

Highwoods

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School Newsletter

January 2017

Happy New Year!

The new term has begun well and Christmas seems a long time ago. Highwoods welcomes Mrs. S. Flint to the staff as Deputy Head Teacher and Year 4 class teacher.

Proposed Nursery Provision at Highwoods

As you are aware, the Local Authority is proposing to extend Mexborough Highwoods Primary School's current age range from 4 to 11 years to 3 to 11 years, by adding 3 and 4 year olds nursery provision from September 2017.

Legislation requires that a public consultation procedure takes place - this is being led by the Local Authority.

The consultation period is from **Wednesday 11th January 2017** to **Tuesday 7th February 2017**.

The proposal was published in the local press yesterday. It has also been posted on the Doncaster Council's website www.doncaster.gov.uk and the School's website www.highwoods.doncaster.sch.uk/parents/letters-home/ where you can download the full proposal.

Paper copies of the proposal can be requested from the school office and are available to parents and members of the public.

There will be a public information meeting to be held on **Tuesday 24th January**, from **4:30pm to 6:00pm** in the **School's West Hall**.

You are cordially invited to attend this meeting.

Representatives from the local authority will be present.

This meeting will provide an opportunity to answer questions / seek clarification resulting from the proposal.

Mexborough Pyramid Newspaper

The family of schools in Mexborough continue to work closely together. Our next joint project is a Pyramid newspaper. This will feature articles from all the pyramid schools, together with news from the Youth Clubs and local businesses. The first issue will be launched in March – copies will be sent out with the children and we will also post it on our school's website. The intention is that articles are written by the children as well as school staff.



Young Voices 2017

On Wednesday our school choir took part in the Young Voices concert at the Motorpoint Arena Sheffield.

The Young Voices concerts are the largest school choir concerts in the world and over 5,000 children were there to sing on Wednesday.

All the children thoroughly enjoyed the event - *"Everyone should take part in YV at least once, it is so inspirational and so much fun"* Summer Y6

"It was so much fun – I loved watching the street dancers - Urban Strides" Connor Y5

To see photographs that we took at the event you need to download the Young Voices app and register with the code PAR955.

Attendance – Autumn Term

Cherry Class:	94.9%
Willow Class:	97.3%
Rowan Class:	96.1%
Elm Class:	96.8%
Oak Class:	95.9%
Hazel Class:	98.4%
Sycamore Class:	96.4%
School overall:	96.6%

Well done Willow and Hazel Classes who reached our school target of 97%

113 out of 183 children are achieving 97% attendance – 62%

63 out of 183 children are at 100% attendance - 35%.

If they maintain this they will take part in the attendance visits at the end of the year.



House Points Autumn Term

Green House 1993 points

Yellow House 1834 points

Blue House 1828 points

Red House 1694 points

Well done Green House!!

Former Highwoods Pupil in TV Appearance

A former pupil of Highwoods Primary School appeared on national TV this week as part of the BBC2 series 'Our Dancing Town'.

Daniel Skelton, 19, appeared on the programme showcasing his performing arts and theatre work. The episode first aired on BBC2 on Tuesday 10th January and can be seen on BBC iPlayer. Daniel has also been interviewed by *The Barnsley Chronicle* and *Radio Sheffield*.

Daniel or Dan has maintained his links with Highwoods since he left and has become the school's resident DJ – entertaining the children at school discos.

Dan hopes to study performing arts at University and pursue a career in musical theatre. We wish him every success and hope he remembers to come and visit us when he is a West End star!!



Safeguarding

Can I remind parents that the children's toilets are for the children's use only.



Should a parent be caught short and wish to use a toilet then please ask at the office and the disabled toilet will be made available for your use.

Paying in Money

We ask that all money is handed to **££** your child's teacher in an envelope with your child's name, amount and reason written on it. This is then recorded by your child's teacher and sent to the office in the class income box.

Years 5 and 6 Mayan Day

On the first day of the Spring Term, Years 5 and 6 enjoyed a fun-filled day learning about the ancient Maya.

The children learnt that the Maya were once a civilisation that lived in Central America.

The children experienced a variety of activities including researching an ancient ball game known as Pok-a-tok, writing their own Mayan hieroglyphs, as well as designing their own Mayan mask, which would have been worn for a variety of occasions.

The children then finished off the day by feasting on tortilla bread, salsa and Mayan chocolate truffles, which they had prepared throughout the day.



Years 5 and 6 are to visit the *York Chocolate Story* to find out more about the Maya and to work with chocolate.

Local MP to visit school

Doncaster North Member of Parliament Ed Miliband is to visit Highwoods Primary School on the 20th January. He is to meet with the Mums and Dads (MaD) Group to find out all about their fundraising activities for the school.



Hopefully, he will have time to meet the children and have a tour of the school. Mr Miliband was invited to the school by the MaD group. Local press have been invited to cover the event.

The MaD Group are always looking for new recruits – they meet every Wednesday in the Community Base from 9:00am – come along and support your school.

London Residential

This year's residential to London for Years 5 and 6 will take place at the end of November / beginning of December. Dates will be confirmed when we have booked our visit to the Houses of Parliament – we cannot do this until the Autumn booking line opens in March.