



Highfields Primary newsletter



11th September 2026

Head's Welcome

Welcome Back!

A very warm welcome back to all our children and families as we begin another exciting year at Highfields. It has been wonderful to see the children return so happily this week, looking incredibly smart, settling quickly into their new classes and ready for the year ahead.

A special welcome to our new Reception children and to all the children and families joining Highfields for the first time. We hope you quickly feel part of our Highfields family.

We have another busy and exciting year ahead, with lots of learning, opportunities and special moments to look forward to. As always, thank you for your continued support and for working in partnership with us to make Highfields such a happy and positive place for our children.

Here's to a fantastic 2026/27!

Mrs Garratt

Attendance

At Highfields we have high expectations when it comes to attendance and so our attendance target is 97%. This week's whole school attendance was 96.7%. The highest attending classes this week were;

EYFS - RP 100%

KS1 - 2D 100%

KS2 - 6P 98.9%



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Highfields Hall of Fame



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Diary Dates and Reminders

September

- 11th - 4M swimming
- 16th - Ready for Reception parent workshop
- 18th - 4M swimming
- 21st - Y4 Sparks workshop
- 22nd - Reception reading & phonics parent workshop 2.30pm
- 23rd - Y1 reading & phonics parent workshop 2.45pm
- 23rd - Ready for Reception parent workshop
- 25th - 4M swimming
- 28th - Mufti day for Harvest donations
- 28th - Harvest sale 3.10pm
- 29th - Y6 secondary application parent workshop 2.50pm
- 30th - Ready for Reception parent workshop

October

- 2nd - 4M swimming
- 6th - Individual school photographs
- 7th - Ready for Reception parent workshop
- 9th - 4M swimming
- 12th - Flu vaccinations
- 14th - Ready for Reception parent workshop
- 16th - Y1 circus workshop in school
- 16th - 4M swimming
- 20th - Reception parent Stay & Play
- 22nd - Reception parent Stay & Play
- 23rd - 4M swimming
- 23rd - Children break up for half term

PE Days

Here are the days you will need to send your child to school in their PE kits for the first half of the Autumn term;

MONDAY - Reception, Year 1 and 2

TUESDAY - Year 3, 4, 5 and 6

WEDNESDAY - Year 3, 5 and 6

THURSDAY - Year 1 and 2

FRIDAY - Reception and Year 4

Y6 Walking Home

Please can we remind all Year 6 parents that if they would like to give permission for their child to walk home alone after school, we will need this in writing and signed by a parent. This is something we only offer to our Year 6 children as preparation for their transition to secondary school.

Parking

As we continue to prioritise the safety and wellbeing of our pupils, we kindly ask all families to park thoughtfully and respectfully outside the school during busy drop-off and pick-up times. Please avoid blocking driveways, pavements, or access routes. For those looking for alternative parking options, there is a public car park available on Marlow Street, just a short walk from the school.

Books of the Month - September

Please see below, September's Book of the Month that we will be sharing in school. In reception and years 1 and 2, the book will be placed in the 'book to share' box so that your child will be able to bring it home and share it with you at some point during the year. In years 3-6, copies will go into the school library for children to select as their reading book as and when they wish.

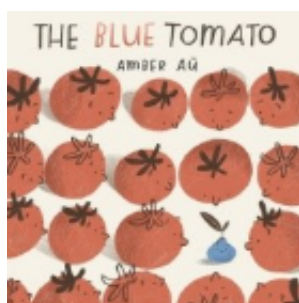
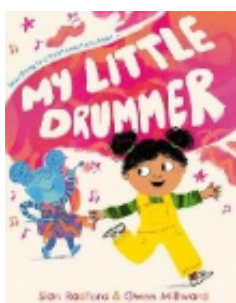
The books for September are:

EYFS: 'My Little Drummer' by Sian Radford

Years 1 and 2: 'The Blue Tomato' by Amber Aū

Years 3 and 4: 'Red Snake Blue Snake' by Olivier Tallec

Years 5 and 6: 'The Wild Ones' by Steve Cole



Theme of the Month - September

Peace



During the month of September, we will be looking at the theme of 'Peace'. We will be discussing the different meanings and symbols of peace and how we can promote peace in different ways. As part of this we will also be learning all about international peace day and how this is celebrated around the world. At home, we hope you will continue the discussions to build on these thoughts.

SMSC

September



- 2nd - World Coconut Day
- 6th - National Colour Blind Awareness Day
- 8th - International Literacy Day
- 9th - National Teddy Bear Day
- 12th - World Dolphin Day
- 13th - Positive Thinking Day
- 15th - International Day of Democracy
- 16th - International Ozone Layer Preservation Day
- 17th - International Day of Listening
- 18th - National Respect Day
- 19th - World Cleanup Day
- 21st - Zero Emissions Day
- 22nd - World Car Free Day
- 23rd - Education Technology Day
- 27th - World Tourism Day
- 29th - World Heart Day
- 30th - International Translation Day



Supporting your child with English and Reading at Home

Reading at home is one of the most important things you can do to help your child. In Reception, Year One and Year Two, your child will come home with a weekly book to share with an adult. This is a book to enjoy together- your child will not be able to read it to you. Children in Reception and Year One (and some in Year Two) have a log in in their reading records so that they can access their phonics online reading book. This book is for them to read to you and practise the sounds that they know. Keep an eye out for more information about our Reception and Year One reading parent workshops so you can find out more about this. Please write in your child's reading record all reading completed at home as the children receive rewards in school for reading at home three times a week.

Children in Years 2-6 will bring home a colour banded book (their reading book) and a book they have chosen from the library (a book for them to enjoy). They can change these weekly as needed. Please help your child to record all reading in their reading record so they can receive rewards in school for this.

Children in Years 2-6 also have an EdShed (Spelling Shed) log in inside their reading records. This sticker allows them to access their spelling games that are set weekly to help them practise key words. There is also a mastery zone on the website to stretch and challenge children. Logging in weekly and completing tasks will really help your child with their spelling and writing in school. We also provide paper packs with their spelling lists on for children to practise as well.

Thank you for your support with this- if you have any questions, please ask your child's teacher or Mrs Lewis and we will be happy to help.





Sunflower Challenge 2026

A huge thank you to all the families who took part in our Whole School Family Sunflower Challenge this year. Although we did not receive as many entries as we did in 2025, this is completely understandable given the extremely hot weather and drought conditions experienced across the UK during the growing season.

Despite the challenging conditions, some of our pupils achieved fantastic results.

A special congratulations goes to Jackson C whose sunflower reached an impressive height of 11 feet 5 inches! Their success was down to dedication and hard work, as they made sure to water their sunflower every evening throughout the summer.



We were also delighted to share that Tiarna B and Neve M managed to grow sunflowers to a remarkable 8 feet tall, with Ollie B achieving 7ft all demonstrating great care and perseverance.

The following pupils all grew Sunflowers that reached great heights between 4 – 5.5ft.

Jacob L, Lucas T, Adiva S, Milena R, Florence H. Arthur C

Prizes will be given out to our winners in our assembly next week.

Well done to everyone who took part. It was wonderful to see so many families getting involved.



Harvest Celebrations



Monday 28th September will be a mufti day in school. Children can wear their own clothes to school that day and in return bring an item of in date and unopened food (tinned food, rice, pasta, biscuits, tea, coffee etc) into school with them. These contributions will then form part of our Harvest celebrations and the produce will be on sale in Seedlings (Classroom by KSI's sheds) at 3.10pm on Monday 28th September. Please bring a carrier bag for the items you buy as school will not be able to provide these.

All money raised will be donated to the Manna House Project. This is a local membership food shop in Halesowen. As last year's food sale was such a success, we thought it would be nice if our Harvest proceeds could go towards helping people closer to home again.

Parent Communication Guidance

At Highfields Primary School, we are committed to maintaining clear and effective communication with families while also supporting the wellbeing of our staff. A new Parent and Carer Email Communication Policy has been introduced to help parents contact the most appropriate member of staff and ensure enquiries are dealt with efficiently.

School staff aim to respond to communications between 7:30am and 5:00pm, Monday to Friday during term time, with responses normally provided within three working days. Emails are not routinely monitored during evenings, weekends, bank holidays or school holidays.

Which Email Address Should Parents Use?

General Enquiries

For lost property, school events, administration queries or updating contact details:
highfields.enquiry@highfields.sandwell.sch.uk

Safeguarding and Welfare Concerns

For concerns relating to a child's safety, welfare or wellbeing:
safeguarding@highfields.sandwell.sch.uk

Phase Leaders

For ongoing concerns about your child's experience, friendships, learning or progress after discussion with the class teacher:

Reception: EYFS@highfields.sandwell.sch.uk
Years 1 & 2: Y1Y2@highfields.sandwell.sch.uk
Years 3 & 4: Y3Y4@highfields.sandwell.sch.uk
Years 5 & 6: Y5Y6@highfields.sandwell.sch.uk

Senior Leadership Team

For significant concerns that remain unresolved or matters requiring senior leadership involvement:
leadershipteam@highfields.sandwell.sch.uk

Urgent Messages

Please do not use email for urgent same-day messages, such as changes to collection arrangements. Instead, contact the school office directly on 0121 559 1037.

Thank you for helping us keep communication effective, respectful and focused on supporting all of our children and families.





FREE BOXING SESSIONS

BoxClever Mentoring will be running
after-school boxing sessions every TERM-TIME
TUESDAY from 08/09/26 - 23/03/27 at
Contenders Boxing Club.
All sessions are FREE of charge.

Contenders Boxing Club
Unit 13 Tinsley Street
Great Bridge
West Bromwich
DY4 7LQ



WEST MIDLANDS
VIOLENCE
REDUCTION
PARTNERSHIP

4:00 - 5:00pm
Ages 9 - 16 years

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
BOXCLEVER MENTORING ON THE BELOW**



@boxclevercj



BoxClever Mentoring

BOXCLEVER
Mentoring





Golden Book Awards



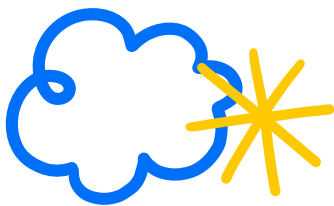
Congratulations to the following children who have been awarded a 'Golden Book Certificate' since the previous newsletter

4th September

ISS - Cora H
ICS - Phoebe M
2B - Aakifa J
2D - Jaxon B
3L - Lawson R
3K - Ethan G
4G - Jenson S
4M - Rayan B
5C - Jaxon S
5R - Freddie R
6P - trip
6C - trip
PE - Osan M (ICS)

11th September

Reception - Louie-Beau B
ISS - River H
ICS - Florence H
2B - Reuben R
2D - Ebube E
3L - Taliya A
3K - Zara W
4G - Joanna O
4M - Zara O
5C - Sara R
5R - Summer-Rose E
6P - Finley R
6C - Yusuf M
PE - Jacob M (Reception)



Mrs Garratt's
Tea Party

11th September

2D - Tyler C
2B - Hooria R
6C - Talhah
5C - Reggie W

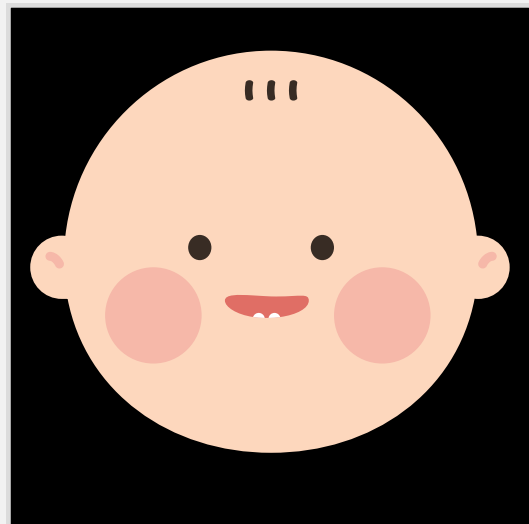


Reception Newsletter

The children in Reception have had a fantastic start to their school life! We are so proud of how well they are managing their new routines and expectations and it has been lovely to see their friendships starting to blossom.

Just a reminder to please label all school uniform, bottles, lunchboxes, hats and coats (in the coming weeks!) It is much easier for us to reunite items with their owner if they are named 😊 We also do not have the space to have backpacks in school. Children are welcome to bring a bookbag which will fit in their tray.

Next week in History, we are learning about our life stories. On Monday 14th September, could you please send a named baby photo in of your child for this lesson.



Reception



Clara - Year 1

Year 1 & 2's Newsletter

The children in both Year One and Year Two have made a fantastic start to the school year. They have worked hard learning the new routines and expectations.

In Year One the children have been introduced to the topic 'Step Right Up' all about the circus. They enjoyed practising some circus skills like juggling and hula hooping.

Year Two have had a fantastic start to the year. In Art, the children have been studying paintings by Jan Griffier, exploring the similarities and differences between his works and discussing what makes his artwork unique. In Science, we have begun learning about germination and how seeds grow into seedlings and shoots. Over the next few weeks, the children will be planting their own seeds and observing the changes that take place as they grow. In English, we have started exploring Samuel Pepys' diary, in which he vividly describes the dramatic events of the Great Fire of London.



Year 3 & 4's

Newsletter



Year 4

Year 5 & 6's

Newsletter

The children of Year 5 have made a brilliant start to the year. We have both been so impressed with the attitude of children in lessons. They have enjoyed the beginning of our topic and they are enjoying starting to learn about World War II. In English, we have been reading Goodnight Mr Tom and we have written diaries based on the beginning of the story.

In Year 6, the children have settled in very well. We had a fantastic trip to Edgmond Hall on Friday and the children were a real credit to the school. They have really enjoyed the beginning of our English work. We are reading The Hunger Games which is a book which deals with serious themes. The children have really enjoyed the story so far and we are sure that in the coming weeks they will produce some excellent writing.

In Year 3, the children have had a fantastic start to the year! We began with an exciting Stone Age Day, where the children created their own Stone Age costumes and enjoyed immersing themselves in life during this fascinating period. In Art, they created their own cave paintings, inspired by the artwork found in Stone Age caves. The children also had the opportunity to try foods that Stone Age people may have eaten and made their own toilet roll timelines to help them understand the chronology of the Stone Age. To finish off a busy first couple of weeks, the children thoroughly enjoyed their first trumpet lesson of the year and are already showing great enthusiasm for learning a new instrument!

The children have settled into Year 4 very well and have made a fantastic start to the new school year. During our Stunning Start Day, the children began learning about the Romans, exploring who they were, what they ate and what life was like during Roman times, as well as tasting sardines, focaccia and pomegranate. In English, we have started reading The Sewer Demon and have been developing our descriptive writing skills by writing a setting description of what it would be like inside a sewer. The children have enjoyed using their imaginations to create vivid descriptions and have made a brilliant start to their learning in Year 4.

Highfields Hall of Fame

This part of the newsletter is for us to celebrate our children's achievements outside of school. If your child/children have done something you would like us to know about and to share on here (and our social media pages) please email a short description and a photograph to Highfields.Enquiry@highfields.sandwell.sch.uk with the subject #myaspirations



Rebecca, Edward & William

This was a very proud moment for a family in July.

All three of their children have completed their primary education at Highfields Primary School and each child received an award at their leaver's celebrations for their achievements. Rebecca, the oldest sibling, received an award for English, and brothers Edward and William both received awards for music.

They all came together on the last day of term for this momentous family photo. We would like to wish Rebecca, Edward and William all the best for their future, which we are sure will be bright!

