

Newsletter - 13th September 2013

Dates for your Diaries

- Friday 20th September—6L visiting Ormiston Forge Academy
- Monday 23rd September—Year 1 Trip to Wyre Forest
- Tuesday 24th September—School Council Visit to Mayor's offices
- Wednesday 25th—Year 6 Heights and Weights
- Friday 27th September—Dalhicious Dress Up Day
- Friday 27th September—Friends of Highfields Bingo Night
- Monday 30th September—Reception Stay and Play
- Wednesday 2nd October—
 - Highfields Bookworms Book Quiz
 - Reception Trip to Haden Hill
- Tuesday 8th October—School photographs
- Saturday 12th October—Friends of Highfields Auction
- Wednesday 23rd October—Year 2 Trip to Safari Park
- 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
- Monday 4th November—children return to school
- Thursday 14th November—Reception Trip to Sea Life Centre
- Friday 22nd November—Friends of Highfields Fashion Night
- Tuesday 26th November—Year 5 and 6—Trip to Theatre
- Friday 6th December—Friends of Highfields Christmas Fayre
- Friday 13th December—Nursery and Reception Nativity Play
- 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,

Welcome Back! I hope that you all enjoyed the holidays and we were blessed with some lovely weather! A special welcome to all of the new children and families – I look forward to getting to know you all.

It is lovely to have the children back in school looking so smart. Please remember to label EVERYTHING! That way, if the children do lose anything, it is far easier for us to be able to return it to the correct owner. Please also write your child's name in their shoes to avoid any confusion when getting changed for PE.



As you may have noticed, we have had lots of builders on site during the holidays. The Science and Cookery room has now been completed and we will be holding an official opening of it in due course. We are very excited about the opportunities this offers for the children and also for parents and the wider community too. Our front office has also been refurbished and we have received lots of positive comments about it already! The front drive has also been improved with additional fencing added to ensure that we have separate vehicle and pedestrian access during the day and also to provide some additional playground space for the children.

We have had a very calm start to the beginning of this academic year and the children have settled very quickly and are busy learning already. The Phase Co-ordinators will be writing to you shortly with details of the topics and themes that the children will be learning about this term. Many dates for assemblies, trips and events have already been booked for this term and these have been included in the date column.

During the Science and Cookery Room build, we introduced a slightly staggered lunchtime to ensure that the children had plenty of room to play. This proved to be such a success with benefits to reduced queuing time for lunches and also more playground space that we have decided to continue with this, this year.

Water Bottles

A reminder that we encourage children to bring in named water bottles from home. These are to be brought in each morning and then taken home each day to be



cleaned. There are several water coolers around school and children are actively encouraged to drink water throughout the day. As we are a 'Healthy' school, the bottles can only contain water and not juice, squash or fizzy drinks. Thank you for your co-operation with this matter.

Dalhicious Dress Up Day

We are planning to get involved with Dalhicious Dress Up Day on Friday 27th September and primary school children across the UK are being asked to donate just £1 to dress up as a Roald Dahl character. From Willy Wonka to Matilda, The Witches and the Twits, there are plenty of phizz-whizzing folk to choose from Roald Dahl's stories, which are loved by millions of children all over the world. We are planning a few things during that week to celebrate the books of Roald Dahl.

Keyboards

We will again be offering Key Stage 2 children the opportunity to take keyboard lessons. The lessons will be held on Tuesday mornings.



The cost of the lesson is £5.30 per week and is payable termly. If your child is interested in taking keyboard lessons then please speak to the school office.

Mr Astle

After more than 22 years service our caretaker, Mr Astle, will be retiring. We would like to thank Mr Astle for all of his hard work and wish him well for a happy and healthy retirement. We would like to welcome Mr Ruddock, who will be taking over from Mr Astle when he retires on Friday 20th September.

Spooky Lunch

On Thursday 24th October Fresh Catering will be preparing a special 'Spooky Lunch' school dinner, which will include a variety of options such as hot dog sausages (pork and vegetarian), sweetcorn chips, jacket potatoes and a selection of sandwiches. For dessert there will be spooky shortbread biscuits, green minty custard, yogurt ice cream and water melon to choose from. A bread basket, salad bar and fruit cuplet drink will also be available. You can order a Spooky Lunch at the school office for the normal school dinner price of £2.00.