



High Spen Primary School Newsletter

Week Ending 18/07/14



Phew, if you are reading this it means we reached the end of term in one piece! Another great year, with far too many highs to try and list here. Yesterday saw the graduation of our Nursery children and today we said our final goodbyes to nineteen super special Y6's - one thing for sure, life never stands still for long in High Spen Primary!

Strawberry Teas 2014

Thanks to all those parents and families who were able to make it to Strawberry Teas this year. In many other schools it would have been a total washout but true to form we gave it the Spen Factor and made the most of it! We are delighted to share the news that nearly £1200 was raised. This money will be spent on the 'added extras' which the PTFA pay for such as theatre trips, discos and new yard equipment.

There is **no way** we would have Strawberry Teas if it was not for the PTFA. Literally days of preparation go into it, around a dozen members worked solidly from 9am to get things sorted for 1.15pm, they then ran stalls and stayed until gone 5pm to help tidy away - **huge thanks warranted.**

Healthy Tuck Shop

A huge thank you to the Tuck Shop Team for this year's hard work. So proud to say that Mrs Wang and her mob have made over £230 profit over the year and it is up to the children to decide what they'd like this money to go towards. Remember - we will need to recruit some new members from year 5 and 6 for next year's team... are you interested?

Wood-Fired Pizza Evening

Come to the HOP garden Sunday 17th August from 4-6pm. Treats in store!

If you are planning on popping along, please let the HOP garden know by dropping them an email: thehopgarden@toucansurf.com by the Friday beforehand so that they can make sure they have enough dough/ toppings.

Scarlet Fever

Just to be on the safe side, we have had two, possibly three cases of Scarlet Fever in school over the past two weeks. It is easily treated with antibiotics but can spread rapidly if no action is taken. The symptoms of scarlet fever generally take two to five days to appear after infection. The illness often starts with a sore throat, headache and a high temperature (fever), with a rash developing 12 to 48 hours later.

For more information see - <http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/scarlet-fever/pages/introduction.aspx>

Musical Chairs

It has been an exciting last couple of weeks from a staffing point of view. We are DELIGHTED to share the news that Mrs Nesbitt and her husband Bobby are adopting a baby girl. This means Mrs Nesbitt will not be in Nursery in September. Mrs Whitfield is coming out of retirement (before she packs her GD bags) and will be teaching in Nursery whilst Mrs Nesbitt is on adoption leave. Ms Towey has been tempted by a longer term post supporting as a Teaching Assistant in Y1. We have also appointed Miss Amy McDonough to work as a full time TA. She will be working with Mr Cradock in the mornings and supporting KS1 in the afternoons. Both posts are paid for from **Pupil Premium**, so thanks to those who completed the forms to make the claim for free school meals.

PTFA AGM 2014-15

If you have been inspired by the work of the PTFA this year, or perhaps you are sitting on an idea of your own? Please get involved next year. They really are a friendly bunch and the five or six new regulars this year will tell you how welcome they were made to feel.

The PTFA AGM is set for the last Friday in September (I'll do a reminder after summer!)

TY Steal the Show

As you know TY landed a range of prizes for their excellent WW1 writing and art work this year. So impressed were the judges, they came into school to borrow more examples to display in the Central Library! The children's work will be on display w/c 18 and w/c 25 August in the foyer area of Gateshead Central Library.

A few final thank you messages...

Children - I can't shout loud enough about just what a joy it is for the staff and I to work with you. Your excellent behaviour, motivation for learning and sense of fun, all make the hard work we put in well worth it. We always get comments from visitors about how polite and helpful our children are.

Parents & Carers - Despite what some of those who have never done it would tell you, teaching can be an extremely demanding job. Parents who are interested and involved in the learning of their children make the days far more straightforward and certainly more rewarding. The vast, vast, vast majority of you show the necessary commitment and are a valuable part in the learning process. So thank-you!

PTFA & Governors - every one of the adults in these groups give their time voluntarily and their support is invaluable. It is so easy to take such groups for granted; having worked in a number of other schools I can honestly say our PTFA and Governors are top drawer and are deserving of our total support.

Parent Readers & Library Volunteers - it is quite simply spine tingling to see the dedication this group of parents have shown. Sadly, we do have some children who do not regularly get the chance to enjoy sharing a book at home, one of the joys of a Monday afternoon is seeing how much the children enjoy sharing a story in the library or with one of our volunteer parents in the mornings. Reading for pleasure is a big deal for High Spen, regular sharing of stories, letter sounds and simple number games at home makes a HUGE difference to the chance of success as a child moves through school, **so on behalf of your children**, thanks to all those parents and carers who protect time in their busy lives to share stories etc.

Staff - the positive feedback many of you give suggests you already really appreciate what a cracking squad we have at High Spen. I wish you could see the passion they show during what could be dull planning meetings - EVERY single teacher is committed to bringing breadth and depth of study to the topics they create for your children. Despite the fact a few of them are looking decidedly ropery by this stage of the term, I know they will be returning in September ready to lay all on the line to give your child the best year they can offer.

High Spen Primary really is a special place to be. There is something about the way all those listed above work together with mutual respect and support that creates a truly fantastic feel. Keep it to yourself though, as we are bursting at the seams in KS2!

Have a great summer, check the website for news and we'll see children on **TUESDAY 2nd September.**

Mr Firth

If you find something worth recommending to other families over the summer or just wish to show off photos of your sandcastles, please e-mail to af.highspen@gmail.com or tweet us at @highspenprimary