

Thursday 16th
February – Y1 trip to
Warwick Castle

Thursday 16th
February – KS2
Cinderella Ballet trip

Thursday 16th
February – children
break up for half
term.

Friday 17th February
– Training day –
Closed to children

Monday 20th –
Friday 24th February
– Half term – Closed
to children

Monday 27th
February – children
return to school

Tuesday 28th
February – Y2 trip
to Victoria & Albert
Museum

Tuesday 28th
February – Shrove
Tuesday themed
lunch

Wednesday 1st March
– Y4 Kingswood
residential

Thursday 2nd March
– World Book Day

Friday 3rd March –
Y4 children return
from Kingswood

Tuesday 7th March
– EYFS maths
parent workshop 9-
10am

10th March – 19th
March – British
Science Week 2017

What a start to the year!

Since returning to school we have been non-stop with activities, trips and workshops and the next half term sees us making even more fantastic memories! You may notice a few changes in this newsletter, we are going to try and produce a fortnightly newsletter which will share all of your children's achievements and accolades! If there is anything you or your child would like to see in the newsletter, please let me know. We hope you enjoy sharing this newsletter with your child/children.

Mrs S Garratt



World Book Day

This year we will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 2nd March (Y4 children at Kingswood will celebrate on Monday 27th February). As it has been 30 years since the first publication of 'Where's Wally', this will be the theme of the day. Children can dress up as Wally or Wenda or in red, white and blue (the colours the character's wear). Wally figures will be hidden across school for the children to find, a reading/writing activity will take place with 'Where's Wally' materials.

We are also asking children to bring a book from home that they have read to take part in a book swap in the hall. Staff will take part in the activities by reading their favourite books to other year groups. More details will follow as to the other activities we will be taking part in.

(UNCRC article 28, 29)

Maths Workshops

Over the past couple of weeks, we have been running maths workshops. So far KS1 and KS2 children have had fantastic mornings sharing their maths work with their family members. It was lovely to see so many of you working alongside your children and we have received some great feedback. We are looking forward to the EYFS event after the holidays but would like to thank you all for your support in making these ones so successful and to ask you to keep an eye out for the next set of workshops. If you have any suggestions for things you would like to see/share with your child/children, please feel free to let me know.

(UNCRC article 28, 29)

EYFS Stay and Plays

As well as maths workshops we have also been running 'Stay and Play' sessions in Nursery and Reception this term. It was lovely to meet so many new faces and see all of the children, new and present, taking part in some great activities. The newly refurbished outside EYFS area has been a real hit and the children are loving learning outside! Ask them what they have been doing outside this week! We look forward to welcoming even more of you in the next term.

(UNCRC article 28, 29, 31)

Golden Book – Well done to you all!

Every Friday during our school assembly one child from each year group and one child for PE, is awarded the 'Golden Book' certificate, this is for something they have done during the week that has made them stand out from their peers. This may be curriculum themed work, a focus on maths or English, or work they have brought in from home, but it can also be for things like demonstrating good manners at lunchtimes, acts of kindness, being respectful to others etc. This week's Golden Book recipients were...

Nam – Jasmine Johnson	3R – Malachi Chambers
Npm – Leoni Bird	3S – Daniel Hodgetts
RS – Joshua Chima	4K – Ella Howles
RD – Mya Mattis	4P – Ayden Matthews
IW – Ashanti Chambers	5B – Abby McIntosh
IE – Lexi Mole-Dudley	5L – Lucy Hughes
2P – Ibraheem Rashid	6P – Mira j Ahmed
2H – Esme Harrison	6C – Owen Parkes
(UNCRC article 29)	PE – Travis Parry (5B)



Football Teams



We would all like to say a great big well done to our boys and girls football teams who have both taken part in football matches recently.

The staff and parent's in attendance all agreed that the children all had a great time and are being fantastic ambassadors for the school. We are all very proud of you – well done!!

(UNCRC article 15, 29)

Temple Meadow – Able Writers Day

On Tuesday 14th January we went to Temple Meadow for an able writer's day. Over the course of the day we completed tasks such as writing short stories, learning about tornadoes and making a news report. Best of all it

was with the author of 'Cloud Riders', Nick Cook! It was an inspiring day and we made lots of new friends!

By Maddie and Eloise



Meeting Nick Cook was such a privilege and I was really appreciative about it. He taught us about using our imaginations so we can write something truly wonderful. I was also really proud because I won the prize for Nick's 'write of the day'.

By Faye

(UNCRC article 28, 29)

Friends of Highfield's Update

So far this year, your generous contributions have helped us raise over £3,000. We are always looking for volunteers to join us and believe the more of us there are, the more we can do. If you feel you could add value to the team be it ideas or volunteering at our events, we would love to hear from you. Simply pop into the school office and leave your contact details. All are welcome be it parents, older siblings or grandparents. Mrs Obbi-Nega

Science Challenge

Every month we will be publishing a science challenge through the newsletter for the children to have a go at solving at home with their families, this will be something simple that they can do with things they would have around the house. I would love to give the section a catchy title so wondered if you could think of a good name and the winning one will be used in the newsletter! Hand your entries in to my office by Friday 3rd March and staff will choose one ready for the next newsletter! This is the first challenge for you to try!

Cleaning Coins

Add 1 teaspoon of salt to a small bowl of vinegar and mix well.

Drop in some 1p and 2p coins.

Can you describe what happens?

Will the same work with other coins?

What about if you add more/less salt?



Science Vocabulary: dissolves, solid, liquid, solution

Cleaning coins explained:

Pennies get dull over time because the copper in the pennies slowly reacts with air to form copper oxide. Pure copper metal is bright and shiny, but the oxide is dull and greenish. When you place the pennies in the salt and vinegar solution, the acetic acid from the vinegar dissolves the copper oxide, leaving behind shiny, clean pennies. The copper from the copper oxide stays in the liquid. You could use other acids, like lemon juice, instead of vinegar.

(UNCRC article 28, 29)

Beat the Street

We were very lucky last week to be chosen as the Rowley Regis launch school for Beat the Street 2017. We were visited by Matt Hill, Rowley CANDO, Asad Agha from Beat the street, Melanie Watkins a Blackheath Neighbourhood Officer, Councillor Sue Eaves, PC Claire Lewis and Watch Commander Jason Jew. Matt led an assembly and then the children went onto the playgrounds to test the fobs and Beat Boxes.



BEAT THE STREET - SATURDAY 18 FEBRUARY - FRIDAY 7 APRIL.

Themed Lunches



We are going to be holding 2 themed lunch days after half term. The first on Tuesday 28th February is to celebrate Shrove Tuesday and will consist of a special pancake desert served with fruit and ice-cream. The second day is to celebrate World Book Day on 2nd March and will include meals like The Twits Wormy Spaghetti Bolognese (beef), James and the Giant Pizza and Fidgety Fish Fingers!!! Please see the posters around school for the full menu.

(UNCRC article 24)

To keep up to date with everything Highfields please check the schools website and your child's class page at <http://www.highfields.sandwell.sch.uk>



Young Voices 2017

I would just like to give a special mention to all of the children who attended Young Voices 2017 last month. It was my first experience of attending YV and to say I was absolutely taken aback by how sensational a day, and then evening it was, is an understatement! Staff and children here will tell you that I am rarely lost for words, but the dedication, level of enthusiasm and sheer brilliance of our Highfields children was something that I will never forget and something that I will eternally be proud of! Thank you to all of the staff and parents who made the event possible but most of all... to the children, you were absolutely phenomenal!

(UNCRC article 29)

House Point Winners

Every week we count up the children's house points and celebrate the scores in Friday assemblies. Last week's house point winners were...

1st - Clent - 419 house points

2nd - Kinver - 291 house points

3rd - Haden - 235 house points

4th - Rowley - 222 house points



At the end of every term we work out the overall winning team and the children from that team have a prize, the children asked for this to be a non-uniform day. We will let you know the date and winning team at the end of the term until then... get collecting everyone!

Dropping off Children!

I am aware that outside any school in a morning is exceptionally busy but I ask car users to show extra caution when dropping their children off. There have been a couple of incidents reported to me recently where parents cannot park close enough to school and so are dropping children off in the road! This has meant that the children are sometimes jumping out of cars and into the oncoming traffic. There have also been some reports of children and their families walking into school where cars have actually mounted the kerb to drop off children. Please make sure if you are coming to school by car you are doing so safely and are thinking about the safety of other children and their families as well. Please can parents also not use the back drive to drop children off for Breakfast Club, it is a staff car park and delivery route only.

(UNCRC article 3, 19)

ASDA

The Asda Foundation support Asda's community life programme which provides the funding for local charities and good causes. Our local Oldbury store agreed that we could have a voting box to raise money for books for our school library. It will be in store until the end of March. Please support us by a shopping trip to Asda Oldbury and placing a green token in the Highfields box, the winning good cause receives £500 with the runner up receiving £200!

Attendance Awards

This week's whole school attendance was **95.9%**

Don't forget, the whole school target we have to achieve every week is **96.5%** so we were below that last week!

This week's winning classes attendance was **EYFS - Nam - 100%**

KSI - 2P - 97.7%

KS2 - 3S - 98%



