

### Dates for your Diaries

- Wednesday 13th January—  
Reception & KS1 active parent workshop
- Thursday 14th January—  
- KS2 active parent workshop  
- Pantomime trip
- Wednesday 20th January—  
Reception trip to Blackheath Library
- Monday 25th January—Y4 Fire Safety talk
- Friday 29th January—3R class assembly
- Monday 1st February—Y4 Kingswood parent meeting 3.30pm
- Friday 5th February—  
- 6P class assembly  
- Friends of Highfields disco  
- Book swap day
- Tuesday 9th February—Choir trip to Symphony Hall
- Wednesday 10th February—  
Reception Hand & Feet talk
- Friday 12th February—  
- Y1 trip to Warwick Castle  
- Y5 trip to Space Centre  
- Break up for half term
- Monday 22nd February— children return to school
- Wednesday 24th February —  
Parents' evening
- Thursday 25th February —Parents' evening
- Friday 26th February—4K assembly
- Tuesday 1st March—Mother's Day gift sales
- Wednesday 2nd March—  
- Mother's Day gift sales  
- Y4 trip to Kingswood
- Thursday 3rd March — Y2 trip to V&A museum
- Friday 4th March—  
- Y4 return from Kingswood  
- Book swap day

Dear Parents/Guardians,

**Happy New Year!** I hope that you enjoyed the festive season with your families.



Thank you all very much with bearing with us last week during our building challenges! Unfortunately we were unable to save the carpet in the Key Stage 1 corridor and this has been removed and a new one will be fitted shortly. Luckily, the carpet in Year 1 was not as damaged and has been dried out using de-humidifiers. The issues with the heating were caused by some work that our electricity supplier had been carrying out in the local area but they assure us that it is all fine now. Thank you again.

### Reception September 2016

Can I remind parents who have children who need a Reception place for September, that the closing date for applications is THIS FRIDAY, 15TH JANUARY. Applications made after this date will be classed as LATE and may result in your preferred school not being allocated.

### Nursery September 2016

The closing date for applications for a Nursery place in September is Friday 18th March 2016. Application forms are obtainable from and returnable to the school office. If we have already received an application form from you, you should have received a letter this week inviting you and your child to a stay and play session later this month.

### Young Voices

A huge well done to all of the children who represented Highfields at the Young Voices performance at the Genting Arena, Birmingham last night. As always the children were a credit to the school.

### Books & Beyond is Back!

To coincide with World Book Day we will be relaunching 'Books and Beyond' on the 3rd March. There will be fewer stages and children will be collecting badges, leading to the awards ceremony at the end of the 4 month process, where children who have successfully participated will receive a certificate and book of their choice. More information will follow as World Book Day approaches.

### Conduct

A concerned parent has been into school to make us aware of a 'heated discussion' that took place recently between two parents at the start of the school day that involved some bad

language. Can I respectfully ask parents to remember that there are many young children in school and that using bad language in front of children is not setting a good example and it can cause offence to children and parents alike.

### Training Day's

Please be reminded that the following dates will be training days and school will be closed to all children;

- Monday 11th April 2016
- Tuesday 12th April 2016

This week we have received notification from Sandwell MBC of their intention to use our school as a polling station on Thursday 5th May 2016 for local elections. Therefore school will be closed on Thursday 5th May 2016 for local elections. School will also be closed the following day, Friday 6th May 2016 for teacher training.

### Poppy Appeal



Thank you very much for helping with the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal in November. This year with your help £203.88 was collected with a district total of £17,336.50. All monies raised will be used for the benefit of Military personnel past and present and their dependants.

### Toys Needed

Our Reception classes are setting up a toy shop area in their classroom as part of their Toy Box topic this term. If you have any unwanted small toys, suitable for Reception age children, they would be much appreciated. E.g. dolls, cars, yo-yo's etc.



### Attendance Reminder

As of September 2015 the Government has increased the expectations of attendance of children at schools and anyone with an attendance of below 90% will be classed as a 'Persistent Absentee'. Whilst we do understand that children are of course ill, it is increasingly important that time off during term time is not taken for reasons other than illness wherever possible. This will help to avoid your child falling below the 90% threshold.

### Spare Clothes



Our nursery and reception classes are running short of spare clothes; trousers, skirts, t-shirts, socks etc. If you have any at home that your child has grown out of we would be very grateful for them.