



September 2023

Highfields Primary

newsletter



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Head's Welcome

We have had an amazing first week back at school, the sun is shining and it has been so lovely meeting all of the new children who have started with us this week but also speaking to your children about their summer adventures! The newsletter will start coming home every fortnight from now and will have a slightly different format to last year. If you know a parent who is new to school, please let them know about the newsletter and our Facebook page so they can keep up to date with everything going on. We have lots planned for this term so please keep an eye on the 'Diary Dates'

Mrs Garratt



New website

On the front page of this newsletter you will have seen a QR code that if you scan takes you to the new Highfields Primary School website! We are very excited about the new site and over the next couple of weeks staff will be starting to upload lots of useful information about your child's class, the curriculum areas they will be studying and we will use it to also share important information and dates, so please check back in a short while to see our new amazing website!

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 95.1%. The highest attending classes this week were;

Reception - RP 96.5%

KS1 - 2D 97.2%

KS2 - 6R, 6C, 3K, 3C 96.7%





Autumn 1 - Diary Dates

September

4th - INSET - School closed to children
5th - INSET - School closed to children
6th - Start of a new Autumn term
8th - Y6 trip to Edgmond Hall
15th - 4L start swimming
15th - Secondary applications parent meeting
21st - KS2 Magical Maths after school club
22nd - Harvest donations sent into school
25th - Harvest sale
26th - Flu vaccinations (YR-Y6)

October

6th - Highfields Helpers Disco (Details TBC)
10th - Individual & Family photographs
13th - School Panto visit - Snow White
19th - Y4 trip to Lunt Fort
20th - Y1 Circus visitors
25th - 4.00-6.30pm - Parents evening
26th - 4.00-6.30pm - Parents evening
31st - Secondary application deadline
HALF TERM
30th October - 3rd November

Value of the Month

During the month of September, we will be looking at the value 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.

Head's Tea Party

Every Friday we will be celebrating the achievements and accomplishments of children from across the school who staff feel, have gone over and above at school. They will join me for an afternoon tea party for the last 20 minutes of the school day. We will share a drink and biscuits or cake and talk about the accomplishments that have made the children shine this week.

EdShed

Learning to spell is a very important skill and at Highfields, in Years 2-6, we use the EdShed (sometimes called Spelling Shed) website to allow the children to practise key words at school and at home. Children in Years 2-6 will come home with the log in details for the website inside their reading record on a sticker. There is also a QR code that allows quick access to the website. Please keep an eye out for this and encourage your child to practise their spellings on a weekly basis. The children will also bring a paper pack home on Monday 18th September to also help them to learn the words. Thank you for your support with this.



Golden Book Awards



On this page I will send home a list every fortnight of the children from each class who have achieved the 'Golden Book Certificate' for their class.

This will be a certificate they get in recognition for a variety of reasons, this may be for some fantastic work, amazing home learning or for following our schools values!

Your child will come home with a certificate which has been awarded to them by their class teacher that morning in a whole school assembly. We also share the first name of the child on our Facebook page so we can all celebrate our children's successes!

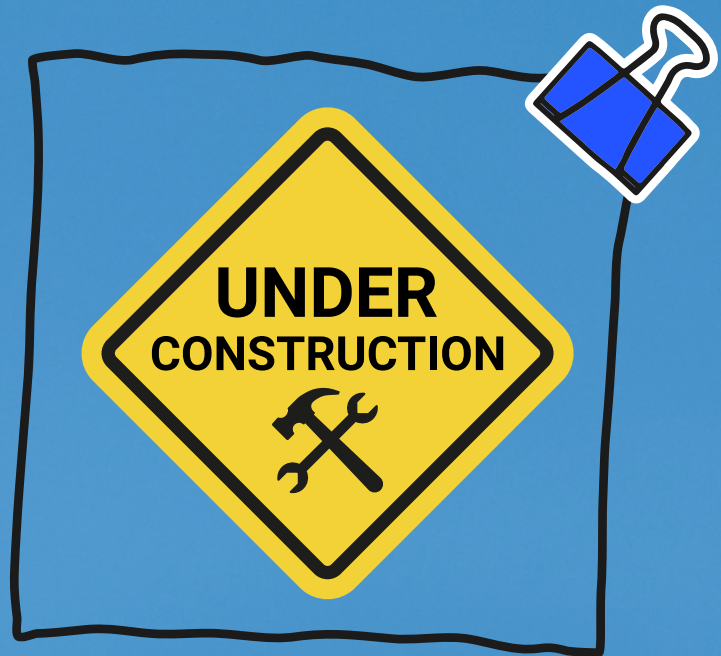
As well as the class teachers and support staff nominating a child, Madame Savary and Mrs Ashfield-Saunt also nominate a child from across the school for the French and PE awards



Reception Newsletter

On the next newsletter there will be an update written by the Reception staff telling you all about the things your children have been doing and the topics they will be learning about in the upcoming term.

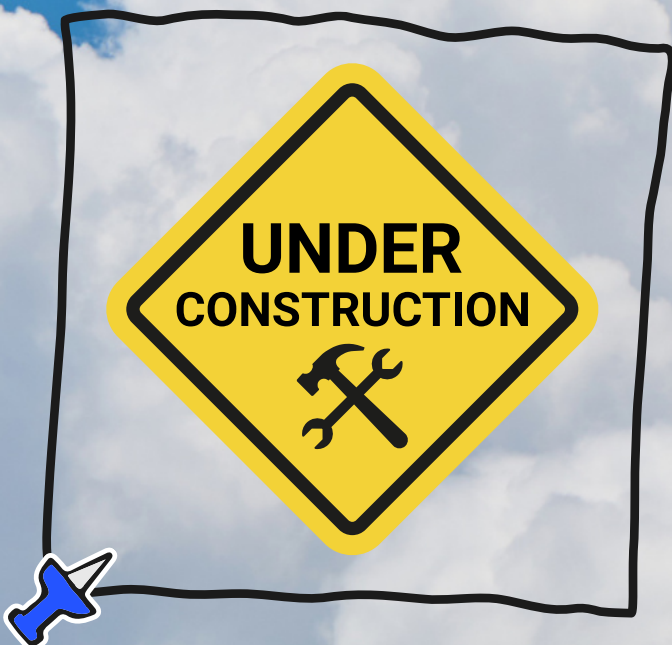
It is also an area where we send home reminders and share news!



Year 1 & 2 Newsletter

On the next newsletter there will be an update written by the KSI Phase Leader Miss Stevenson, telling you all about the things your children have been doing and the topics they will be learning about in the upcoming term.

It is also an area where we send home reminders and share news!



Years 3 & 4 Newsletter

On the next newsletter there will be an update written by the Lower KS2 Phase Leader Mrs Lovekin, telling you all about the things your children have been doing and the topics they will be learning about in the upcoming term.

It is also an area where we send home reminders and share news!



Years 5 & 6 Newsletter

On the next newsletter there will be an update written by the Upper KS2 Phase Leader Mr Roper, telling you all about the things your children have been doing and the topics they will be learning about in the upcoming term.

It is also an area where we send home reminders and share news!



Books of the Month

This year, we will be continuing with our 'book of the month' recommended read. Each month, a book will be introduced to each phase in the school and talked about with the children. In Nursery, Reception, 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 classrooms and library for children to select as their reading book as and when they wish.

We will also let you know the book titles on the newsletter and website so please keep an eye out.

The books for September are:

EYFS: 'When Cookie Crumbled' by Michelle Robinson

Years 1 and 2: 'Shine' by Sarah Asuquo

Years 3 and 4: 'Keisha Jones Takes on the World' by Natalie Denny

Years 5 and 6: 'Finding Wonder' by Lauren St John



Phonics and Reading

As we return to school, children in Reception, Year 1 and some children in Year 2 will be starting their phonics and reading sessions to teach the children how to read and learn key reading skills.

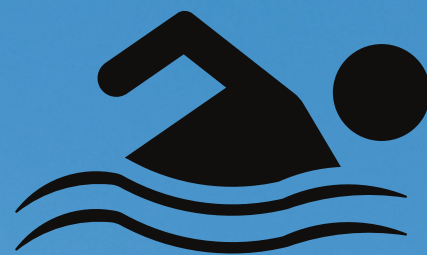
Children in these year groups will come home with a username and password to access reading books matched to their reading ability online. These details will be on a sticker in your child's reading record so please keep a look out for this. More details will follow on physical phonics reading books coming home in the coming weeks.

All of the other children in school will also bring home reading records and reading books. More information will follow about this in the coming weeks.

We are currently in the process of updating and modernising our library so it is an exciting time to be a reader at Highfields!

Highfields Hall of Fame

This page will be used to celebrate the things your children do in their spare time that they would like to share with us all e.g earning gym certificates, football or swimming trophies etc. If you could send a photograph and a short explanation via email to highfields.enquiry@highfields.sandwell.sch.uk Mrs Garratt will publish them. If we have permission, we will also post them on our schools private Facebook page



Highfields would like to say a huge well done to Charlie (Y6) and Maisie (Y3) who have only started kick boxing 5 weeks ago and they have already achieved their white belts. Next week they will be going for their grading for their red belt and we think they'll smash it! Well done girls!

#MyAspirations



Highfields Helpers

Newsletter

This page will be written by Highfields Helpers and will have the details of all their upcoming events.

Highfields Helpers are our Parent Organisation who help support Highfields. Their events help raise vital funds for our children and over the years has helped us to purchase things like gym equipment, helped us furnish the ICT suite and paid for coaches and trips for groups of children, they are a vital source of funding for Highfields and we really appreciate their support.

If you could give a few hours, or ideas, and would like to join the Highfields Helpers team, there is a red box in the front office where you can post your details and a member of the team will be in touch

