



Highfields Primary newsletter



25th September 2026

Head's Welcome

It has been a very busy two weeks in school, with lots of fantastic learning taking place across all year groups. Our pupils have continued to work hard, show positive attitudes to their learning and make us proud every day.

Some of you may have noticed that Mrs Garratt has not been on site recently. Mrs Garratt has undergone a small medical procedure and is recovering well. We are pleased to report that she is doing well and we are looking forward to welcoming her back to school within the next week.

We have also enjoyed welcoming parents into school for workshops in Reception and Year 1. Thank you to everyone who was able to attend and support their child's learning.

As the term continues, we have many exciting events and opportunities planned for our pupils and families, so please take a moment to check the dates page of this newsletter to make sure you do not miss out on anything coming up.

Mrs Lewis

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 95.2%. The highest attending classes this week were;

EYFS - RW 96.5%

KS1 - ISS 96.4%

KS2 - 4M 97.7%



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Diary Dates and Reminders

September

- 25th - 4M swimming
- 28th - Mufti day for Harvest donations
- 28th - Harvest sale at 3.10pm
- 29th - Y6 secondary application parent workshop 2.50pm
- 29th - Y2 hearing tests
- 30th - Ready for Reception parent workshop
- 30th - Y2 hearing tests

October

- 1st - SIPS Catering theme menu
- 1st - Boys Football Team - away at St James' C of E Primary School
- 2nd - 4M swimming
- 5th - Y1 vision screening (if missed in Reception)
- 6th - Individual school photographs
- 7th - Ready for Reception parent workshop
- 9th - 4M swimming
- 12th - Flu vaccinations
- 13th - Y2 trip to St Paul's Church
- 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
- 22nd - Boys Football Team - away at Temple Meadow
- 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

Respectful Neighbours



We have been contacted by a local resident concerned about children from Highfields repeatedly ringing their doorbell and running away on their way to school.

We would therefore ask parents and carers to please keep a close eye on children during the journey to and from school, particularly where children are walking some distance ahead. Please also remind children to be respectful of our neighbours, their homes and their property.

We are proud to be part of our local community and want our children to represent Highfields positively at all times. Thank you for your support in helping us to be considerate and respectful neighbours.

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.

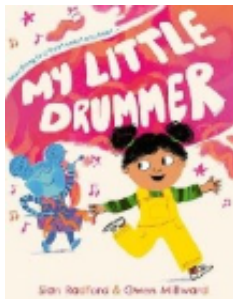
The books for September are:

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



Attendance Update

Attendance Matters... Every Day Counts!

We are now in Week 4 of the new school year, and we would like to thank all our families for helping children settle back into school so positively. It has been wonderful to see happy faces, growing confidence, and a great start to learning.

As we move further into the term, we would like to remind parents about the importance of good attendance. Every lesson counts, and even a few days missed can mean children miss valuable learning, friendships, and routines that help them thrive.

Does my child need to stay off with a cold?

Children do not usually need to stay at home if they have a common cold, runny nose, mild cough, or are feeling a little under the weather. These minor illnesses are a normal part of childhood, and many children can still attend school and take part in their learning.



A useful question to ask yourself is:

"Is my child well enough to participate in normal school activities?"
If the answer is yes, we would encourage them to come to school.



What about antibiotics?

Many parents are surprised to learn that children do not need to remain at home simply because they have been prescribed antibiotics. If your child is feeling well enough to attend school, they can return while taking their medication.

Our school staff can administer prescribed antibiotics during the school day where necessary. Please contact the school office to provide the required consent and discuss arrangements.

Working Together

We understand that every child is different, and there will be times when children genuinely need to be at home to recover. If you are unsure whether your child should attend, please contact the school office for advice.

By working together and encouraging children to attend whenever they are well enough, we can help them achieve their best, build strong friendships, and enjoy all the opportunities school has to offer.

Thank you for your continued support in giving your child the best possible start to the school year.

Our whole-school attendance is currently 96.1% - thank you for helping us achieve such a positive start to the school year! Let's see if we can keep it above 96% together.





The Big Future Survey



The Children's Commissioner for England, Dame Rachel de Souza, is encouraging pupils at Highfields Primary School to take part in the national The Big Future survey. So far, 41 pupils from the school have responded, and the Commissioner is keen to hear from as many children and young people as possible across England. The survey gives children an opportunity to share their experiences, views and hopes for the future, helping to inform Government policy and ensure children's voices are heard. Parents and schools are being asked to promote the survey and encourage participation

Families can take part by completing the survey online at [The Big Future Survey](#)



Benedict's Law: Allergy Safety at Highfields

From September 2026, Benedict's Law introduces strengthened statutory requirements for how schools support children with allergies and respond to allergic reactions.

Schools are required to have clear allergy safety procedures, ensure appropriate Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs) are in place, provide allergy and anaphylaxis training for staff, have access to spare adrenaline auto-injectors (such as EpiPens), and review any serious incidents or near misses.

What are we doing at Highfields?

- All staff completed allergy awareness and anaphylaxis training this week, helping them to recognise the signs of a serious allergic reaction and respond appropriately.
- We are reviewing our Supporting Children with Medical Needs and First Aid policies and will be introducing a separate Allergy Safety Policy.
- We have purchased spare EpiPens and inhalers for emergency use, with arrangements also being made to ensure appropriate emergency medication is available on school trips.
- We will continue to review Individual Healthcare Plans for children with allergies and work closely with parents to ensure information is up to date.

If your child has an allergy or medical condition, please continue to keep school informed of any changes to their condition, medication or treatment.

The safety and wellbeing of our pupils remains our highest priority, and we hope these additional measures provide further reassurance to our families.

Year 6 Secondary School Applications: Don't Miss the **DEADLINE**

If your child is currently in Year 6 and will be starting secondary school in September 2027, please remember that you need to apply for their secondary school place.

The deadline for applications is **Saturday 31 October 2026**. Applications received after this date will be treated as late, so please don't leave it until the last minute!

Applications should be made through the Local Authority where you live, and parents should list their chosen schools in order of preference.

Please check individual school admission arrangements carefully, as some schools may require an additional form. Further information and the online application can be found on the Sandwell Council School Admissions [website](#).

School Photographs



The school photographer will be in school on Tuesday 6th October taking individual and sibling/family photographs.

Families with children that do not attend Highfields are able to have family photographs taken with their brothers/sisters that do attend Highfields in the school hall from 8.10am.

Where brothers/sisters/siblings attend Highfields, children should arrive at school at the normal time and we will ensure family photographs are taken during the school day.

All children should wear their school uniform as there will be no PE lessons in school. If your child attends the KS2 netball afterschool club on a Tuesday, they should bring their PE kit into school in a bag for them to change into.





Golden Book Awards



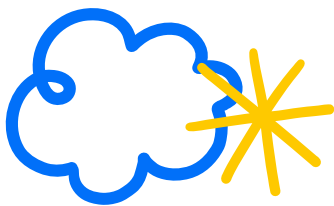
Congratulations to the following children who have been awarded a 'Golden Book Certificate' since the previous newsletter

18th September

RP - Junior M
RW - Lola N
ICS - Loen B
ISS - Maizie H
2B - Zahra H
2D - Corey W
3L - Freya C
3K - Liliana B
4G - Frankie B
4M - India-Rose D
5C - Eliza B
5R - Amelia R
6P - Koray B
6C - Henry J
PE - Olivia
French - Adam

25th September

RP - Altin S
RW - Zack F
ISS - Hallie C
ICS - Elleil H
2B - Carter W
2D - Benjamin S
3L - Kymarni B
3K - Oliver B
4G - Royalty N
4M - Grayson C
5C - Millie W
5R - Sebastian F
6P - Charlotte F
6C - Pixie M
PE - Karta-Lewis (4M)
French - Jaxson S (5C)



Mrs Garratt's
Tea Party

25th September

ICS - Esme F	5R - Lucia S
2D - Adiva S	6C - Ayana U
4G - Frankie B	6P - Thomas C
5C - Jaxson S	





Year 1 & 2's

Newsletter

In Year One we have started to read the story of The Farmer and the Clown and acted out parts of the story. We have learnt new vocabulary such as reunited, cheerful and puzzled. In Maths we are learning to count to twenty, recognise numbers to twenty, and finding one more and one less to a given total to twenty. In Art we have been looking at different fabrics, sorting them into colour sets, identifying them and thinking of words to describe them.

Year Two have been very busy. In Art the children learnt how to create a colour wheel by mixing primary colours to create secondary colours and then creating tertiary colours. In History we have continued our learning on the Great Fire of London and looked at sequencing the events. In RE we have been exploring the features of a mosque and a church, the children are really enjoying learning about different faiths.

Please can we ask that the children in both Years One and Two bring in their reading diaries and books to share every Friday.

Reception

Newsletter

Next week we will start learning nursery rhymes ready for our class assembly in November. Please could you help your child learn '12345 Once I caught a fish alive'.

Thank you to all of the parents who attended our reading workshop, we hope you found it useful to understand how your child learns to read in school.

A big well done to all of our Reception children who have settled so beautifully into school life. They are remembering our school rules and the expectations during our lessons. It's been lovely watching them having fun, learning with their new friends!

Can we please remind parents that any Reception Class queries can be sent through School Comms to the office and you are always welcome to speak to Reception staff on the gate in a morning.





Year 5 & 6's Newsletter

Year 5

In Year 5, we have been focussing of Goodnight Mr Tom in our English lessons. The children wrote some excellent setting descriptions in which they included a great range of descriptive language. In Art, we have been analysing colour. The children have been experimenting with creating and blending colours which they have really enjoyed.

Year 6

The children of Year 6 have greatly enjoyed studying the work of Vincent van Gogh. We have analysed the style and technique found in his paintings and in the coming weeks the children will be experimenting with acrylic paint in order to try and replicate this style.

Their finished artwork will be a landscape produced in the style of van Gogh - I am sure that there will be some excellent results!

Year 3 & 4's Newsletter

In Year 3, the children have been busy exploring life in the Stone Age! They have practised weaving with paper in preparation for designing and creating their own blankets. In English, they explored the features of a letter and used these to write their own letters from the perspective of someone living in the Stone Age. They also investigated the Stone Age diet, learning about the types of food people would have eaten and how they would have found it.

In Year 4, the children have been busy learning about why the Romans invaded Britain and exploring the reasons behind their conquest. In English, they have been getting creative by writing their own endings to The Sewer Demon, using their imagination to bring the story to life.

In Science, they carried out an exciting experiment to investigate how sound travels. Reminder: We change reading books every Friday, so please ensure your child brings their book to school on this day so it can be changed.



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

