

Newsletter - 7th October 2013

Dates for your Diaries

Tuesday 8th October—School photographs
Saturday 12th October—Friends of Highfields Auction
Tuesday 15th October—Year 5 and 6 School Representatives visit to Halesowen Foodbank
Monday 21st October—
- Fantastic Mr Fox Family Reading Workshop
- Year 5 trip to Safeside
Tuesday 22nd October—Year 6 trip to Safeside
Wednesday 23rd October—
- Year 2 Trip to Safari Park
- Charlie and the Great Glass Elevator Family Reading Workshop
Thursday 24th October—
- Spooky Lunch Day
- Friends of Highfields School Disco
Friday 25th October—TRAINING DAY—school closed
Monday 28th October to Friday 1st November— HALF TERM
Thursday 31st October—Closing date for Secondary School Applications
Monday 4th November —children return to school
Friday 8th November—5R class assembly
Thursday 14th November— Reception Trip to Sea Life Centre
Friday 15th November—
- 3K class assembly
- Children In Need
Wednesday 20th November— Parents Evening 4-6pm
Thursday 21st November— Parents Evening 5-8pm
Friday 22nd November—
- 4NB class assembly
- Friends of Highfields Fashion Night
Tuesday 26th November—Year 5 and 6—Trip to Theatre
Friday 29th November—RE class assembly
Friday 6th December—Friends of Highfields Christmas Fayre
Friday 13th December—Nursery and Reception Nativity Play
Monday 16th—Friday 20th December—Year 6 trip to Ingestre Hall
Tuesday 17th December—Key Stage 1 Christmas Concert
Monday 23rd December to Friday 3rd January—CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS
Monday 6th January—children return to school

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Harvest

Thank you to everyone who sent in produce for our harvest festival. Our harvest display looked wonderful and the food bank in Halesowen was very grateful for everything that we have sent. Representatives from the school council are going to be visiting the foodbank very soon to learn about all of the work that it does and will then be returning to share what they have learned in assembly.

Book Team

Our Year 6 Highfields Book Quiz team beat two other schools in the quarter finals last week. Well done to you all! We all wish you the best in the next round.

School Photographer

A reminder that the photographer will be in school **TOMORROW**, Tuesday 8th October, taking photographs of individuals and families.

Parents/guardians are more than welcome to bring younger, pre-school aged brothers/sisters into the hall to have family photos taken with their brothers or sisters in school. The photographer will be available from 8.15am and will be in school all morning as well as first thing in the afternoon to take photos of our PM nursery.

Homework

Following a survey which Governors carried out during the parents' evening in July, there will be some changes to the homework. The survey showed that parents wanted a combination of learning logs and more specific tasks linked to Literacy and Numeracy. Children will still have a learning log book which will have a learning log activity some weeks, with different tasks in other weeks. We have decided to keep this book to enable parents to be able to see all completed homework and the teacher comments. Our homework policy will be updated and a copy made available for parents once it has been approved by Governors. Please remember that home learning is designed to support and extend the children's learning in class and it is a way that you can support your child's learning in school.

Parking

There was an incident last week where a parent drove her car onto the pavement and almost knocked a child over. This matter has been reported to the police who have asked me to remind all parents that parking on pavements is technically an offence. Where it is necessary, a space big enough to fit a double buggy should be left and drivers mounting pavements should do so very carefully and with due regard for pedestrians.

Forthcoming Events

A reminder that the Friends of Highfields are organising an auction this Saturday 12th October.

Viewing starts at 12 noon for a 1pm start. Last year there were lots of bargains with most items starting at less than a pound! Please come and support us if you can and if you have any items that you would like to donate for the sale, please either bring into school or contact Phil Margetts who can collect larger items.

A 'Fright Night' themed disco will take place on Thursday 24th October. Times are 6pm – 7pm for children in Nursery, Reception and years 1&2 with the second disco from 7.15 – 8.45pm for children in Years 3-6. Tickets will be available in the playground during the week leading up to the disco.

Languages

Year 6 -

This year again we will be corresponding with a school in France.

Each pupil will get a penpal. We write to them in French and they reply to us in English. This is a fantastic experience for the children and it has been a success since we started 4 years ago. If you would like your child to send a picture to their penpal, feel free to send a photograph to school with their name written on the back.

Year 5 -

We have linked with a school in France and we will be working on a project called Culture in a Box. Pupils need to find 10 items that represent their country and put them in a box. Each school then sends a parcel to their partner school. This will give Year 5 the opportunity to explore typical things about France.

Box Tops Books

After 15 years of supporting schools with Box Tops for Books, Nestle have informed us that 2013/2014 will be the last year of the scheme.

As a school our library has benefited from free books during this time.

Tokens will start to disappear from packs from January 2014 so please collect them whilst you can and send them in to school.

The campaign closing date is March 7th 2014. Thank you to everyone who has supported this activity.

Secondary & Reception School Places

If your child is in year 6, you will need to submit an online application for a secondary school place. The closing date for applications is 31st October 2013. If your child is due to start Reception in September 2014 the closing date for online applications is 15th January 2014.

Dinner Money

If you wish your child to have a school dinner, please ensure you pay in advance on a Monday. Please send money to school in a sealed envelope with your child's name, class and the day(s) you require dinner on.

