send nuts as some children have been known to have severe allergies.



range

Behaviour

If the school has any concerns about a child's behaviour, they will contact parents. If any parents have concerns, please come into school and share those concerns. We want each and every child to feel safe and secure and staff will always be there to help children with any personal, social or emotional issues.

Start of the day

Staff are always happy to talk to parents about their children. **If you would like to speak to your child's class teacher then it is best to see them after school once they no longer have a class to teach.** If you do need to discuss something in the morning that is important for your child in the coming day, then please speak briefly to the teacher on the playground between 8.40 and 8.45. The bell is rung at 8.45, at this time all children need to head into class with the class teacher. The start of the school day is very busy and staff need to head in promptly to ensure the children are supported.



Harvest Festival



We will be celebrating Harvest on October 25th in the afternoon. Our hall is not quite big enough for all our children and parents to gather together in, so we will have three celebrations at 2.45pm. Year 1 on the 22nd Oct, Year 2 on the 23rd of Oct and Year R on the 24th Oct. Please join us for your child's harvest festivals. Where we can celebrate together and enjoy the children's singing, art work and readings.

Please send children in with donations of food for the Kings Lynn Foodbank from October 16th. These donations should be long life and easy to transport without getting squashed! – tins and jars are ideal!

Clubs

After school club and Breakfast club are services we provide to support all our families. Please enquire in the office if you would like to know more. Breakfast club is £2 a day and runs from 8am until the start of school (last food served at 8.25). Afterschool club is £3 a session. Mrs Natalija Ananeva-Sliaze (Miss Natalija to our children) runs both breakfast and after school club.

Date	Club
Monday	Lego
Tuesday	Story and Craft
Wednesday	Games
Thursday	Art
Friday	No club planned at present – please enquire at the office if you require afterschool club provision on a Friday

If your child is eligible for Pupil Premium Funding we may be able to offer a discount for school clubs and breakfast club. Please enquire at the office for details.

A Safe and Caring School



All adults who work at the school are here to help and support our children and families. Some adults have particular roles and training which means they may be the best people to help you.

Mrs Natalija Ananeva - Sliaze, Mrs Kirby and Miss Sewell are our Designated Safeguarding leads. If you have any concerns over the safety and welfare of any children at Highgate then please speak to them.

Mrs Natalija Ananeva-Sliaze is our Parent Support Advisor
You can request a meeting with her to discuss any parenting issues or

concerns you may have.

We work with and promote the work of many agencies that can support children and families with health concerns, worries about behaviour and many other problems.

A display in our foyer contains information leaflets and numbers that families may find useful. Please take a look. You can speak to school staff or contact agencies directly if you feel they may be able to support you.

Diary Dates

25 th September 2024	Year R parents and carers are invited to attend a short session led by Miss Sewell at 2.45 pm. This is to introduce parents to our Read Write Inc Phonics scheme and explain how they can help their child to begin the journey to becoming an enthusiastic and lifelong reader.
16 th October AM	Photographer will be in for individual photos of children. These will be available for purchase.
16 th October	Nasal Flu vaccine. Please ensure you give consent when letters are sent. Ask at the office if you would like further information.
22 nd October 2.45pm	Year 1 Harvest festival – Parents invited
23 rd October 2.45pm	Year 2 Harvest festival – Parents invited
24 th October 2.45pm	Year R Harvest festival – Parents invited
Friday 25 th October – Friday 1 st November	Half term Holiday!
Throughout November	Parents will be invited to a 1 to 1 meeting with their child's teacher to talk about their child's learning
4 th November	Back to school today
4 th November	Fire safety and bonfire session (please ensure children have a warm coat and appropriate foot wear for the weather)
11 th November	Remembrance day – Poppies will be on sale in school from late October
11 th – 15 th November	Staying Safe Week – details to follow nearer the time
Week beginning 18 th November	Your child and Phonics – teachers will be inviting groups of parents in to join their children in class and find out more about their child's reading and phonics learning. Please do attend.

Unwanted Guests

Please remember to keep 'bug busting'. Nits and headlice are an ongoing concern for many parents. All children need to be checked regularly and treated when necessary to stop these little guys from spreading!

