

Friday 24th March –
Comic Relief Day

Thursday 30th March –
Reception trip to
Sudbury Hall

Friday 31st March
– Year 1 Class Assembly
– Friends of Highfields
Easter Cafe

Tuesday 4th April –
EYFS Easter Bonnets
2.15pm

Wednesday 5th April –
Parents Evening 4.00–
6.30pm
– KS2 decorated eggs in
school

Thursday 6th April –
Parents evening 4.00–
6.30pm
– KSI Easter Bonnets
2.00pm and KS2 eggs
judged

Friday 7th April– Brass
Band Assembly 9am
– Year 1 Knight &
Princess Party

EASTER HOLIDAYS
Monday 10th April –
Friday 21st April –
Children off school

Monday 24th April –
Children return to
school

Not just Monday-Friday!

As well as working hard during the week here at Highfields, lots of children have been coming to see me with things they have been doing during their own time. If your child/children do anything in their spare time that they would like to share with me then please send in any photos, trophies and we will mention them in future newsletters. Not all lessons are learnt in the classroom!

Mrs S Garratt

'The Million Minute Challenge'

A big well done to all of the children (and parents) who took part in our reading challenge. As a school we read for a total of 101,499 minutes. This put Highfields 2nd out of the 3 schools that took part in Sandwell and 72nd out of the 231 schools that took part nationally. The grand total of minutes read nationally was 15, 995, 407. The book sale held in school at the end of the week raised £36, which will be sent to the 'Achievement For All Charity' which helps children and young people fulfil their potential through coaching partnerships with schools. Thank you to everyone for supporting the children (and also to Mrs Smith for her hard work in logging all of the minutes and running the book sale.) It has been a fantastic way of helping us to raise the profile of reading across the school and raise some money for an extremely deserving charity. We look forward to taking part next year!! *Mrs M Lewis*

Thank you Mary!

Highfields would like to say a massive thank you to Mary Turner, a volunteer who recently donated compost and gardening equipment to the children to use in the school garden! We really appreciate your kind offer and this has meant that the children have been able to grown much more!

Talking of Gardening Club

Gardening Club have been growing winter salads in the school garden. This week has seen the children harvest their American Cress, Winter Purslane and Red lettuce. They made this into a side salad to accompany their school dinner and they all ate lunch together. By the amount of empty plates and bowls I'm guessing it tasted yummy! The children would also like to thank Mrs Smith who helps them in gardening club!



Olympic Gymnasts of the Future?

Some huge congratulations to Amelia Day (4P) and Charlotte Ellis (4P) for their recent gymnastic awards. Amelia achieved British Gymnastics Proficiency Awards for Levels 4, 5 AND 6 while Charlotte achieved Gymnastic awards for Level 7 and 8. Well done girls we will look out for you at Bei jing 2022!

Golden Book – Well done to you all!

Since the last newsletter these children have received Golden Book certificates. . .

Nam – Taylor Harvey, Connor Blount–Guest
Npm – Isha Ayaz, Lillie Berry
RS – Imogen Hall, Riley Holland
RW – Navneet Chuman, Scarlett Mulvey
IW – Benjamin Kavanagh, Ella Peake
IE – Toni–Grace Dunn, Megan Hopkins
2P – Alfie Turner, Taylor Bull
2H – Charlie Collier, Tíree Whitehouse
3R – Fariyah Naeem, Farouk Masri
3S – Ryan Hatton, Katie Hall
4K – Melissa Cockin, Jonah Jones
4P – Muhammed Din, Ayden Matthews
5B – Elle Smith, Kacey Hurdman
5L – Jacob Smith O' Sullivan, Madison Holland
6P – Logan Taylor, Y6 trip
6C – Jack Funnell, Y6 trip
PE – Jacob Greaves
Well done everyone!



Unicef – Out Right Campaign

In December volunteers from Years 4, 5 and 6 took part in Unicef Out Right Campaign. We wrote letters to the Home Secretary, Amber Rudge, to speak out about the rights of unaccompanied refugee children – especially their right to protection and family reunion. We are very proud to have been awarded a certificate for taking part in this campaign. We look forward to keeping you updated on our work as a Rights Respecting School in the future. *By Ben Weaver, Class 6P*



Canal and River Trust

On Wednesday 22nd March, Year 4 had a workshop all about how canals were built and the whole school had an assembly about how to stay safe around water. The reason Year 4 had the workshop is because its fits in well with our 'Wonderful Water' topic. In assembly the Canal and River Trust staff talked to us about staying safe around water. They taught us an important word and sentence, the word was safe and the sentence was to stay away from the edge! We talked about what was right and what is wrong to do near a canal. In the workshop Year 4 learnt about why and how canals were built, how things were transported and they also told us how canals changed everything by seeding up travel and transporting goods all over the country. *By Miyah Hatton, Class 4P*

Sports Council Challenge

This week the Sports Council here at Highfields would like to challenge you to find out... **how long can you balance on one leg for?**

Science Challenge

Build a soap powered boat

You will need:

- A foam tray (like the kind meat comes in) or a piece of non-corrugated cardboard
- A tray or bowl full of water
- Liquid dish soap
- A cocktail stick



Cut the foam tray or cardboard into a boat shape (see diagram). A good size seems to be about 2 inches long.

Dip the cocktail stick into the liquid soap and use it to put soap onto the sides of the notch at the back of the boat. Now carefully place the boat onto the surface of the water and watch it scoot across the water for several seconds – you've made a soap-powered boat! To demonstrate the boat again, you will need to rinse out the tray to remove any soap from the previous demonstration.

How does it work?

Soap is a surfactant – that means that it breaks down the surface tension of water. As the surface tension is broken up, it creates enough of a force to push the lightweight boat across the surface.

Make it an experiment:

To make it a true experiment, you can try to answer these questions:

- Does liquid soap last longer than a solid piece of soap?
- Does warm water work better than cold water?
- What materials make the best floating boat?
- How does the shape of the boat/notch affect it?

House Point Winners

Since the last newsletter the house point winners have been...

17/03/17	24/03/17
1 st - Kinver	1 st - Kinver
2 nd - Haden	2 nd - Haden
3 rd - Rowley	3 rd - Clent
4 th - Clent	4 th - Rowley

Receipt Reminder!

Please can we remind all parents of they purchase an item of uniform or school logo'd item from the office can you please keep your receipt. Without this school cannot issue a refund for any items returned

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>

We also continually update your child's class page with write ups and photographs so please use that to have a look at what's been happening recently in your child's class

Beat the Street update

We have received our weekly update for Beat the Street. Highfields is doing extremely well; we have moved up from 22nd place in to **6th place!!!!** As a school we have walked a total of 1279 miles! **Well done everyone** who is taking part, please keep walking and earning those points for school!



Football Updates

A massive **WELL DONE** to our girl's football team who recently played in a football tournament at Four Dwellings – please see the photos on the school website. The team lost their games but played really well against much older children. As always, we are exceptionally proud of you ladies! Well done!

Easter Cafe

On Friday 31st March Friends of Highfields will be holding an Easter cafe in the school hall from 3.30pm- 4.30om. There will be hot drinks and refreshments, as well as Easter goodies, on sale. Please feel free to drop in with your child and enjoy a drink and cake and pick up some Easter treats. We look forward to seeing you there!

Nuts and Grapes

Please can I remind all children and parents that at Highfields we have children and staff with allergies to nuts, for some this means they do not have to be in direct contact with them, being in the same room can be enough to trigger an allergic reaction or worse. This means that we **do not** allow nuts, or nut based products on site. Lately there have been some issues at lunchtime where children have Nutella on sandwiches please can you be vigilant when providing your child with a packed lunch!

Can I also remind all parents that should your child have grapes in their lunch box (no matter your child's age) they have to be cut in half lengthways – NEVER horizontally to prevent lodging and choking.



£5 note withdrawn

On 5th May 2017 the old style £5 note will be withdrawn from circulation. This is the £5 with Elizabeth Fry on the reverse. The Bank of England will exchange its old series notes but school will not be able to accept them. From now on only the new polymer £5, featuring Sir William Churchill, will be accepted.



School dinner charge increase

Just so you are aware school have recently been informed that the cost of a school dinner will **increase to £2.30 from 1st April 2017.**



Dog Mess.

Just a reminder, if you bring your dog with you on the walk to school can you please make sure they are not fouling on the pavements. We have recently seen an increase in children who have walked to school treading in dog mess.

Attendance Awards

This week's whole school attendance was **96.5%**

Don't forget, the whole school target we have to achieve every week is **96.5%** so this week we were on target – well done!

The recent winning classes attendance was **EYFS – RS/RW (92.3%) KSI – IW (98.6%) KS2 – 5B (99.7%)**



