



HANDSWORTH NEWS

**BRANCHING OUT, GROWING TALL
HAND IN HAND, ONE AND ALL**



Dear Parents and Carers

We hope that you had a wonderful half term break and were able to enjoy the beautiful weather. Last half term, the children participated in a whole host of fabulous trips, WOW days and activities and we hope that you thoroughly enjoyed the Reception and Year 2 assemblies. Thank you to our parent helpers who were able to assist our educational visits last term.

A big thank you also to FOH for organising the Spring disco. What a lovely way to end the half term!

School Uniform

Thank you to all the parents and carers who make sure that their children are in proper school uniform. We are really proud of our uniform and believe it is a key part of the children feeling part of the Handsworth Community and demonstrating our shared ethos. As such, the expectation is that all children wear it correctly.

Full details of the correct school uniform can be found on the website. We would like to remind you that trainer-style shoes are only acceptable if they are completely black and do not feature logos and coloured soles. Also in the winter months, boots may be worn to school for the journey, but these must be changed to black school shoes on arrival.

We will be emailing reminders to parents of children with incorrect uniform or PE Kit. If you encounter any difficulty in providing the correct school uniform for your child, please contact the school office.

We are excited for our Year 5 pupils who will be participating in a workshop during which students from the Guildhall School, under one of their workshop leaders, will work with the children to create a piece of music. The students come from across the first year music departments, giving the children the opportunity to experience several different instruments. We hope this experience will further inspire their love of music.

Online Safety

We hope that parents found the recent e-safety workshop informative. The session focused mainly on minimising children's risks when online. A Computing Newsletter has been e-mailed to all parents, with a link to key information on our website. Please take the time to look at these. While the internet can provide a wealth of learning opportunities, when not carefully monitored it can provide access to some inappropriate content.

Sports Update

The New Year continues to bring fantastic sporting experiences and achievements. We have new sports clubs in KS2 with Volleyball, Handball and Tag Rugby being introduced. They are very well attended and the children have been excited to try new sports.

Our netball team performed admirably and were so enthusiastic when representing the school at the Borough Competition. They have qualified for the Final Four on the 4th of March. This is already a superb achievement. We took two Hockey teams to the Borough Competition. For most of our players, it was their first time playing the sport. Both teams reached the knockout stage and enjoyed the opportunity on what was a very warm February day!

Finally, our Sitting Volleyball team represented Waltham Forest in the inaugural Sitting Volleyball London Youth Games competition. A new sport introduced this year; Year 6 were able to have a go in their Real PE lessons earlier this year. Having won the Borough Competition earlier this year, the team competed with lots of confidence. Having lost the first game, they went on an incredible run, all the way to the semi-final where they lost by just one point to the eventual winners. They secured a Bronze medal in their last game - another heart-stopping encounter!

On the subject of sport, our best wishes go to Mr Anthony Pike, a Handsworth parent, who will be running the London Marathon on 28th April in support of Cancer Research. If you would like to donate, please visit the following link: <https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/anthony-london-marathon-1>

Diary Dates

World Book Day (at Handsworth)

Friday 8th March 2019

Science Week

11th -15th March 2019

Parents Evenings

12th & 13th March 2019

Comic Relief - Red Nose Day

Friday 15th March 2019

5LN - Cycle Confidence

18th to 22nd March 2019

6JG - Shaking up Shakespeare

19th – 21st March 2019

Year 1 - London Transport Museum

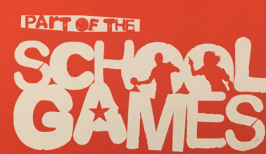
2nd April 2019

5SR - Cycle Confidence

25th – 29th March 2019

Year 6 Residential

3rd – 5th April 2019



Heather Dowling

This year has also brought sadness. Mrs Heather Dowling, a much-beloved member of staff, who worked for over 11 years as a Midday Assistant at our school has sadly passed away. Our love and deepest sympathy go to her family. We are planning to commemorate Mrs Dowling's time at Handsworth with a memorial in the playground and will keep you updated of the progress.



Please continue to check the school website for updates on everything we do here at Handsworth, including Year Group Newsletters, Curriculum Overviews and individual class pages.

Good Luck to Year 6 who will be going off to Kingswood in early April. We're sure you're all going to have an amazing time.



Well done to our amazing Year 5 Choir who had the opportunity to perform at the O2 as part of the Young Voices concert.

Attendance

Our attendance to date is 97.2% with the national figure being 96%. We have had 372 late arrivals so far this year and 99 late collections.

Attendance and punctuality remain a priority for the school. Regular and punctual attendance is both a legal requirement and crucial to a child's success – there is a clear link between a high rate of attendance and high achievement. If pupils are not in lessons they cannot learn.

Please support us by ensuring your child is in school and ready to learn by 8.50am every day.

Once again the Year 6 children will be leading the fundraising efforts for Comic Relief on Friday 15th March. Further details will be sent in a separate letter, but as usual, it will be a fun-filled day to raise money for a worthy cause.

“Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement”

Helen Keller