

## Newsletter - 10th January 2014

### Dates for your Diaries

Friday 17th January—School choir Young Voices concert  
Friday 24th January—6L class assembly  
Monday 27th January—Year 1 trip to Warwick Castle  
Tuesday 28th January—Year 2 SAT's parent meeting—2.30pm  
Friday 31st January—6B class assembly  
Wednesday 5th February—  
Friday 7th February—Year 4 trip to Portsmouth  
Thursday 6th February—Year 6 trip to Hindu Temple  
Friday 14th February—2P class assembly  
Monday 17th February—Friday 21st February—HALF TERM  
Monday 24th February—Children return to school  
Friday 28th February—  
- 5P class assembly  
- Year 3 trip to Think Tank  
Friday 7th March—4JB class assembly  
Friday 14th March—3C class assembly  
Wednesday 26th March—Parents' Evening  
Thursday 27th March—Parents' Evening  
Friday 28th March—Mother's Day assemblies for Nursery AM & PM  
Friday 4th April—1V class assembly  
Monday 14th April—Friday 25th April—EASTER HOLIDAYS  
Monday 28th April—Children return to school  
Monday 5th May—SCHOOL CLOSED for bank holiday  
Tuesday 20th May—Class group photographs  
Thursday 22nd May—SCHOOL CLOSED for voting  
Friday 23rd May—SCHOOL CLOSED for training day  
Monday 26th May—Friday 30th May—HALF TERM  
Monday 2nd June—Children return to school

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome back, we hope you had an enjoyable Christmas and New Year. We are all looking forward to a busy Spring term.

### Ingestre Hall

From the 16th—20th December, 37 of our year 6 children enjoyed a fantastic week at Ingestre Hall. The group took part in a variety of art, music and drama activities culminating in a performance on the Thursday evening which everyone enjoyed immensely. Well done to all of the children who attended who were a credit to the school.

### Year 2 SAT's Parents Meeting

A meeting will be held on Tuesday 28th January at 2.30pm for the parents of year 2 children to discuss upcoming SAT's.

### Book Donations

Mrs Adams recently wrote to you asking if you have any good quality reading books that you can donate to help school children in South Africa.



Children can bring any unwanted books into school before 31st January and place in the relevant house box located in the school hall. The house that collects the most books will receive bonus house points.

### Message from Brian Edwards—Chair of Governors

I wish you all a happy New Year as we start the Spring Term for 2014. I would like to introduce myself as the Chair of Governors for Highfields and my colleagues who make up the governing body for Highfields.

There are fifteen of us who make up the governing body, we are all from the local community, including parents and teachers of Highfields as well as local business people and those who bring particular skills and experience to the role as a school governor.

Recent changes in government education policy has increased the demands made upon school governors, I am pleased to say that Highfields governors look forward to this challenge and we shall continue our commitment to ensuring that Highfields provides the best opportunities and safe environment for children at the school and those yet to join to enjoy learning at Highfields. Governors bring a wide variety of experience and skills to the role as governor and we use this in making decisions about the future for Highfields and how we can improve the facilities and environment for our children. A recent example is the new science and cookery classroom. Governors asked teaching staff to identify a major requirement and from this a new building was approved by governors and

opened in September, providing children the opportunity to explore science and cookery in a purpose built classroom, not an experience that many Key stage 1 and 2 children will have locally.

You may see governors from time to time in the school or at school events or you may know a school governor. If you have a suggestion or question about the school please speak to us as we are always ready to hear your views. If you want to contact me as Chair of Highfields please contact me via the school office. Other school governors include:-

- ◆ Parent Governors — Ian Woodward and Phil Margetts
- ◆ Local Authority Governor—Sharon Wallace
- ◆ Head Teacher Governor—Mrs Heap
- ◆ Staff Governor—Mr Bullock
- ◆ Co-opted Governors— Joanne Turner, Steve Jones, Lesley Mortimer-Waith, David Kettle, Elaine Hipkiss, Raj Lagan and Jane Johnson.

### Parking

You may have noticed that a residents parking bay has been introduced outside the houses opposite the school front gates. A parking permit is now required to park in this area and parking wardens are patrolling the area to monitor usage of the parking bay.

### Reception Applications September 2014

The deadline for submitting an application for a Reception school place in September 2014 is Wednesday 15th January 2014. If your child is due to start Reception in September please ensure your application is submitted before the closing date. Please make your application online at

[www.sandwell.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/schooladmissions) if you are a Sandwell resident. Non Sandwell residents should contact their home authority.

### Nursery Applications September 2014

Was your child born between 1st September 2010 and 31st August 2011? The closing date for Nursery applications is Friday 14th March. Application forms are obtainable from and returnable to the school office.

### Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal



Thank you very much for helping with the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal in November. This year with your help £70.11 was collected with a district total of £13,922.96. Without your help, they would be unable to continue their vital welfare and benevolent work.