

Newsletter - 12th September

Dates for your Diaries

- Wednesday 17th September—Year 1 pedestrian training
- Thursday 18th September—Wear your jeans & wellies day
- Friday 19th—Year 3 Greek day
- Tuesday 23rd September—Harvest celebration
- Wednesday 24th September—Year 1 pedestrian training
- Friday 26th September—Year 1 trip to Wyre Forest
- Friday 3rd October—Friends of Highfields disco
- Tuesday 7th October—School photographs
- Wednesday 8th October—Key Stage 2 trip to cinema
- Wednesday 15th October—School Council trip to Pizza Express
- Friday 17th October—2E class assembly
- Friday 24th October—
 - 4B class assembly
 - Break up for half term
- Monday 27th October to Friday 31st October—Half term holiday
- Tuesday 4th November -
 - Reception trip to Sycamore Green Adventure
 - Key Stage 2 trip to cinema
- Thursday 6th November—Year 2 trip to Safari Park
- Friday 7th November—Year 4 Roman day
- Friday 14th November—Children in Need
- Tuesday 18th November—Year 1 & 2 trip to cinema
- Friday 21st November—Year 4 trip to Roman Fort
- Friday 28th November—3K class assembly
- Tuesday 2nd December—trip to Nutcracker
- Friday 12th December—Christmas Fayre
- Friday 19th December—break up for Christmas

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome back to a new academic year and a special warm welcome to all of the new children and families who have joined us.

The children are settling very well and it has been a very calm start to the academic year – greatly helped by the lovely weather! The children look very smart and thank you to all of the parents for the effort that you have made.

The Phase Co-ordinators have written letters to give you details of the curriculum and themes that your child will be following this term. If you lose any letters, they are uploaded onto the school website, so please have a look.

New Staff

A warm welcome to Miss Westwood, our new Year 2 teacher and also to Miss Drury, a member of support staff in Reception. Miss Saunt, our PE coach is now employed directly by school and in addition to teaching PE, is also supporting at lunchtime organising sporting activities/matches for the children.

Congratulations also to Miss R Powell who got married over the summer holidays and is now Mrs Davison.

Breakfast Club



Breakfast club has started and the children are enjoying our new provision. There are a limited number of places available – cost is £3 per day.

Please enquire at the school office if you are interested.

Free Meals for Reception, Years 1 and 2

A reminder that all of the children in Reception, Years 1 and 2 are now entitled to a free school meal every day, regardless of your circumstances. This saves £10 per week per child and a lot of trouble making packed lunches! Whilst our dinner numbers are now well over 200 each day, I am pleased to say that it has all gone very well. A big well done to the cooks and lunchtime supervisors! To reduce queuing time, we have set up an additional serving station at the other side of the hall. The additional station serves jacket potatoes and sandwiches. So, even if you know your child doesn't like hot dinners, sandwiches are also available. We have explained this system to



the children in school, but if you could reinforce, with your child, the importance of going to the correct queue it would help.

An update on the new school logo

Thank you to everyone who sent in entries for this. The new logo combines the ideas of many children and clearly represents our strapline, 'Roots to Grow and Wings to Fly'. I am also pleased that it contains a tree and therefore represents the history and location of the school which was formerly known as 'Beeches Road School'.

It has been sent off to the uniform provider and we will let you know as soon as we begin to stock uniform with this on. Here it is!



Admission Forms

The online application process for Reception and Secondary places for September 2015 will open on Monday 15th September. If you have a child currently in Nursery or in Year 6, you will need to complete the online application form. Year 6 children will receive a letter today containing further information and details of how to apply. If you need any support to complete the form, then our Learning Mentor, Mrs Adams, will be pleased to help you. Letters will be sent to Nursery children next week. Applications for secondary school places must be submitted by 31st October 2014 and the deadline for Reception school places is 15th January 2015.

School Council

Our School Council for the year has been democratically elected and is as follows; Sydney Partridge and Mary Simmonds from Year 1, Lauren Patrice and Amelie Carpenter from Year 2, Oliver Bragg and Adam Whitehouse from Year 3, Faye Tancred and Isabella Sula from Year 4, Emily Donegan and Jamie Howles from Year 5 and Charlie Jew and Joshua Birch from Year 6.

Forms

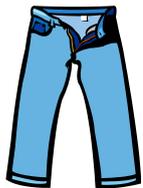
I appreciate that at this time of year there are a lot of forms to complete. As you can imagine, updating the details for 456 children on our computer system takes a lot of time! It would be very much appreciated if these could be returned promptly.



Wear your Wellies & Jeans

We receive many requests for fundraising at Highfields and have to make some hard decisions as to who we support. On Thursday 18th September we are going to support two charities;

Farm Africa is working to end hunger and bring prosperity to farming communities in Eastern Africa. This charity has for 30 years been helping farmers to provide for their families and grow a future free from hunger. **By wearing your wellington boots to school you can help African farmers give hunger the boot.**



The second charity is Jeans for Genes. We all inherit a range of talents, skills and personality traits through our genes but 1 in 25 children also inherit a genetic disorder that makes their life very different. **By wearing a pair of jeans you'll be helping to fund the extra care and support that transforms their lives.**

All money raised will be equally shared between the two charities and we are asking for £1 donation if you choose to wear both your wellington boots and jeans to school or 50p if you choose to wear only jeans or wellington boots.

Harvest Festival

Our Harvest Festival will be on Tuesday 23rd September. This year each class will create a hamper of food to donate to Age Concern, Halesowen. We kindly ask for donations of food such as tinned food, rice, pasta, biscuits, tea, coffee etc to be brought into school on Monday 22nd September to give the children time to prepare the hampers.



Woodwind Lessons

Woodwind lessons are being offered to children in year 4 or year 5. If your child is interested in playing a woodwind instrument, such as the clarinet or flute, please speak to the school office.

Some reminders!

As it is the beginning of a new academic year, I thought some reminders may be useful and appropriate, in particular for any new parents.

If your child is ill

If your child is not well enough to attend school, please remember to call the school number and use the absence line to report your child absent.

Holiday Forms

A gentle reminder that holidays in school term cannot be authorised unless in exceptional circumstances. Proof of these exceptional circumstances will now be asked for. It is also important that these holiday requests are submitted at least 1 month prior to the holiday being booked.

Collecting Children

A reminder for parents collecting children from Nursery, Reception and Years 1 & 2. Please try to stand back from the gates when collecting so that staff can have a good view to ensure that children are handed over safely. If for any reason someone different is going to collect the children,

please make sure that you have let the teacher know.

Dinner money

Please help us to ease office congestion by sending your dinner money in a sealed envelope, clearly marked with your child's name into school on a **Monday**. Dinner money on a daily basis will not be accepted as I am sure that you will appreciate, that the cook needs an idea of numbers at the beginning of each week in order to be able to order food.

Jewellery

This can be a hazard in school, particularly earrings. If your child does have earrings, then small studs are best as they cannot be pulled or get caught on equipment. All earrings should be removed for PE or covered with protective tape – please send this in with your child to keep in their PE bags.

Medicines in school

If your child requires essential, regular medication, this can be administered in school once a care plan has been established with the school nurse. If your child requires short-term medication, this can only be administered in school if it has been prescribed by a doctor or dentist and is in the original packaging with your child's name on the dispensing label. In such cases, you will be required to complete a medicines form, available in the school office. As always, we are here to help and if you have any queries or questions at any point, please do not hesitate in speaking to your child's class teacher, or making an appointment to see Mrs Garratt, Mrs Price or myself.

Parking

Can we please remind you to park considerately in the roads around school. Please avoid double parking and blocking residents driveways.

Attendance

Can I please remind you that school starts promptly at 8.50am, which is when pupils have numeracy or literacy lessons. Doors open promptly at 8.40am. Any children arriving after the bell at 8.50am will be given a late mark and the number of minutes recorded. Parents of children that are late will be notified weekly of the total learning time missed through lateness. Any children arriving after close of registers at 9.05am will receive an unauthorised absence mark, unless lateness is due to a medical appointment for which proof must be provided.

2014/15 Term Dates

Autumn term 2014

Half term holiday: Monday 27 October to Friday 31 October
Term ends: Friday 19 December
Christmas holiday : Monday 22 December to Friday 2 January 2015

Spring term 2015

Term starts: Monday 5 January
Half term holiday: Monday 16 February to Friday 20 February
Term ends: Friday 27 March
Easter holiday : Monday 30 March to Friday 10 April

Summer term 2015

Term starts: Monday 13 April
Bank holiday: Monday 4 May
Half term holiday : Monday 25 May to Friday 29 May
Term ends: Friday 17 July
Main summer holiday: From Monday 20 July