

## IMPORTANT DATES

- 21.09.17 - Kingswood Drop in Session in Year 4 - 3.30-4.00pm
- 25.09.17 - Year 4 trip to Lunt Fort
- 26.09.17 - Birmingham City Girls football team coaching session
- 29.09.17 - Ingestre Hall visiting Year 6
- 17.10.17 - Individual children's photographs
- 18.10.17 - Parents evening
- 19.10.17 - Parents Evening
- 20.10.17 - Y1 trip to Telford Wonderland
- 3.11.17 - Year 3 trip to Creswell Crags
- 3.11.17 - Year 2 trip to Dudley Zoo
- 3.11.17 - Year 6 trip to Chester Zoo

### Maternity Leave

Today is Mrs Seville's last day before she starts her maternity leave and everyone at Highfields sends her love and best wishes for the arrival of her new little bundle. We will let you know if it's a boy or a girl as soon as we hear.

Training Dates 2017-2018

20<sup>th</sup> December 2017  
2<sup>nd</sup> January 2017

# NEWSLETTER - 15<sup>th</sup> September 2017



## Welcome back!

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you all back to Highfields Primary School and hope you all had a fantastic Summer holiday. As well as returning children and parents I would also like to extend a warm welcome to all of the new children, families and school staff that have recently joined us. We have now already been back 2 weeks and whilst the Summer holidays seem so long ago we are now on the countdown to Christmas already! We have started planning lots of events and trips this term and as always ask you to keep an eye out for newsletter and website updates

Mrs Garratt

## Congratulations

I would like to congratulate two Highfields children on their news. Firstly, **Archie Turner, Class 6C** is



currently part of the touring cast for a new musical production of 'Nativity, The Musical!' Archie will start off performing at Birmingham Repertory Theatre in October and then travel around the United Kingdom as part of the touring cast. We are all extremely proud of Archie! Tickets can be purchased at <https://www.birmingham-rep.co.uk/whats-on/nativity-the-musical.html>

The second child is **Ruby Slade, Class 4R**. Ruby has been invited to travel with the SKF England National Karate Team to take part in the upcoming European Championships held in Talin, Estonia. We are all right behind you Ruby! I would like to wish both children every success in the upcoming adventures!

Can I also congratulate and thank all of those children who recently trialled for the football and netball teams!

## Highfields Helpers

Well done to our new Highfields Helpers who have been chosen by staff to be our school peer mediators. They will be on the playground to help other children play well together and have happy and enjoyable playtimes and lunchtimes.

These children are:

**Chloe Beckett-Whitmore, Cleo Darby, Sam Birch, Grace Archer, Charlotte Aston, Abby McIntosh, Lucy Garrison, Kat Jackson, Malachi Ellis, Alfie Totney, Isiah Ellis, Lewis Barnett, Miyah Hatton, Charlotte Ellis, Lucy Jones, Jacob Greaves, Oliver Cooper, Rukaya Hassan, Caitlin Hall, Arbnora Alshiqi**

Mrs Seville

## Golden Book - Well done to you all!

Since the last newsletter was published these children have received Golden Book certificates...



Nam	Eva Jones
Npm	Ameerah Shabaan
RW	Chloe Peake
RS	Jasmine Johnson
ID	Alexis Hemming
IW	Archie Byatt
2P	Annie-May Thomas
2H	Curman Johal
3T	Alex Adlam
3B	Jasmine Rickard
4R	Harshub Johal
4C	Rebecca Willetts
5P	Abdulla Mughal
5K	Amelie Carpenter
6C	Luca Harrison
6P	Grace Archer
PE	Broly Holmes IW

## Safety Issues

Can I please remind all parents that the yellow hatched area outside the school gates is to help staff dismiss your child/ren safely at the end of the day. It is really hard for staff to see parents at home time as at the moment parents are standing right by the gates. This means it is taking us longer to hand your children back to you. The children, especially in Reception, also find it very daunting that there are so many 'big people' stood right in front of them when they are trying to get through to their own parents. Thank you in advance for helping us with this.

## Requests from Reception

A lot of Reception children are bringing large backpacks to school with their book in. Due to the size of the cloakroom we are physically struggling to fit everything in and the coats are ending up on the floor. If possible can you please just send your child into school with a book bag that can go in their tray. Also staff would like to remind parents that we provide fruit snacks for the children in Reception. Recently we have seen children bringing in cakes, crisps, cereal bars etc. for snack. This is not necessary as fruit is provided for all of the children in Nursery, Reception, Years 1 and 2. Thank you



### Kingswood Meeting

There will be a Kingswood drop in session next Thursday 21st September for parents who have any questions or queries about the trip. This will be in 4C's classroom between 3.30- 4.00pm

### School website

We have planned a few changes being made to our website over the next few months, the first one being that our class pages are combining to become year group pages. You will notice that they will start being updated over the next couple of weeks.

As a reminder the school website is...  
<http://www.highfields.sandwell.sch.uk/>

### Uniform Reminder

I know that there is a lot in the press at the moment about uniform and the strictness schools apply to this individual policy. As a school we are trying to instil in our children that rules are important and written for a reason, we also have a duty to prepare your child/ren for the transition to Secondary school and even into later working life. Please can I remind parents that **hoodies** are not part of the school uniform but jumpers, fleeces and other items with the school logo on are available at the office throughout the year.

Sensible black shoes should be worn at all times. **Trainers are not permitted.** For children who are in Year 6 especially, this is something that will not be tolerated in Secondary schools and so we are working hard to try and prepare your child for that transition and we really do appreciate your support in this matter

During the week I have seen an increased amount of children wearing bracelets and necklaces, again please can I remind you that jewellery is not permitted as part of school uniform. Earrings may be worn for school but please ensure that they are **small studs** and that your child/ren must be able to remove them themselves for P.E. Make up is not permitted at any time, this includes **nail varnish**.

PE kits are also becoming an issue in school with an increased number of children this week not being able to fully participate in a lesson as they have not got their kit in school. The office staff are no longer permitted to phone parents to bring PE kits into school. As you know we are trying to teach the children to be responsible for their belongings and this includes remembering when their PE day is so their kit can be in school. From now on if your child does not have their kit in school you will be notified and the number of sessions missed will be recorded in your child's end of year report.

Our uniform expectations can be found on the school website.

### Sugar Free Squash/Flavoured Water

We have slightly altered our policy to help support parents whose children do not particularly enjoy water. From now on children are allowed to bring in a water bottle which contains SUGAR FREE flavoured water or SUGAR FREE squash. Fizzy pop and energy drinks are not allowed

### Home Learning

Just a reminder that the way we approach home learning in school has changed. Letters were sent home last Friday outlining the changes and new expectations for each year group. This information can also be found on the school website. The major focus is on reading and rewards will be given to children who have read at home at least 3 times a week and have had an adult sign their reading record. We thank you in advance for your support with this and enjoy reading

Mrs Lewis

### Leave of Absence Requests Update

As you will be aware, Government changes come into force back in 2016 that meant Head teachers were no longer able to grant leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. Following the Platt case, the Local Authority have been waiting for further Government guidance. The Supreme Court judgement on whether a father acted lawfully when he took his daughter to Florida in term-time has implications for anyone with a child/young person in school. The Supreme Court has decided that a parent cannot, unless authorised by a Headteacher to do so, be absent from school without potentially being liable for a Penalty Notice and/or Magistrates Court proceedings. The Court's judgement applies to all pupils registered at a school in England.

We are currently updating the website with the information circulated by the Attendance Prosecution Service within Sandwell. This also outlines the consequences of taking unauthorised leave of absence.

Here at Highfields Primary school any parents who are considering taking their child out of school must first complete a Leave of Absence form from the main school office and this will include providing written evidence e.g. official booking forms, official communications etc. for the leave of absence. We would remind all parents that exceptional circumstances do not include family holidays, visiting relatives or friends, attending events, looking after family members, birthdays, shopping etc.

### House Point Winners

Since the last newsletter the house point winners have been

1<sup>st</sup> - Haden, 2<sup>nd</sup> - Rowley, 3<sup>rd</sup> - Kinver, 4<sup>th</sup> - Clent

### Attendance Awards

This week's whole school attendance was **97.9%**

Don't forget, the whole school target we have to achieve every week is 96.5% so this week we were **above** target!



The recent winning classes attendance was **EYFS - Nursery AM & PM 100% KSI - ID - 100% KS2 - 3T, 3B, 4R = 100%**