



Highfields Primary

newsletter



22nd September 2023



Head's Welcome

It's been a really busy week here at Highfields and we are all excited with our new topics - have a look at the phase newsletter for your child's class to get a better idea of what's been happening this week.

We are also delighted to be able to share the names of our 'Little Leader's 23/24' with you.

Pupil voice is incredibly important to us at Highfields and we love hearing the thoughts of our young people in order to improve our school and local community. We have councils this year for 'Sports', 'Eco Council' and a new 'School Council' who later in the year will have the chance to visit the Houses of Parliament! We also have 'Reading Ambassadors' and 'Playground Pals' and in the next newsletter I will share with you the 'Digital

Leaders' who support children online!

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 95.7%. The highest attending classes this week were;

Reception - 95.6%

KS1 - 97.4%

KS2 - 97.6%



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Autumn Term - Diary Dates



September

- 21st - KS2 Magical Maths after school club
- 22nd - Harvest donations sent into school and non uniform day
- 25th - Harvest sale for Manna Pantry
- 26th - Flu vaccinations (YR-Y6)
- 26th - Parent Behaviour workshop
- 28th - KS2 Magical Maths after school club
- 29th - 4L swimming
- 29th - Mrs Lovekin last day

October

Black History Month

- 3rd - 2.30pm Reception parents phonics workshop
- 5th - KS2 Magical Maths after school club
- 6th - 4L swimming
- 6th - Highfields Helpers Disco (Details TBC)
- 9th - 2.30pm Year 1 parents phonics workshop
- 10th - Individual & Family photographs
- 12th - KS2 Magical Maths after school club
- 13th - School Panto visit - Snow White
- 13th - 4L swimming
- 19th - Y4 trip to Lunt Fort
- 19th - KS2 Magical Maths after school club
- 20th - Y1 Circus visitors
- 20th - 4L swimming
- 25th - 4.00-6.30pm - Parents evening
- 26th - 4.00-6.30pm - Parents evening
- 27th - 4L swimming
- 31st - Secondary application deadline

Half Term

30th October - 3rd November

November

- 6th - INSET DAY - Closed to all children
- 9th - Y2 trip to Aston Hall
- 9th - Y3 Stone Age workshop
- 10th - Parliament School Council trip
- 10th - 4L swimming
- 10th - Minute silence for Remembrance day
- 13th - 17th - Antibullying Week
- 13th - Odd socks for school day
- 15th - Y5 trip to RAF Cosford
- 17th - 4L swimming
- 17th - Children in Need

20th - 25th - Road Safety Week

- 21st - Road safety assemblies
- 24th - 4L swimming

December

- 1st - 4L swimming
- 8th - 4L last swimming session
- 8th - Christmas Film Night - details TBC
- 12th - TBC 2pm Rocksteady concert
- 15th - 4G start swimming
- 15th - 2-4pm Highfields Christmas Fayre

More Christmas dates will follow over the next few weeks as more activities are planned so please keep an eye on this diary page in every newsletter





Golden Book Awards



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

RP - Oliver
RW - Izzy E
ICS - Royalty
ISS - Harry
2D - Thorne-Grey
2M - Ajay
3C - Otis
3K - Ava C
4G - Luca S
4L - William W
5NB - Fletcher H
5LB - Darcie NH
6C - Tristan
6R - James B
French - Amelia T
Physical Education - Oliver Y3

RP - Thomas
RW - Ibrahim
ICS - Olivia
ISS - Callie
2D - Max
2M - Summer C
3C - Jaxson
3K - Jorie
4G - Mukundi
4L - Aiyanna
5NB - Boris
5LB - Betsy
6C - Ethan-Kye
6R - Naziha
French - Kohen F-D
Physical Education - William W

Times Tables Rockstars

Is your child in Year 2 to Year 6? If so we have a link that you might find useful. This year we are going to raise the profile of maths by relaunching our TT Rockstars! This will include taking part in competitions against yourself, your class mates, other year groups ...and even the staff! Please have a look at the link and get ready to rock!



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ZxZbRVvbYM>



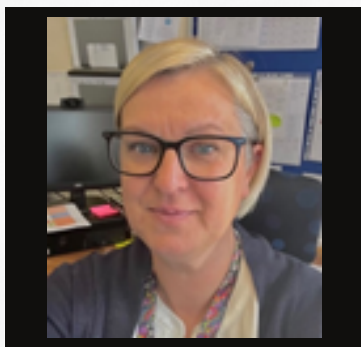
Mrs Garratt's Tea Party

A huge well done to the following children who have joined me this afternoon for a tea party to celebrate the over and above things they have done this week at Highfields!

Jasneet - 4G
Layla SW - 3G
Nichole N - 6C
Taleah P - 6R
Lola M - ICS
Susan D - 5NB



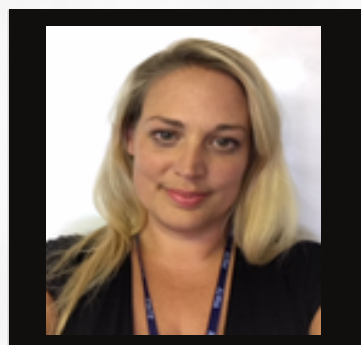
Safeguarding @ Highfields



Mrs Garratt



Mrs Lewis



Mrs Evans



Mrs Adams

Safeguarding is all of our responsibilities whatever our role in school and this also includes our parents so I wanted to share some information with you via the first newsletter of the year

Here at Highfields, safeguarding is of the upmost importance. To help with this we make sure all staff receive high quality training to develop vigilance, confidence and competency and we have a safeguarding team who have regular training in order to support our children and families. Over the next few weeks, we will start uploading relevant documents onto the schools website in order to support our children and families even more.

The Highfields Safeguarding team are;

Mrs Garratt - Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

Mrs Lewis - Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)

Mrs Evans - Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)

Mrs Adams - Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)

We also have a Safeguarding Governor, Mrs Janet Hunter, who works closely with the team above in order to make sure safeguarding is a priority.

If you have a concern about a child, we ask you to;

- Contact one of the safeguarding team with your concern
- Use safeguarding@highfields.sandwell.sch.uk email address
- Contact NSPCC on 0808 800 5000

To find out more, please access the following link from the NSPCC who can answer any questions or concerns you may have





Manna Pantry

With the cost of living crisis, we appreciate how hard things are at the moment, especially after a 6 week holiday and on the countdown to Christmas! There are times in all of our lives when we need a little help and support and Manna Pantry can offer our families just that. As a school we work with Manna Pantry a lot and often signpost our families to their services, this year we are working with Manna Pantry again for our harvest collection – look out for the letter coming home this week! Manna House Pantry is a local membership food shop. It's a little bit like a small supermarket. Members pay a small fee (£4) to shop at the pantry and in return choose groceries worth a lot more.

Manna House Pantry is one of over 90 pantries in the UK. Opened by Bethel Church Blackheath, the pantry is located on Vicarage Road in Halesowen – not far from Blackheath town centre.

Manna House Pantry helps people who live locally (within a 3 mile radius) to access a choice of more affordable food. It is there to help anyone who is struggling financially to afford food. Manna House Pantry is run by volunteers. All of the £4 fee members pay is used to buy food to re-stock the pantry shelves and fridge/freezers.

The rising energy and food costs means currently;

- 196 families currently receiving support
- A further 399 families supported since opening
- Approx 110 shoppers per week
- 12, 226 grocery shops so far

Food Vouchers

Highfields are also here to help any families who need our support. We have food vouchers at school that we can provide for our families. Please, either ask to speak to a member of the safeguarding team or email safeguarding@highfields.sandwell.sch.uk and we can support you. This service is confidential





Little Leaders 2023-24

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. These are the first few groups we have this year. In the next newsletter we will also introduce you to our 'Digital Leaders'

School Council



Eco Council

Y1 - Layla M, Sebastian S, Corey C, Tianna B
Y2 - Millie W, Ajay M, Miral A, Amelia R
Y3 - Leo J, Jorie A, Maisie N, Ava C
Y4 - Henry J, Poppy S, Gracie M, Jasneet K
Y5 - Betsy, Ranveer, Kohen FD, Millie J
Y6 - Aneesa M, Amelia, Anabia J, Naziha I

Y1 - Jaden S, Callie B
Y2 - Ira CH, Perla M
Y3 - Oliver K, Xavier B
Y4 - Ameera A, Mia-Leigh L
Y5 - Deborah C, Ava-Lilly T
Y6 - Connor B, Subhan A

Sports Council

Y1 - Lola M, Harry H
Y2 - Jaxson SW, Reggie W
Y3 - Otis B, Muhammad T
Y4 - Jayden R, Edward C
Y5 - Isa W, Lawi N
Y6 - Amelia, Isla-Jo S

Reading Ambassadors

Y3 - Arlo C, Harrison P, Carys J, Ankita B
Y4 - Luca S, Arabella B, Lily Ruth R
Y5 - Fletcher H, Idrees R, Abrar I
Y6 - Charlie C, Jasmine J, Darcie D, Yasmin H, Olivia W

Playground Pals

Digital Leaders

Y5 - Jennifer F, Lola P, Delia P, Isabel R, Rudy B, Prabhneet G, Aiden R, Luca C
Y6 - Isha A, Leah-Rose B, Charlie N, Emme P, Nichole N, Isabella D, Nehemiah C, Brooke P, Darcy N, Elouise A, Kain R, Taleah P

To be confirmed



Year 1

Year 1 & 2's Newsletter

The children in Y1 have made a fantastic start to the school year. They have worked hard learning the new routines such as lining up in register order and are working hard to apply our school values of being ready, respectful and safe. The children have been introduced to the topic 'Step Right Up' all about the circus. Later in the term we will be having a visit from Circus Sensible. In Art we have been learning about the artist Georges Seurat and the technique of pointillism that he used to create his painting.

In Y2, we have started our Fire and Ice topic. We have looked at a range of sources in History to find out about an historical event. We have carried out ice experiments to find out what materials keep ice frozen for the longest amount of time. In English, we have started looking at a new story called 'Rainbow Bird'. We predicted what was going to happen in the story and describe characters using a range of adjectives

Reception

Newsletter

The children in Reception have had a wonderful start to their school life. We are so proud of how well they have settled in, adapting to routines and new expectations. They have started to form some friendships and are enjoying exploring activities. Our first topic is All About Me. We will be learning about our families, our bodies and our favourite traditional tales. Last week, we read Goldilocks and the Three Bears; children enjoyed acting out the story in the role play area and produced some lovely drawings and art work. This week we read The Three Little Pigs. We learned about the best type of material to build a house and the children loved acting out the story, especially huffing and puffing to blow the houses down.

Reminder - Please do not send your child with a backpack, we do not have space for them in the cloakroom - a book bag fits in your child's tray. Please also ensure all of your child's belongings are labelled with their name



Reception

Year 3 & 4's Newsletter

Year 3 have dived straight into their new Stone Age topic! As well as learning about the Stone Age in History, the children have started reading a new book called 'The Stone Age Boy'. After reading this, the children have re-written the opening of the story using lots of descriptive techniques and some conjunctions.

Year 4 have had so much fun so far with the start of their Roman topic! They've added key Roman events to timelines, tasted some Roman food and started reading a new book in English called 'The Sewer Demon'. So far, the children have read around eight chapters and have written a newspaper report on a sewer demon spotted in the Roman town of Ostia!

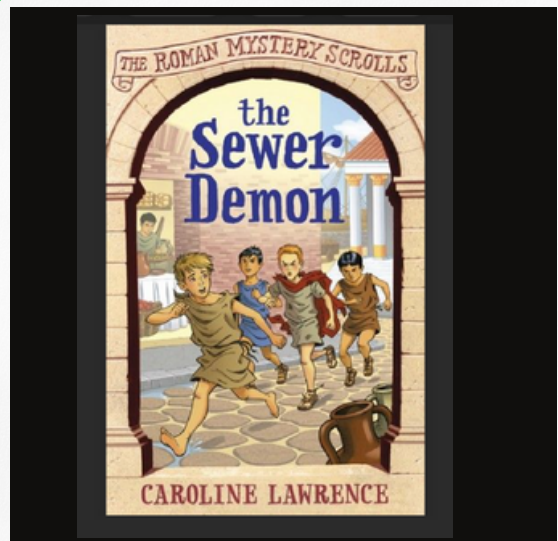


Year 6

Year 5 & 6's Newsletter

The children of Year 5 are really enjoying Goodnight Mr Tom and have written some excellent letters this week. It is an excellent book that requires the children to engage with some serious themes and it is great to see them responding thoughtfully.

The children of Year 6 had a brilliant time at Edmond Hall. They were great at the team-building activities and worked really well together. They loved making shelters although you wouldn't necessarily want to spend the night in all of them. It was an excellent day



Year 4

Highfields Hall of Fame



Elsie - YR



Proving that age and size shouldn't stop you from doing great things, Elsie competed in a dance competition recently. At the end of the competition she, and her group had won 3 golds for their group dances. She did amazing and we are all very proud of her! #myaspirations

A huge well done to Darcy who recently took her dancing medal tests and on Saturday received her medals and certificates,

Silver Latin - Highly Commended

Rock n Roll - Honours

Line Dancing Bronze - Honours

Freestyle pairs - Honours

Freestyle Bronze - Highly Commended

Ballroom Bronze - Highly Commended

We are all very proud of Darcy #myaspirations



Darcy



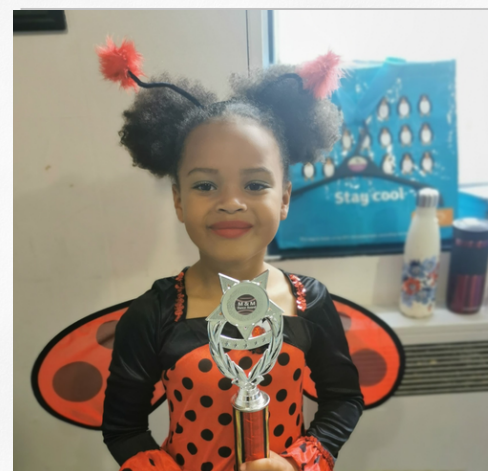
Cairo

I am always blown away by the range of activities that our children take part in. This week we were impressed to find out that in the 6 weeks holidays, Cairo learnt how to play the steel pans as part of his summer club. Cairo memorised the music and performed it for the peer group and we were blown away #myaspirations



Highfields Hall of Fame

This girl can! Well done Olivia who had her first dancing competition last week and only went and won 1st place trophies in all three dances with her group! What an amazing job and what an amazing costume. Well done Olivia! [#myaspirations](#)



Olivia



Emmie

Emmie received a trophy for girl of the match, she plays for Withymoor Colts Under 11's girls team. The trophy was awarded to her after their friendly game against a team called Envil Angels. The manager said "There was some brilliant effort - absolutely exemplified by Emmie P - relentless impeccable attitude."

Amazing work Emmie! [#myaspirations](#)

Lilli took part in the Lego and Aston Villa Football session (Unstoppable FC) last week at the Villa Academy. She played football with Rachel Daly (England Lionesses) and got to take part in Q&A session. She was also chosen to be interviewed by the BBC and Newsround about her experiences as a girl playing football, and what football means to her. We couldn't be prouder of Lilli and the message she shares about girls in football. I have no doubt she's a future Lioness! [#myaspirations](#)



Lilli



Highfields Governors

Newsletter

School governors work to plan the strategic direction of the school, oversee budgets, and support and challenge the headteacher. As part of the governing board, governors play a vital role in helping schools run efficiently and effectively to give children the best education possible. Schools with strong governing boards are better equipped to make important decisions that affect the education they provide for their pupils.

What do school governors do?

- Planning the strategic direction of the school
- Overseeing financial performance of the school and ensuring money is well spent
- Holding the headteacher or school leadership to account

This year our newsletter will be introducing you to our Governing Body so as parents, you are aware of who we are and what we do to support Highfields Primary School. If you would be interested in joining our Governing Body please let the front office or Mrs Garratt know

Who am I? – My name is Joanne Flowers and I'm Chair of Governors. I have been a member of the Governing Body at Highfields since 2013.

My Background – I have worked in Sandwell Schools since 2001 and am currently Deputy Head in a Special School.

Why do I like being a Governor? Being a Governor has given me the opportunity to make a difference to the lives of the children at Highfields. I enjoy working closely with the other Governors and the Leadership team to support the development of the school. Although my children no longer attend the School, I continue to volunteer as Governor each year. Some of my favourite things to do as a Governor is attending parents evenings and school events where I get the opportunity to meet parents and children.



Mrs
Flowers



Highfields Helpers

Newsletter

This year's AGM will be held on Friday 20th October at 2.30pm in the Discovery Den. All family members of children at Highfields are welcome to join our team and we look forward to meeting you then!

