

Newsletter - 29th November 2013

Dates for your Diaries

- Friday 29th November**—RE class assembly
- Monday 2nd December**—
- Mufti day for Christmas Fayre
- Year 3 Trumpet Assembly 9am
- Thursday 5th December**—
Reception Reading Workshop
- Friday 6th December**—
Friends of Highfields Christmas Fayre—2pm-4pm
- Monday 9th December**—
Brass Band playing at Salvation Army, Cradley Heath
- Tuesday 10th December**—
Ingestre Hall Meeting for Parents 3.30pm
- Wednesday 11th December**—
Christmas Dinner
- Thursday 12th December**—
Carol Service at St Paul's at 1.30pm
- Friday 13th December**—
Nursery and Reception Nativity Play at 2pm
- Monday 16th—Friday 20th December**—Year 6 trip to Ingestre Hall
- Tuesday 17th December**—
Key Stage 1 Christmas Concert at 6pm
- Thursday 19th December**—
Foundation Stage Christmas party
- Friday 20th December**—
KS1 Christmas party
- Monday 23rd December to Friday 3rd January**—
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS
- Monday 6th January**—
TRAINING DAY—school closed
- Tuesday 7th January**—
children return to school

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Mufti Day

We will be holding a mufti day on Monday 2nd December. Children are invited to come into school wearing their own clothes and bring in a donation for the Christmas Fayre. This year, can we ask for the following items from the following year groups please:

Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2—
chocolates and groceries such as tins, cereals, packets of food (please make sure all food is unopened and in date)

Year 3, 4, 5 and 6— bottles (again, unopened and in date please)
Your donations really help to make our Christmas Fayre a success, so thank you in advance.

Year 3 Trumpet Assembly



Year 3 will be showcasing what they have learnt in their brass lesson in a special assembly on Monday 2nd December at 9am. Parents of Year 3 children are welcome.

Shoe Boxes Needed

If you have any old shoe boxes at home, please can you donate to school to help us make Christmas hampers?

Children in Need

Children in Need was a great success! The sale of keyrings, wristbands and cakes along with the raffle and pyjama day raised £639.65! Thank you to everyone who took part.

Staff Update

Miss Beard will be leaving us at the end of term for promotion to the role of Assistant Head Teacher in Staffordshire. We wish her all the very best in her new role. We welcome Mrs Lines back off maternity leave in December who will be taking over the teaching of 6B.

Mrs Hinton will also be returning next week and she will take over the teaching of Reception after Christmas. Mrs Faulkner-Evans will remain with us and will be fortunate that she will be an extra teacher within Year 1.

Food Bank

Following a recent visit, the School Council have placed a food bank collection box in school's front office. They are hoping that you will donate some special Christmas food that they can send to the Black Country food bank in December. The box will be there until Monday 9th December.

Christmas Fayre Friday 6th December – from 2pm – 4pm.

Our school brass band will be opening the fayre and all children will be making things to sell on school stalls. Father Christmas will also be making an appearance in his grotto! Please try and support us if you can. Due to our Christmas Fayre taking place during the school day, safety of the children is paramount. All children will be taken around the fayre with their class teachers prior to the fayre being opened to the public. Therefore, if you are unable to attend but wish to send some money in with your child in a named envelope, please do so and they can spend this whilst with their teacher. If you would like to collect your child at 2pm to enable you to visit the fayre with them, then please collect your child from the doors listed below and the teacher will sign them out. To reduce queues, children can be collected from various external doors as follows:



- Nursery – Nursery conservatory door
- Reception – Reception conservatory door
- Year 1 – School office
- Year 2 – Year 2 external classroom doors
- Year 3 – Mr Kemble's classroom door
- Year 4 – Miss Banyard's door
- Year 5 – Miss Pell's door
- Year 6 – Mrs Lewis' door

Please note that once they have been signed out, then they will be your responsibility for the rest of the afternoon. Thank you for your co-operation and we hope that you enjoy our fayre as the children will be working very hard to produce items to sell.

Continued.....

Training Day—Monday 6th January 2014

Due to some recent leadership training and the availability of a trainer, there will be a training day on Monday 6th January. We apologise for the unusual short notice.

School Website and Photograph Permission

As mentioned in our last newsletter, our website will be redesigned over the coming weeks. We will also be updating the photographs on our website and recently sent you a letter requesting permission to take your child's photograph. If you have not yet returned the form, please can you do so as soon as possible.



Collecting and Dropping Off KS1 and Foundation Stage Children

When collecting and dropping off Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and 2 children, can parents and carers please ensure they do not enter the yellow box that is painted on the ground outside the entrance gate? This is to help ensure the safety of the children. Thank you in advance.

100 Books That You Should Read Before You're 14

If you are stuck for a Christmas idea then have a look at the following website.

Drawing from over 90 years' experience of recommending children's books: Booktrust experts have selected a list of the 100 books that you should read before you're 14. <http://www.fcbg.org.uk/the-ultimate-list-100-books-to-read-before-youre-14/>

Books and Beyond

Our exciting reading project 'Books and Beyond' will begin on Monday 2nd December. Books and Beyond is a reward scheme where the children who achieve all 8 stages will be invited to a medal ceremony in June 2014. Your child will be given a Books and Beyond pack to record their reading next week. The project is also designed to include adults so if you would like to take part please let me know.



NSPCC

The ChildLine Schools Service has recently visited all children in years 5 & 6 to provide them with key messages about keeping safe. It can be beneficial for these messages to be reinforced at home. The NSPCC has developed some guides for all parents of primary school aged children to speak to your child about keeping safe – called the Underwear rule. You can find guides to the Underwear Rule to help you have simple conversations about keeping safe from abuse at www.nspcc.org.uk/underwear.

Trip Refunds

From 1st January 2014 school is unable to refund any trips costs should your child be unable to attend a trip (e.g. due to illness). This is due to school not making a profit on trips and costs calculated per child.

Red Nose Day

As a special thank you for the money we raised for Red Nose Day earlier this year, The Red Nose Day Team have sent a special thank you message which you can view at rednoseday.com/thankyouschools

Christmas Events

Below is a reminder of Christmas Events:



- Wednesday 11th December – Children's' Christmas Dinner.

- Thursday 12th December – Carol Service.

Our annual Carol Service will be held at St Paul's church, with all children walking to church to take part. Parents are welcome to come and join us and the service starts at 1.30pm. If you are able to help walk the children down to church, please see your child's class teacher and give them your name. All help appreciated!

- Friday 13th December - Foundation Stage Concert at 2pm.

The children in Nursery and Reception will perform their nativity for parents. A letter will follow closer to the time to enable you to obtain tickets.

- Tuesday 17th December – Key Stage 1 concert for parents at 6pm.

As with foundation stage, a letter will be sent out nearer the time to enable you to obtain tickets.

- w/c 16th December–

Christmas parties will take place this week.

Term Dates

Below are details of term dates for the rest of this academic year. Should you require them, term dates for 2014/15 can be found on Sandwell MBC's website -

http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/info/200295/schools_and_learning/2561/school_term_dates_and_holidays_201415

Autumn Term 2013

Christmas holiday: Monday 23rd December to Friday 3rd January

Spring Term 2014

Term starts: Monday 6th January

Half term holiday: Monday 17th February to Friday 21st February

Term ends: Friday 11th April

Easter holiday: Monday 14th April to Friday 25th April

Summer Term 2014

Term starts: Monday 28th April

Bank holiday: Monday 5th May

Half term holiday: Monday 26th May to Friday 30th May

Term ends: Tuesday 22nd July

Summer holiday: From 23rd July