

High Lane Primary School December Newsletter



It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year!

18th December 2024

Dear Parents, Staff, Pupils and Friends,

As we approach the festive season, it is with immense pride and gratitude that I reflect on the wonderful achievements and moments we have shared as a school community this term and throughout the year. Christmas is a time for celebration, reflection, and togetherness, and there is no better opportunity to pause and appreciate the spirit of belonging that makes High Lane such a special place.

This term has been filled with accomplishments, creative endeavours, and countless acts of kindness. From the dedication shown in classrooms to the impressive performances in sports and Christmas events, your hard work and enthusiasm have been truly inspiring. Our recent Charities' Day exemplified the talent and generosity within our school community, reminding us all of the joy that comes from giving and working together.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to our incredible staff and governors, whose unwavering commitment ensures that every child is nurtured and encouraged to reach their full potential. Thanks too to our amazing team of volunteers, including the newly formed PTFA and to governors, families and friends who have made some phenomenal donations to the school this term. This generosity, along with your time and dedication has helped us ensure we can deliver a truly enriching experience for our children. To our parents and guardians, your ongoing support is invaluable, and we are deeply grateful for your partnership in fostering a positive and thriving school environment.

As we prepare to welcome the New Year, let us carry forward the sense of community, resilience, and hope for the future that define our school. I encourage you to take this holiday season to rest, recharge, and spend quality time with loved ones.

On behalf of everyone at High Lane, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May 2024 bring peace, joy, and new opportunities for learning and growth

Mrs Alison Humphries
Headteacher

Essential Dates for your Diary

Monday 6th January
2025

Spring Term begins

Week beginning
6th January 2025

Clubs start

Half term break

17th-21st February 2025

End of Spring Term

Friday 11th April



Supporting our Local Community and Beyond

Our children and families have surpassed themselves with their fundraising and charity work efforts this half term. Well done to everyone who has taken part - your hard work and enthusiasm has made a real difference to those in need.

Festive friends - Christmas cards

The Right at Home Festive Friends appeal aims to ensure that people who may feel lonely, vulnerable or isolated at Christmas receive cards and gifts to brighten their day. Year 2 and Year 6 made some beautiful cards this year. These will form part of a care package to be distributed to elderly and infirm people in the local area.

Streethearts BG - Shoeboxes

We had an excellent response to ex-pupil Jordan's appeal for gifts for the rescue animals at Streethearts BG. Over 30 boxes full to the brim with foodie treats, toys and gifts were transported to Bulgaria at the beginning of December. They arrived safely at the rescue centre and will help the rescued animals to enjoy some fun and treats at Christmas. We look forward to seeing pictures of them enjoying their gifts.

Charities' day - Stockport Foodbank and Beacon Counselling

Charities' Day was a roaring success again this year. Children made and sold goods or designed fun competitions and tournaments to raise money and support this year's charities. Altogether, the children raised over £620! Well done everyone!

Save the Children Christmas Attire Day and Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

Children also took part in our annual events to support vulnerable children and people who have served in the armed forces through our Christmas Attire Day and by buying Poppy Appeal goods sold by our Year 6s at playtime..

Well done and thank you everyone. At a time when money is tight for many of us, it is wonderful that we can still extend a hand to help others and give our time to be of service to our community.

Academisation Update

Staff and Governors have enjoyed strengthening our professional links with the schools in the Four Rivers Trust this term. We have taken part in some joint staff training with Norbury Hall Primary School and have benefitted from fortnightly visits from the Trust's Social, Emotional and Mental Health lead teacher, who has worked with staff to further develop our expertise. We are also looking forward to taking part in a shared programme of work between the Trust and the Royal Opera House in the Summer Term. Our due diligence continues, but staff and Governors are increasingly impressed with the culture, values, partnerships and working practices within Four Rivers.

We were delighted to be awarded our Academy Order from the DfE in November. This means that funding has been transferred to finance the legal and organisational aspects of the academisation process. Final decisions are not due to be made until the Summer or possibly the Autumn Term, but the future is certainly looking bright!



Christmas Celebrations



December has been a very busy month with children showing off their talents in a range of performances and enjoying some Christmas fun and special moments in school.

Honky Tonky Donkey - Year 1 and 2 production

Our incredible Year 1 and 2 children absolutely shone in the first school performance of December, Honky Tonky Donkey! Their energy, enthusiasm, and hard work lit up the stage and filled the room with joy – you were all absolute stars!

Christingle Service at St Thomas'

Last week, our Early Years and Year 1 classes enjoyed a visit to St Thomas' church to take part in a Christingle service. The Reverend Ashleigh told a special version of the Christmas story and the children were able to see the Christingles they had made lit up in church.

Carol Concert at St Thomas' Church Key Stage 2 and the School Choir

Our second visit of the month took place on Wednesday night with our annual Carol Concert. As always, the church was packed and the children treated us to beautiful singing, poems and instrumental performances. This service always reminds us how fortunate we are in the community spirit we share at High Lane. Thank you to everyone who attended and made it such a special occasion. Thank you too to the Reverend Ashleigh and the team at St Thomas' for making us feel so welcome.

Christmas Dinner, Class Parties and a Special Visitor

The children have thoroughly enjoyed opportunities to socialise, play games and eat together at their Christmas dinner and class parties over the last two weeks. For our EYFS and infant children, there was also a special visit from Santa, who managed to take time out of his busy schedule to chat to them and bring them an early Christmas gift. They hung baubles containing a special Christmas wish for the world on the tree that had been made with their 'buddies' in the junior classes. Thank you to Santa and to the volunteers who transformed the sensory area into a magical Christmas Winter Wonderland for the occasion.

EYFS Nativity

The Nursery and Reception class nativity performance this morning was definitely a highlight of the Christmas celebrations. They brought the story to life in such a special way, leaving us all bursting with pride and feeling that the Christmas season really has begun. Well done to everyone!

Carols Around The Tree

Our final celebration of the year was our annual Carols Around the Tree event. Parents and friends joined us as the children sang some favourite songs from all of this year's events. The show finished on a high with a special performance of Clement Clark Moore's poem 'A Visit from St Nicholas', commonly known as 'Twas the Night Before Christmas'. It was lovely to see children and staff having fun together and just enjoying the performance!

Well done and thank you to everyone who has done such a fantastic job to make sure that Christmas is such a special time at High Lane.