



# Howard Headlines

## Key dates:

- **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October** – Half Term
- **Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October** – Secondary school application deadline
- **Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October** – Staff inset day
- **Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November** – Return to school after half term
- **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December** – Last day of term
- **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December to Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> January** – Christmas Break
- **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January** – Staff inset day
- **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January** – start of Spring term

## Baby news!

A big congratulations to Ms Handley and her husband who welcomed a baby boy over the summer holidays. We wish them the best as they begin their journey as a family of 4.

## Staff Changes

A big congratulations to Miss Pillay, Miss Winsor and Miss Blackford who have joined the Senior Leadership Team as Assistant Head Teachers.

## Harvest Festival

Thank-you to everyone who generously donated items to our harvest festival collection. These donations went to Purley Food Bank.



**Howard Primary School**

*for your harvest donation to  
Purley Food Hub - you are helping to  
make a big difference to local families  
in crisis*



## Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II (1926 – 2022)

We were deeply saddened by the news of the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. We thank her for her service and dedication to our country over the last 70 years.



The newly elected school council visited the Town Hall on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September to lay flowers and sign the book of condolences on behalf of the Howard community. While there, we were delighted to meet the Deputy Mayor of Croydon.



## Welcome back!

Welcome back to everyone at Howard Primary School, we hope you are looking forward to an enjoyable year. We hope you will join us in giving our two new reception classes – Chelsea and Grosvenor a warm welcome. We are looking forward to seeing them learn, develop and above all, enjoy their first year of school with us.

## Into Film Festival

Every year we try to provide an opportunity for all our children to visit the local cinema for the London Into-Film Week. This year all year groups will be going to watch a film at Croydon Grants cinema. Following their visit, teachers will be engaging the children in writing activities connected to the film they saw.

We find that this is an opportunity for children to learn a lot about story structure, character development, plot and sequencing and can often help the children to produce some excellent writing.

Cinema trips will take place after half term.



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## Trips in Autumn 1

We were delighted to be able to resume school trips once more this term. Where have we been so far?

- Year 6 did a walking tour of Croydon, in conjunction with their History topic on the Local Area.
- Year 5 visited the Royal Observatory in Greenwich to support their Earth and Space Science work.
- Year 4 went to a local exhibition on the Windrush to enhance their RE challenge unit entitled, Why do you judge me?

We look forward to more adventures that support our learning next half term!

## Assemblies

Did you know we have daily assemblies at Howard?

On **Mondays** we work with Mrs Pollington on developing our understanding of the Zones of Regulation.

**Tuesdays** are themed around the topic of Diversity and Global Citizenship. This term we have learnt about Diwali, Harvest, Rosh Hashanah, Democracy and European Day of Languages.

**Wednesdays** we have guided discussions in class. These have included International Day of Peace and Being Me in My World.

**Thursdays** are for singing with Miss Winser (KS2) or Miss Garbisu (KS1)

On **Fridays** we celebrate the greatest achievements of the week in our Merit Assembly.

We also had visits from Banji Alexander, a published author, who came to talk to the children about his writing, and Nabhi who taught us about the meaning of Diwali and how this is celebrated by Hindus.



## Music at Howard Primary

We have been really fortunate to collaborate with two prestigious musical organisations this term, on top of our usual Year 3 and 5 whole class instrumental lessons.

Year 4 were invited to work with the English National Opera on a composition project called *Finish This...* in which they had the opportunity to respond imaginatively to an unfinished operatic piece and compose their own endings using tuned and untuned percussion instruments.

We have also been working with the choral team at Croydon Minster, who have been delivering singing assemblies to KS1, teaching choral skills to Year 6 and working closely with the choir through voice coaching.



**Congratulations** to all newly elected members of School Council, Curriculum Committee and Eco Council! We look forward to working with you to share the voices of our pupils and help make our school even better!

Our curriculum aims to uplift and celebrate the diverse voices and backgrounds present in our community and beyond the whole year round, interweaving knowledge and understanding about a variety of cultures and histories throughout. This year, we also chose to mark Black History Month through a series of assemblies, in which the children learnt about the origins of Black History Month, the significance of the Bristol Bus Boycott and about local Black Heroes, such as Samuel Coleridge Taylor, Wilfred Zaha, Stormzy, Ralph and Otto Vignale, Luol Deng and Sislin Fay Allen. We learnt about traditional Anansi stories in a workshop by the Bigfoot Theatre Company too!

Our English Curriculum in KS2 had a poetry focus, in which each year group looked at poems by a particular Black poet, listening to examples of them reading their works, developing their own skills in reading for performance and using this as stimulus for writing their own poems. Poets studied included Joseph Coelho, bell hooks, Benjamin Zephaniah, George the Poet, Grace Nichols and Amanda Gorman.

**We wish you a restful half term and look forward to seeing everyone back on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November!**