



Dates for your Diaries

- Friday 22nd May—break up for half term
- Monday 1st June—Training day
- Tuesday 2nd June—Children return to school
- Tuesday 2nd to Thursday 4th June—Nursery September 2015 Home Visits
- Wednesday 3rd June—Reception School Nurse Heights & Weights
- Thursday 4th June—Y2 SATs
- Friday 5th June—Y6 trip to Symphony Hall
- Tuesday 9th June—Year 2 SATs
- Wednesday 10th June—Year 2 SATs
- Thursday 11th June—
 - Year 5 trip to Cosford
 - Football team at home to Reddal Hill
- Friday 12th June—
 - 5P class assembly
 - Y3 trip to Cannock Chase
- Monday 15th June—Reception Sports Day AM
- Tuesday 16th June—Reception Hearing Tests
- Thursday 18th June—Year 2 trip to Weston-Super-Mare
- Friday 19th June—
 - 3C class assembly
 - AM & PM Nursery Class Sports Day AM
- Tuesday 23rd June—Y5 cooking experience at Ormiston Forge Academy
- Wednesday 24th June—
 - Sports Day KS2 AM, KS1 PM
 - Mufti Day for Summer Fayre
- Thursday 25th June—Books & Beyond Ceremony 2.45pm
- Friday 26th June—
 - 1V class assembly
 - Summer Fayre PM
- Tuesday 30th June—Y5 cooking experience at Ormiston Forge Academy
- Wednesday 1st July—September 2015 Nursery & Reception Intake Parents' Meeting 6pm
- Friday 3rd July—FoH disco
- Monday 6th July—Reception September 2015 Play & Stay PM
- Tuesday 7th July—Reception Play & Stay
- Wednesday 8th July—Parents' Evening
- Friday 17th July—Break up for summer
- Thursday 3rd September—Training day
- Friday 4th September—Training day
- Monday 7th September—Children return to school

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Training Day

Please remember that Monday 1st June 2015 is a training day. Children return to school after half term on Tuesday 2nd June.

Sandwell Families Big Picnic

Sandwell Family Information Service is hosting its sixth Sandwell Families Big Picnic on Friday 29 May 2015 from 11am – 3pm at Sandwell Valley Park (The Paddock opposite the farm). There will be lots to see and do including face painting, balloon modelling, story telling, play activities, bhanga tots, sporting activities, animal fun, and much more.....

Entrance and activities are FREE of charge. Don't forget to bring a picnic! If you require any further information please contact: SANDWELL FAMILY INFORMATION SERVICE - 0121 569 4914

Young Carers

Sandwell Young Carers is a charitable organisation that provides support and short breaks to children and young people whose lives have been affected as a result of their caring role. Young Carers can spend a lot of time looking after a family member (usually a parent or sibling) who is chronically ill, experiencing a mental illness, has alcohol or substance abuse related difficulties, has a physical illness or is diagnosed with HIV or AIDS. Sandwell Young Carers is working with your school to help identify and support young carers within the school. Mrs Adams is the young carers lead in school. This means that you can go to Mrs Adams for more information or support.

If you prefer you can contact Sandwell Young Carers directly for more information on 0121 525 8002 / 0121 525 7667 or visit their website: www.sandwellyc.org.uk.

Birthday Treats

When buying birthday treats for your child's class a parent has asked us to point out that some children are unable to eat gelatin, so please can you bear this in mind.

Summer Fayre

This year's summer fayre will take place on the afternoon of Friday 26th June 2015. I can confirm we will be having a mufti day on Wednesday 24th June and ask children to come into school wearing their own clothes and bring in something for the summer fayre, further details will be confirmed closer to the date. In the meantime, if you could start saving toys from McDonald's Happy Meals and sorting out books, toys etc that are no longer wanted this will really help us.

We are also running a competition for children to design the cover of the

programme for the fayre. Attached is a template for them to complete. Please return completed forms by Friday 5th June.

Class Photographs

If you wish to purchase a copy of your child's class photograph, please return completed forms with payment by **Friday 5th June 2015**.

Dogs

Can I please remind parents that dogs are not allowed on school grounds, this includes dogs being carried.

Uniform

We have been able to maintain the same low price for uniform since September 2013, but having recently reviewed the cost of uniform we will be increasing our prices from 1st June 2015.

Active Vouchers

Thank you to everyone that has collected Sainsbury's Active vouchers so far this year. The deadline for sending vouchers into school is **Friday 5th June 2015**. The vouchers really do make a difference to school and have been used in the past to buy, basketball posts, tennis equipment and cookery equipment. Please hand your vouchers in at the school office.

Sports Day

Our first Sports Day this summer will be for our Reception classes during the morning of Monday 15th June.

Sports Day for Both AM and PM Nursery classes will take place on Friday 19th June, in the morning.

Key Stage 1 and 2's Sports Day will take place on Wednesday 24th June. KS2 will take place in the morning and KS1 will take place in the afternoon.

Further information for all events will follow closer to the date.

Books and Beyond

Our Books and Beyond Ceremony will take place on Thursday 25th June at 2.45pm. Gold medal winners should have received a letter earlier this week.



Schoolcomms

Following consultation with parents at our last parents' evening, I am pleased to confirm that we will be launching an online payment system after half term. This will enable parents to make payments online for things like dinner money and school trips using the internet. Further information will follow.

Attendance News

Thank you to all the children who purchased raffle tickets to raise money for a new badge maker in school. We raised £144 through the raffle and Friends of Highfields kindly made up the difference for us to make the purchase. Continued....



Raffle Prizes

- The first prize was a Nintendo DS Lite with two brain training games. I'm pleased to confirm that Harrison Smart from 1H was selected at random in assembly this morning.
- Second prize was an entrance ticket to Ash End House Farm and a toy tractor which goes to Rukaya Hasan from 2W.
- Third prize was a pair of clip on Street Gliders won by Tobias Allen in 1H.
- Fourth prize was a Learn to Fly Parafoil Kite kit which went to Ella Tuohy in 3C.
- Fifth prize was a Swingball tail ball game set won by Erin Oakley in 1H.

100% Attendance

Up to this half terms cut-off date of 15th May 2015, 313 children had achieved 100% attendance for this half term. This is a really impressive achievement, well done to all!

Persistent Absenteeism

I need to make you aware that new government guidelines from September 2015 will mean the Persistent Absenteeism threshold will be increased from 85% to 90%. This is a threshold set by the government, not school, and will mean any child in school with attendance of 90% or below will be classed as a persistent absentee. Persistent absentee's are required to provide proof of illness and appointments in order for any absence to be authorised. Our Attendance Officer will continue to monitor all absences across school and will contact parents of children whose attendance is below this threshold.

Attendance Policy

I would like to remind you that our latest Attendance Policy is available on the school website and includes information on procedures parents and school need to follow for lateness, illness and leave of absence during term time.

Holiday / Leave of Absence During Term Time

It has been brought to our attention that some parents have not followed the correct procedure for holiday/leave of absence during term time and have instead informed school that their child is poorly. This is to inform all parents that if this is found to be the case school has no alternative but to make a referral to the Attendance & Prosecution Office.

Half Term Attendance Prizes

All children with attendance of 95% and above for this half term were entered into a prize draw.
Nursery—Lexi Mole-Dudley—awarded a gardening set.
Reception—Owen Reeve—awarded a gardening set.
KS1 & 2—15 children selected at random for a trip to Pizza Express on the morning of 26th June 2015.
KS2—Amber Naeem & Daryl Leddington—selected prizes from the prize box.

Term Dates for 2015-2016

Autumn Term 2015

Training day: Thursday 3rd September

Training day: Friday 4th September

Children return: Monday 7th September

Half term holiday: Monday 26th October to Friday 30th October 2015

Term ends: Friday 18th December 2015

Christmas holiday: Monday 21st December 2015 to Friday 1st January 2016

Spring Term 2016

Term starts: Monday 4th January 2016

Half term holiday: Monday 15th February to Friday 19th February 2016

Term ends: Thursday 24th March 2016

Easter holiday: Friday 25th March to Friday 8th April 2016

Summer Term 2016

Term starts: Monday 11th April 2016

Bank holiday: Monday 2nd May 2016

Half term holiday: Monday 30th May to Friday 3rd June 2016

Term ends: Friday 22nd July 2016

Summer holiday: From Monday 25th July 2016

Enjoy your half term!