



Howard Headlines

Key dates:

- **Wednesday 8th February** – Dress to Express day
- **Friday 10th February** – Last day of Spring 1
- **Monday 20th February** – First day of Spring 2
- **Thursday 2nd March** - World Book Day
- **13th – 19th March** - Science Week



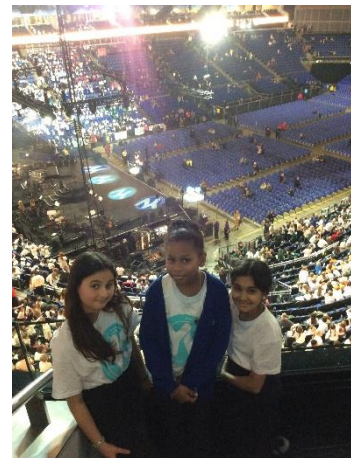
Grand Opening of the Trim Trail!

There was huge excitement in school recently for the much anticipated opening of our brand new trim trail. The whole school gathered to witness the ceremonial cutting of the ribbon by none other than Great Britain Commonwealth and Olympic Athlete, Donna Fraser OBE (who is also one of our School Governors). It was wonderful to have such an inspiring figure visit our school. Every year group now has the chance to use the trim trail for a designated lunch time each week.



Choir at the O2 Arena!

Last week, the Year 5 and 6 Performance Choir took part in the magnificent Young Voices event at the O2 Arena. Along with 9000 other children from schools across London, they performed a range of musical styles and genres, which they have been practising over recent months. The concert also featured performances from the world champion Beatbox Collective, Urban Strides Street Dance company, phenomenal violinist Anna Phoebe and....Heather Small! The children sang backing vocals for her well known song, Proud. What an experience!





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Howard Primary Needs You!

The children in Reception and Key Stage 1 have been enjoying learning how to use a campfire to toast marshmallows and boil water to make hot chocolate. We are asking for donations of the following items so we can continue to offer this activity:

- Marshmallows - vegetarian and non vegetarian
- Instant hot chocolate powder
- Kebab sticks

Mrs Simion will be collecting donations on **Friday 27th January** in the Forest School area. Alternatively, you can give your donation to your child's teacher. Thank you.



Now that we are able to take the children out on excursions more easily, we are looking to invest in a year group set of High Visibility Jackets for the children to wear when we are out and about. If you know of a company that would like to sponsor or support us financially with this investment, please let the office know. Thank you!

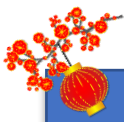


Thank you very much to all the families that donated second hand books to our Winter Wonderland. We are currently looking to increase our stock of children's books that are written in different languages, to support transition for children that join our school that have English as an Additional Language, or who have recently moved from another country. If you have any children's books, or games in other languages that you no longer need, these would be gratefully received. Thank you!

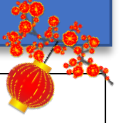


We will be celebrating **Children's Mental Health Week from 6th Feb to 10th Feb 2023**. This year theme is **Let's Connect**. We will learn about what makes us mentally healthy on Monday's ZoR assembly led by Mrs Pollington. Children will be introduced to this year's mental health challenge to be completed over the course of the week. On **Wed 8th Feb**, we will invite children and adults to **Dress to Express**. This means wearing something that makes us feel in the **Green Zone** (happy, relaxed, at ease). This could be a favourite colour, a favourite perfume, Scouts uniform or dancing shoes! Whatever it is, please wear it with pride and talk about the reason why it makes you feel that way. We will ask for a donation of £1 so we can raise funds for permanent sensory walks around school. Mrs Pollington will share more details via the Wellbeing Page on the school website.





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Did you know...

...that every year group's curriculum map for the term can now be found on the school website under Curriculum? Here you will find information on the subjects being blocked each week, learning objectives covered and the vocabulary the children are learning.

Assemblies this Half Term

Building leadership and confident speaking skills, we have had several students delivering assemblies on festivals and cultural activities that are important to them and their families. Elakya in Year 6 delivered an outstanding assembly to both KS1 and KS2 on the festival of Pongal and Wan Ru (Year 6), Kevin and Mia (Year 4) and Annia (Year 3) will be sharing the story of Lunar New Year and how they celebrate this with their families in assembly tomorrow.



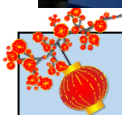
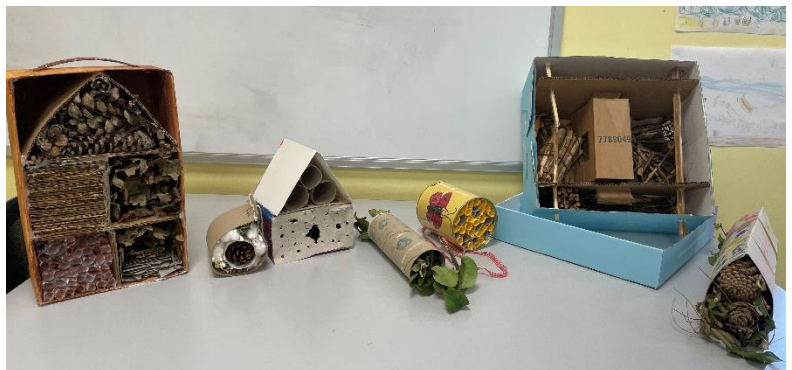
Meet Pepsi!

We are delighted to share with you that after a 2 year long wait, we have been allocated a therapy dog: Pepsi.

Pepsi is a cocker spaniel, she is 8 years old and loves reading with children, especially those who might have low confidence in reading or might be experiencing some emotional difficulties. By reading with a therapy dog, children can improve their literacy skills, emotional wellbeing and concentration in the classroom. Pepsi and Beth, her trainer, will visit Howard on Mondays. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs Pollington on senco@howard.croydon.sch.uk

Year 2's Bug Hotels

In conjunction with their forest school lessons, Year 2 had the homework task of designing and making Bug Hotels! Here are some of their fascinating creations. I think the bugs will be very comfortable, don't you?



We wish all families celebrating Lunar New Year in the Howard community a happy, healthy and prosperous new year!

