



6th October 2023

Highfields Primary

newsletter



Head's Welcome

What a busy fortnight we have had since the last newsletter, we have crammed in so much!

Thank you to all of the parents who came to our behaviour workshop and phonics workshops this week, it was lovely to see so many parents supporting school.

I have walked around this week and been blown away by the number of children who have had their names written on the new recognition boards in their classrooms. The children are working really hard to show the staff how they follow our ready, respectful and safe values which is amazing! We are having new boards made for our playgrounds too now as well, so you should see them popping up around the site soon too! Hope you enjoy this weeks newsletter!

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 93.8%. The highest attending classes this week were;

Reception - RP - 92.3%

KSI - ICS - 95.9%

KS2 - 3K - 99.3%



Contents Page

Heads Welcome/Attendance
Black History Month
Ready, Respectful for Learning
Eco Council / Creative Active Lives
Autumn term diary dates
Book of the Month / Theme of the Month/
SMSC Events October
Golden Book / Tea Party
Little Leaders 23-24
Reception / Y1 & Y2 newsletter
Y3 & Y4 newsletter / Y5 & Y6 newsletter
Highfields Hall of Fame
Highfields Governing Body
Highfields Helpers newsletters

follow Highfields Primary School page on





Black History Month



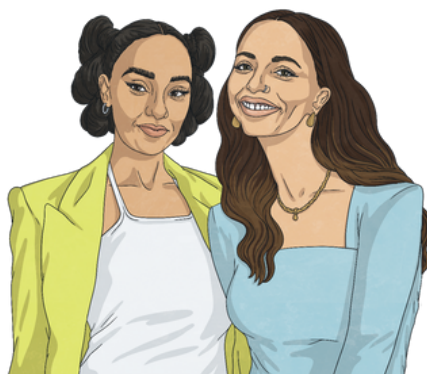
Black History Month is celebrated in the UK during the month of October every year. It is an opportunity for everyone to learn about significant Black and Mixed Heritage people and their contributions to Britain and worldwide. Black History Month has been celebrated in the UK since 1987.

The theme of this year's UK Black History month is '*Celebrating Our Sisters*'. The aim of this theme is to learn about Black and Mixed Heritage British women who have shaped history. We not only learn about their achievements and accomplishments throughout October, but throughout the year as part of our diverse curriculum.

In assembly with Mrs Garratt this week we looked at some influential Black British women from different industries including sports, politics, music, science and medicine, broadcasting and entertainment, literature and arts. Here are a some of the ladies we talked about in assembly, ask your children if they can remember any of the others?

Lauren James

- England Women's Footballer
- Scored three goals for England in the 2023 Women's World Cup.



Leigh-Anne Pinnoch and Jade Thirlwall

- Singers and Members of Little Mix
- Five number one songs

Alison Hammond

- Broadcaster and Author
- Has written a children's book called 'Black in Time' to educate children about significant figures in Black British History.



Baroness Floella Benjamin

- Politician
- Founded 'Touching Success', an organisation that helps less fortunate children.



Ready and Respectful for Learning




We have been monitoring the punctuality of the children in the mornings and unfortunately there are quite a few children who are arriving late for school regularly. Even a minute or two late is unsettling for most children.

Teachers have been concerned about how children get upset and embarrassed when coming into class late. Often they miss instructions for the day and have to be reminded about tasks or things that other children have already completed. To those families who are regularly late, please support your child's learning by getting them to school on time.

We feel being punctual and on time is a very important life skill; it shows eagerness, diligence, a positive attitude but most of all it helps being ready for learning as well as being respectful and we try to develop all these things at Highfields. If you are unsure how your child feels about being late, please talk to them and see how they feel about it. It may seem like 10 minutes isn't really that much, but a pupil who is only 10 minutes late every day will miss 30 hours of school time that year. If a child is 10 minute late getting to school, it is more like 20 minutes until they are actually learning.

Please remember that if your child arrives late after the close of registration this is marked as a U code which is an unauthorised absence. As part of our attendance monitoring we are now starting to contact families who arrive late to school.

If you are experiencing problems in getting your child to school then please speak to Mrs Adams Learning Mentor.

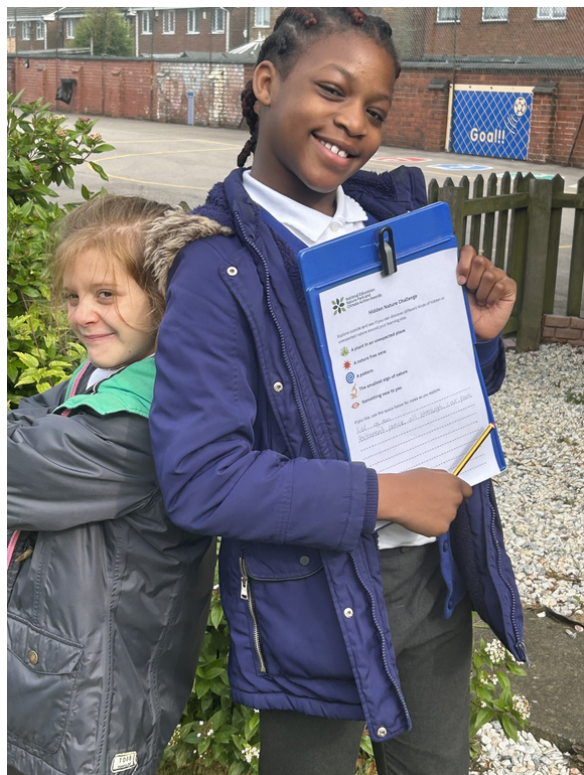


Getting your child to school on time really matters, did you know....

If in a school year your child is late everyday...	your child would have lost approximately...	or they would have missed approximately...
5 minutes	3.5 days from school	20 lessons
10 minutes	7 days from school	41 lessons
15 minutes	10 days from school	55 lessons
20 minutes	14.5 days from school	82 lessons
30 minutes	22 days from school	123 lessons

**You should not take your child on holiday during term time.
Please encourage punctuality to maintain school attendance.
Remember Absence = Lost Opportunity**





On 4th October Deborah and Ava-Lilly from Y5 took part in the very first National Education Nature Park Challenge with other schools across the UK. Using the Survey123field app which they had downloaded, they were then able to access The Hidden Nature Challenge which uses your location so that you can add what you find on the map of your school site. As part of this challenge Deborah and Ava-Lilly had to find

- A plant in an unexpected place
- A nature free zone
- A pattern
- The smallest sign of nature
- Something new to you

Once all of the schools have submitted their findings it will then appear on the online map.

Creative Active Lives

Highfields would like to share with you a great new **FREE** inclusive fun and play club for children aged 6+

Wednesdays, 3.30 – 5.30pm at
St Giles Church Hall, Hawes Lane, B65 9AL

Saturdays 10.30am – 12.30pm Rowley Learning Campus, Curral Rd, Rowley Regis B65 9AN.

For more information please email rachel@creativeactivelives.org.uk



Creative Active Lives

Join Creative Active Lives Inclusive Fun & Games Club on Wednesdays afternoons and Saturday mornings, for relaxed play sessions for parents and children to attend - parents must stay at these sessions.
Sessions aimed at 6yrs and above

Wednesdays at St. Giles, Church Rd, Rowley Regis B65 9EP.
11th October – 20th December
3.30pm – 5.30pm

Saturdays at The Hub Room, Rowley Learning Campus, Curral Road, Rowley Regis, B65 9AN.
7th October – 16th December
10.30am-12.30pm

Our activities will change weekly, but you can expect to see Lego, archery, hula hooping, board games, card games and tricks, circus skills, learn sign language, art and crafts, giant floor games, Minecraft, pottery, circuits workshops, crafting and lots more!!!!
Keep an eye on our socials for what to expect each week.

The sessions are FREE and aimed at having some family fun together.
For more information please contact rachel@creativeactivelives.org.uk




Books of the Month – October



Please see below, this month's Book of the Month that we will be sharing in school. In Reception and Y1 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 Y3-6, copies will go into classrooms and library for children to select as their reading book as and when they wish.

The books for October are:

EYFS: 'Doris' by Lo Cole

Years 1 and 2: 'Bella the Storyteller' by Chris Naylor-Ballesteros

Years 3 and 4: 'Once Upon a Legend' by Ben Miller

Years 5 and 6: 'Arkspire' by Jamie Littler



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 peoples 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.

SMS October



All month – Black History Month
All month – The Big Draw Festival
All month – Walk to School Month
October 2nd – World Habitat Day
October 4th – World Animal Day
October 6th – World Smile Day
October 10th – World Homeless Day
October 10th – World Mental Health Day
October 16th – World Food Day
October 16th – 22nd Recycle Week
October 17th – International Day for Eradication of Poverty
October 19th – World Values Day
October 24th – United Nations Day



Autumn Term - Diary Dates



October

Black History Month

6th - 4L swimming
6th - Highfields Helpers Disco
9th - 2.30pm Year 1 parents phonics workshop
10th - Individual & Family photographs
10th - Olympian Water Safety Assemblies with Rebecca Adlington!
11th October - 9.00am PC Shendy
Blakemore Y6 Social Media workshop /assembly
12th - KS2 Magical Maths after school club
13th - School Panto visit - Snow White
13th - 4L swimming
17th October - 9.00am PC Shendy
Blakemore Y5 Social Media workshop /assembly
19th - Y4 trip to Lunt Fort
19th - KS2 Magical Maths after school club
20th - Y1 Circus visitors
20th - 4L swimming
20th - 2.30pm Highfields Helpers AGM meeting- Highfields
24th - SIPS theme menu day
Football match - 'vs' Tipton Green
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 - 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

29th September

RP - Lawson
RW - Elliot
ICS - Iejab
ISS - Neve
2D - Matilda
2M - Millie
3C - Maisie
3K - Talhah
4G - Eesa
4L - Amelia
5NB - Kohen
5LB - Rocco
6C - Darcie
6R - Frankie-Mae
French - Ankita B
Physical Education - Kevin

6th October

RP - Ivy
RW - Lillianna
ICS - Elliyah
ISS - Jessica
2D - Eliza
2M - Jasmine
3C - Rosie
3K - Henry
4G - Sallome
4L - Wyatt
5NB - Evie Mae
5LB - Logan
6C - Isabella D
6R - Isabelle H
Physical Education - Isla-Jo



Mrs Garratt's Tea Party



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

Hermione - RP
Frankie - ICS
Amelia - ISS
Reggie - 2M
Idrees - 2D
Ranveer - 5LB
Millie - 5NB



Eloise - 6R
Betsy - 5LB
Poppy - 4L
Zoe - 4G
Ana-Sofia - 3G
Elsie - RW
Isla-Rose Horton - RP
Miss Hughes- Staff





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 W, 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

Y5 - Lilli M
Y6 - Ibrahim M



Reception Newsletter

Last week the children enjoyed learning all about Little Red Riding Hood. We acted out the story using masks and the children did some fantastic impressions! In Maths we have been learning about sorting and creating 'sorting rules' - the children sorted pasta into different categories depending on their shape, size and colour. This week we have read the Little Red Hen. The children have been particularly interested in how bread is made.

We have started our reading sessions and your child's first eBook will be allocated to them by the end of this week. This will be a wordless book that they are familiar with. Please look at the inside cover and last page in the eBook for more guidance. Speak to a member of Reception staff if you need support with logging into your Collins account.

Reminder - Please also ensure all of your child's belongings are labelled with their name. A lot of unnamed cardigans and jumpers are being taken to 'Lost Property' at the end of each day.



Amelia K

Year 1 & 2's Newsletter

In Year One the children have been reading the story of Clifford at the Circus. They have learnt lots of new vocabulary and have used this in sentences of their own. They have looked at the problems that were in the story and how Clifford helped with these. They are really looking forward to the circus workshop in a couple of weeks' time.

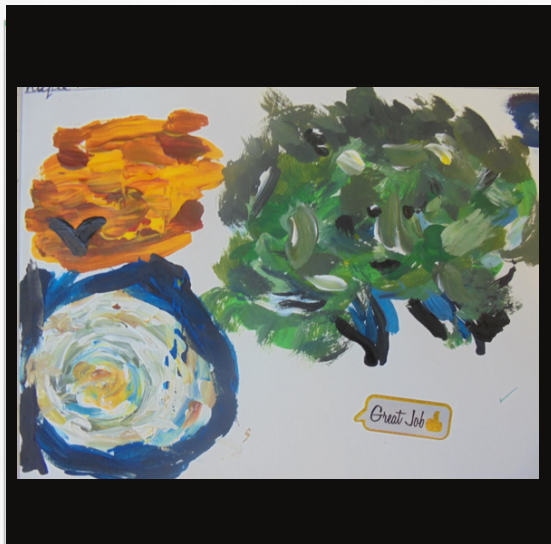
In Art they have been learning how to mix colours using the three primary colours and have completed their own colour wheels. They have also continued their learning on Georges Seurat and have been experimenting with what they could use to create their own pointillism paintings.

In Year Two we have started a new story called 'The Wild Girl'. We have looked at where the story is set and sorted adjectives and nouns from the story. In Art, we have mixed colours to create tints and shades. We have also mixed colours to create a tertiary colour wheel. In History, we have learnt lots about the Great Fire of London.

Year 3 & 4's Newsletter

Year 3 have been working hard in English looking at features of a diary entry in preparation for when they write their own based on the book 'Stone Age Boy.' In Maths, the children have just finished their place value unit and in science have started to learn about fossils- I think we have a few budding palaeontologists amongst us!

Year 4 have finished reading 'The Sewer Demon' and written their own endings for the story. The children have now started to read their new text 'Romulus and Remus' in their English lessons. In art, the classes have started to think about perspective when drawing and in geography have started researching volcanoes so that they can make their own documentaries about these.

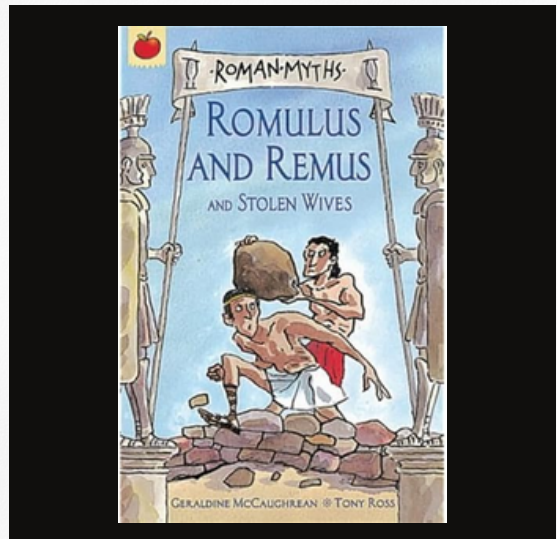


Olivia - 6C

Year 5 & 6's Newsletter

In Year 5, we have been working on our World War II non-chronological reports. We have been learning about many aspects of the war and will be producing our finished reports in the next week. We have also been working on our art, this week we learned about contrasting and complementary

This week, Year 6 have been experimenting with painting in the style of Vincent van Gogh. The children learned how to create images using short brush strokes with plenty of paint on their brushes. They really enjoyed experimenting with the technique and will be working on their final pictures in the coming weeks.



Romulus & Remus

Highfields Hall of Fame



Ava - Y3



A massive back flipping well done to Ava!
Last week Ava competed in the Central Galaxy Invitational Competition 2023, she competed against three other gymnastics clubs and came third in her category! Amazing work! #myaspirations

2 weeks ago, both Tristan and Brandon from Y6 competed in the Halesowen Athletics Quad Kids competition, where they competed in 4 events and were so pleased when they won gold and silver together! They came up against tough opposition! The week after they were also asked to compete in the U13s team for the Midland Counties AA Road Relays Championship and despite a very tall, older field of athletes did amazingly! We are so proud of them both and hopefully lots more medals to come, as its cross-country season soon!

#myaspirations



Tristan & Brandon



Henry & Theo

We are so proud of these boys! Last weekend, Henry and Theodore took part in the first rugby tournament of the season.

This season Henry's now playing contact rugby, him and his team did really well winning all four games. Theodore's team also won all four games playing tag rugby. Medals all round #myaspirations





Highfields Governors

Newsletter

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 David Cox and I have been a governor at Highfields since 2018.

My Background - I have worked for a National Charity in both Management and Supporting Roles for the past 17 years and prior to that I worked for SMBC Child Care Social Services for 12 years.

Why do I like being a Governor? As I volunteer at Highfields working with KSI children around helping them with their reading and writing each week, I am able to see that what is raised at Governor's Meetings filters through into practice within the School.



Mr Cox

I feel very passionate about education and how a stable and age appropriate start in life helps to mould the adults of the future.

As a Governor, my role is to listen to and work with the Senior Management Team to make sure Highfields can be the best environment for your child(ren).

If changes need to be made, we work as a team to reach the best solutions so that Highfields offers the best learning environment through all years.

I am proud to work alongside the teaching staff both as Vice Chair and as a Volunteer as each role informs the other.

If you are, or know anyone, who would be interested in talking to school to find out more information about becoming a Governor, please contact leadershipteam@highfields.sandwell.sch.uk



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!

