



Highfields Primary newsletter



9th October 2026

Head's Welcome

It really is wonderful to be back in school, seeing the children and hearing all about the exciting things they have been learning and experiencing over the past few weeks. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our staff for their continued support and dedication, as well as our parents for the many kind comments and messages I have received.

Although it is only October, we will soon be starting to think about the countdown to Christmas. There are lots of exciting events and activities to look forward to, so please keep an eye on the newsletter and our private Facebook group for the latest updates and important information. We look forward to sharing these special moments with you over the coming weeks. Have a good weekend!

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 94.1%. The highest attending classes this week were;

EYFS - RW 96.7%

KSI - 2B 98.6%

KS2 - 6C 97.3%



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Diary Dates and Reminders

October

- 9th - 4M swimming
- 9th - wear yellow for World Mental Health day
- 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
- 20th - Y2 hearing retests
- 22nd - Reception parent Stay & Play
- 22nd - Boys Football Team - away at Temple Meadow
- 23rd - 4M swimming
- 23rd - Children break up for half term

October Half Term Holiday
Monday 26th - Friday 30th October

November

- 2nd - Children return to school
- 3rd - School nurse parent drop in 9am
- 4th - IPP parent meetings from 3.30pm
- 6th - 4M swimming
- 10th - Houses of Parliament trip
- 11th - Y3 trip to Cresswell Craggs
- 11th - Reception parent Triple P workshop
- 13th - Reception assembly to parents 2.45pm
- 17th - Y4 trip to Lunt Roman Fort

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

Online Safety: A Reminder for Parents

A recent Sky News investigation has highlighted the risks posed by harmful online networks which target children and vulnerable young people through gaming, social media and messaging platforms. The investigation found that contact can begin on familiar platforms before children are encouraged to move into private online spaces, where grooming, coercion and exploitation can take place.

We would encourage parents to take an active interest in their child's online activity, regularly talk to them about who they communicate with online and remind them that they should always tell a trusted adult if something makes them feel worried, uncomfortable or frightened.

Parents can read the [full Sky News article](#).

Please be aware that the article contains distressing content.

Books of the Month - October

Please see below, October'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 October are:

EYFS: 'Gruffalo Granny' by Julia Donaldson

Years 1 and 2: 'Ravi's Dancing Hands' by Sumana Seeboruth

Years 3 and 4: 'Ghost and Toast: Slice to Meet You!' by Phil Corbett

Years 5 and 6: 'Lumi and the Wolf' by Lottie Saakho



Theme of the Month - October

Forgiveness



During the month of October, we will be looking at the theme of 'Forgiveness'. We will be discussing when we may need to show forgiveness towards others and why this is so important. Children will begin to understand that forgiveness is to stop blaming someone for their mistakes, accepting people's apologies and moving on. We will discuss the emotions you may feel during these situations, both negative and positive and how to deal with these emotions.

At home, we hope you will continue the discussions to build on these thoughts.

Activity Ideas

- Read stories about forgiveness.
- Discuss when they/you have had to forgive someone.

SMSC

October



All month - Black History month

- 1st - National poetry day
- 2nd - World smile day
- 4th - World animal day
- 5th - World teacher's day
- 6th - National noodle day
- 8th - World sight day
- 10th - World mental health day
- 13th - National train your brain day
- 15th - Global handwriting day
- 17th - International day for poverty eradication
- 21st - Global ethics day
- 22nd - International stuttering awareness day
- 23rd - International snow leopard day
- 24th - Make a difference day
- 25th - World pasta day
- 28th - International animation day
- 30th - World lemur day



Little Leaders 26-27

At Highfields we make sure everyone's voice is heard and we believe in giving our children the opportunity to help us make Highfields the best school it can be. It's for this reason that we have a variety of 'Little Leaders' who also help develop our school every year.

School Council

- Y1 - Clara and Cora
- Y2 - Hooria and Ariyah B
- Y3 - Freya and Liliana
- Y4 - Neve and Harry T
- Y5 - Reggie and Matilda
- Y6 - Jack D and Divine

Eco Council

- Y1 - Hallie and Francis
- Y2 - Jeeya and Taron
- Y3 - Harper and Michelle
- Y4 - India-Rose and Mohsin
- Y5 - Ebony and Noah
- Y6 - Eliysia and Harrison P

Sports Council

- Y1 - Qais and Valencia
- Y2 - Isla-Mae and Alice
- Y3 - Lawson and Gurbaz
- Y4 - Sebastian and Elliott
- Y5 - Ria and Millie
- Y6 - Laci-Mae and Jeeven

Reading Ambassadors

- Y3 - Hermione, Zara, Amiyah
- Y4 - Laila, Freddie, Sebastian
- Y5 - Summer-Rose, Emily, Jasmine
- Y6 - Carys, Pixie, Ava, Alfie, Jorie

Playground Pals

- Y4 - Dilpreet, Luna, Victoria, James, Jenson, Tiarna
- Y5 - Nikolas, Saara, Miral, Oscar, Bobby and Irena

Digital Leaders

- Y5 - Emily and Ameera
- Y6 - Nicholas, Mahtaab, Coby and Ishaq



Black History Month

Black History Month 2026 in the UK runs from October 1 to October 31, 2026, marking the 39th anniversary of the celebration. This year's theme is "Honouring Our Communities".

Focus on Everyday People: The theme highlights the individuals whose regular, everyday contributions support, shape and sustain Black life across the UK.

Recognising Unsung Contributions: It shines a light on volunteers, carers, teachers and community leaders whose vital work often goes unnoticed.

Honouring Black Britain 2026: This aligned national recognition initiative formally records and celebrates Black individuals who show professional excellence and community service.

**BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH**



Across the school, children will listen to traditional stories, explore culture, art, food and music. They will also find out about influential people and their achievements throughout history and important role-models today.

Art Workshops

During the year, parents of all year groups will be invited into school to join us for an art workshop.

Parents of children in Reception and Year 1 are invited to our first workshop which will take place on Monday 30th November 2026 from 2-3pm.

Parents of children in other year groups will be invited to attend workshops later in the year.



Boys' Football Team Triumphs Over Rowley Hall

On Thursday 9th October, our boys' football team played against Rowley Hall Primary Academy and produced an excellent performance to secure a well-deserved 2-0 victory. Despite the start of the match being delayed by almost an hour, the boys remained patient, focused and ready to play. With the match time reduced due to the late start, every minute counted, but the team rose to the challenge brilliantly.

The boys showed fantastic teamwork, determination and dedication throughout the game. They worked hard for one another, communicated well and displayed great sportsmanship from start to finish. Their effort and commitment were rewarded with two excellent goals from Jack and Henry and a clean sheet.

We are incredibly proud of the team for the way they represented the school, not only through their footballing ability but also through their positive attitude and resilience. Well done!



World Mental Health Day

Today, our school community came together to mark World Mental Health Day by wearing yellow. Yellow is the colour associated with hope, positivity and raising awareness of mental health, helping to start important conversations about emotional wellbeing and reminding us that it is okay to ask for support when we need it.

We are delighted to share that, thanks to the generosity of our families, we raised an



incredible £154. Of this amount, 50% will be donated to MIND, a charity that provides vital support and advice for people experiencing mental health difficulties, while the remaining 50% will be used to help fund mental health interventions and wellbeing support for our pupils in school. We would like to say a huge thank you to all parents and carers for supporting this important event.



Golden Book Awards



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

2nd October

RP - Zara M
RW - Elroy T
ICS - Clara G
ISS - Valencia W
2B - Lily-Mae T
2D - Safa A
3L - Jorgie S
3K - Simrat K
4G - Harley R
4M - Neve M
5C - Noah C
5R - Idrees M
6C - Leo J
6P - Xavier B
PE - Elleil H

9th October

RP - Reon B
RW - Bayan H
ISS - Zaira M
ICS - Lucas T
2B - Jeeya S
2D - Isla-Mae F
3L - Laura B
3K - David C
4G - Ie jab I
4M - Albie M
5C - Nikolas B
5R - Ira C
6C - Oliver K
6P - Rosie S
PE - Jack D (Year 6)
French - Freya C (Year 3)





Year 1 & 2's

Newsletter



In Year One in our Art lessons, we have been learning about the designer Alexander McQueen. We looked at some of his designs and then designed our own circus costume in the same style. We are looking forward to our visit from Circus Sensible next week where we learn lots of circus skills and have lots of fun!

In Geography we have been learning what a map is and what different types of map there are.

In Year 2 we have been writing questions about a church in preparation to our visit to St Paul's Church next week. In History we have been continuing our learning on the Great Fire of London and thought about the causes and the consequences of it. In Computing we have been learning how technology helps us such as bar codes and scans.

Reception

Newsletter

Recently, we have been so impressed with the children's Literacy, learning all about Traditional Tales. They have been joining in with story-telling, drawing wonderful character pictures and role playing!

The children are quickly learning their new sounds in Phonics. We learn one sound a day and so it is really important that they continue this learning at home, with the weekly Phonics sheets, their reading books and their sound keyrings. Can we please ask that the keyrings are returned each Tuesday so they can be swapped for the next set.

Also, a polite reminder to please order your children's lunches.





Year 5 & 6's Newsletter

In Year 5, the children have been really enjoying the artwork we have been studying based on the paintings of Guy de Montlaur.

We have started to produce our finished paintings and the results are already very good. We are finishing the paintings off this week and I'm sure the completed works will be excellent.

This half term we have been focussing on the use of shelters in DT. The children have analysed different types of shelter, their purpose and the way that they are constructed. The children have then designed their own shelters. This week we have created their shelters using art materials which the children really enjoyed.

Year 3 & 4's Newsletter

In Year 3, in Science, we have been investigating rocks, testing their different properties and have been carrying out practical experiments to explore characteristics such as hardness, texture and permeability. In History, we have been learning all about mammoths. The children have enjoyed finding out interesting facts and using their research to develop their understanding of these fascinating animals. In English, we have started our new book, Little Nose. We have been exploring the characters and story, discussing the events and developing our reading and writing skills through a range of activities.

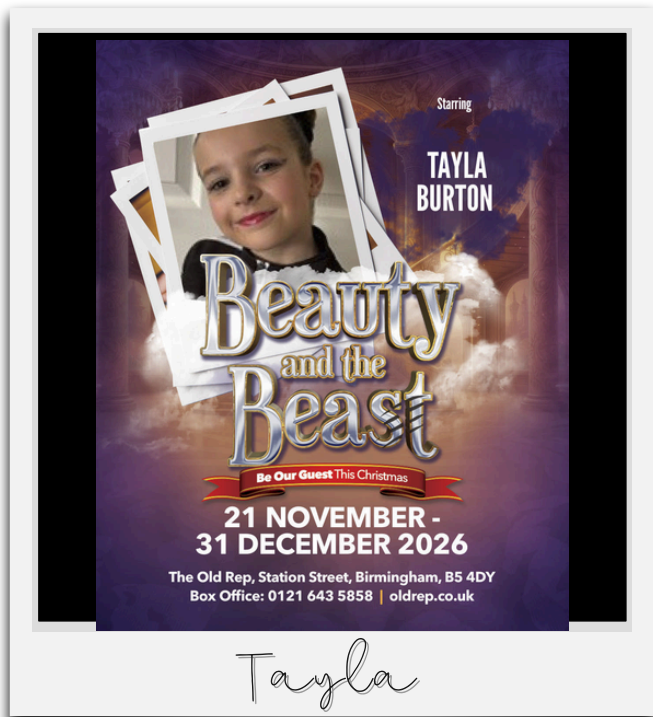
In Year 4, we have been enjoying lots of exciting learning across the curriculum. In English, we have started our new book, Romulus and Remus. We have been answering questions about the text, exploring synonyms and rewriting parts of the story in our own words. In Maths, we have started addition and subtraction. In Art, we have been exploring perspective drawing and preparing to create our own artwork. In Geography, we are learning how volcanoes are formed and are putting our knowledge into practice by creating our own documentaries.



Harry - 4M

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



Tayla will be starring in The Old Rep's 'Beauty and the Beast' Christmas pantomime this year! She would be delighted if anyone from school wants to book tickets to see her.

A huge well done and congratulations to Tayla for what we are sure will be a memorable experience. We are very proud and would like to wish her all the best for her upcoming performances!

#myaspirations

Jaxon recently achieved the 'Hardest Worker of the Month' award at his gymnastics class. It is wonderful to hear that all his hard work has been recognised. Well done Jaxon!

#myaspirations

