

## HIGH LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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## HIGH LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL

11<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

As we come to the end of a successful first half term of 2022, it feels odd to think that this time last year, the country was in lockdown, with up to half of our pupils learning from home! Recently, it has been encouraging to see that the daily impact of the pandemic continues to move in the right direction and we see signs of Spring arriving in High Lane.

Thank you to those of you who responded to our parent survey. We had 60 responses, which represents just under half of our 130 families. Over the half term break, I will be analysing the information you have provided. I will feedback to you and report on our next steps after half term.

Thank you, also, to those of you who have offered to volunteer in school or get involved as part of forums and feedback groups and to those who have already been in to support reading, swimming, help with organising our library or help with activities in class. We will be in touch with anyone who offered to get involved on their survey form next half term.

### Clubs and Extra-Curricular Activities

As you are aware, at the end of last half term, UK Sports informed us that they were unable to continue to provide our after school sports clubs, as they felt they were not cost effective. However, it is clear from your responses to our survey that after school clubs are important to many of you so we are striving to address this promptly, whilst acknowledging that we are a small school with a small staff team. Volunteering to lead or support a club adds to an already large staff workload – so a balance must be found. I am delighted that so many of our teachers have been able to put themselves forward to do this and they have been joined by some parent and governor volunteers who are keen to support our children too. Thank you so much to everyone who has offered to help.

We have used this half term as a chance to begin to redesign our after school activity provision so that, over time, we can offer a wider range of opportunities to nurture different interests.

Next half term, we will be offering:

- Zumba inspired Dance club (Y1-Y6) on Thursday afternoons 3.15pm- 4.00pm run by Miss Roper (maximum 25 places)
- Gym (Y4- Y6 in the first instance) on Wednesday afternoons 3.15pm-4.00pm run by Mrs Humphries (maximum 20 places)
- Multiskills Club (Y1–Y2) on Friday afternoons from 3.15pm- 4.15pm
- Cross Country Club (Y3-Y6) on Friday afternoons from 3.15-4.00pm run by Mr Williams

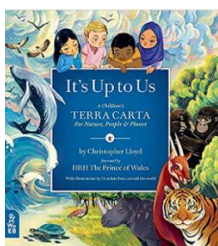
To support school funds, we will be asking for a small voluntary contribution of a minimum of 50p per session for attendance at these clubs.

A range of additional clubs are being considered for after Easter, including Art, Science, Eco-club, Netball and Spanish.

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We are delighted that we are now able to plan a range of exciting events for the next half term that will enhance the children's learning in school.

## World Book Day and Science Week 2022



*'We live our lives surrounded by people and other living things. Together, we are Nature. As far as we know, this extraordinary web of life exists in just one single precious layer of a single planet – Earth. But today Nature is under threat and we must demand change to save it – and ourselves. It's Up to Us! (It's up to Us! – Christopher Lloyd)*



This year, we are combining our **World Book Day** and **Science Week** to engage the children in a meaningful theme that will be important to their lives beyond primary school. This year, our World Book Day theme will be *'Books and Authors that Change Us and the World'*. Through this theme, we will look at books that challenge and change our thinking about us and the world.

On Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March, we are inviting children to 'come dressed to change the world'. This theme can be interpreted in many different ways. For example, your child could be dressed in:

- eco or planet-themed clothing
- smart clothing ready to change the minds of businesses
- characters/people/authors who have inspired, changed or challenged their thinking – this could be as simple as someone who 'championed change'

The following week (week beginning 7<sup>th</sup> March), as part of HLPS' Science Week, each class will engage in a scientific mission to help our planet. Through scientific enquiry, children will use their problem solving skills and curiosity to learn more about and find ways to look after our community and planet. The children will also have an exciting assembly led by 'Mad Science' to introduce them to our new club starting in Summer Term.



## Red Nose Day



The theme of Red Nose Day 2022 is 'Funny is Power'. We will be inviting our children to come to school dressed as someone with a superpower and taking part in activities around this theme. More information will follow after half term.

## Easter Activities

This year, we will be celebrating Easter with a range of egg-citing activities celebrating creativity, relationships and performance. On 31<sup>st</sup> March, children will team up with partners from other classes to join in our annual **Easter Hunt** around the school grounds. This will be followed on 1<sup>st</sup> April with our **Great Eggs-plores** themed egg competition and the **Easter Assembly**.



## Other news

### Sporting success

Our amazing Cross Country team continue to go from strength to strength and should be proud of what they have achieved in the competitions so far. We continue to post some great results in the Stockport Harriers Cross Country League with lots of children competing and improving every week and many top ten place finishers. We look forward to finding out the final league results after the last race on **Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> February**.

A special mention must go to Grace Hill, Henry Oldham and James Ellis who represented Stockport in the recent Greater Manchester competition. All three ran really well, with the boys' team winning the event and Grace and James placing in the top ten overall in the county.

One of the highlights of the school week is our Achievements' Assembly. It is wonderful to share the children's good work and school achievements with them in front of the whole school. Now that the Covid-19 risk is more manageable, we feel we are in a position to return to celebrating the certificates, medals and trophies that the children achieve out of school through their wider interests. If your child wishes to share their achievement, please send their awards into school on a Friday morning.

## Nursery

Nursery applications for September close on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022, so please remember to apply before this date to Stockport Admissions on the Council website. If you know of a parent or carer who is looking for a Nursery place please promote our fabulous Nursery setting and help us to build a strong intake of pupils to move through the school. If you or anyone you know would like to look around our Nursery, please contact me or the office staff to arrange a visit.

## Attendance

The pandemic has had a significant impact on children's attendance at school with over 20% of our pupils having an attendance rate below 90% this academic year. Much of this absence is unavoidable, due to the need to isolate with Covid symptoms, but please try to support your child's academic achievement and wellbeing in school by ensuring that they arrive promptly and that no unnecessary time is taken off for trips, visits or holidays if at all possible.

## Half Term and INSET

The school closes today for half-term. There is a Staff INSET Day on Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> February and school will reopen for children on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2022.

I hope that you all have a wonderful break. I look forward to seeing you next half term.

Yours sincerely

Alison Humphries

Headteacher