



10th November 2023

Highfields Primary

newsletter



Head's Welcome

Welcome back to the second part of the Autumn term, I hope you all had amazing breaks. We are now in full swing when it comes to Christmas planning and I know EY/KSI have started with play parts and songs! Please look out in the diary section for Christmas diary dates

We are also straight back into our curriculum enrichment with trips to Aston Hall and RAF Cosford happening now, Y4 also had an amazing flight in their English lessons this week and Y3 survived yesterday's prehistoric invasion! As always the children were amazing and got a lot from the learning!

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 92.8%. The highest attending classes this week were;

Reception - RW - 93.1%

KSI - ICS - 94.8%

KS2 - 3K 99.3%



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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**



Eco Council

Parents will have received a letter informing them about the Eco-Award that Highfields is working towards but the Eco Council also wanted to share how they had spent money raised to support the World Wildlife Fund. Pupils were given the opportunity to vote which animals we should adopt from the WWF. Highfields Primary School is now the proud adopters of Penguins and Giant pandas. Our welcome packs arrived in school from the WWF and the Eco-Council have shared information about the animals that have been adopted and created a display in school. We would like to give our Penguin and Panda a name so the Eco Council are asking for suggestions. Please send your suggestion into school by Friday 17th November 2023 for the attention of the Eco Council. The Eco Council will create a short-list of names for voting and there will be a small prize for the pupil whose name is chosen. We have also purchased some non-fiction and fiction books for the school library about Penguins and Pandas. Look out for them the school library very soon.



Save Our Earth
By Deborah C Y5
Eco Representative

Our Earth needs saving,
So Stop chilling and bathing.
Put up a sign,
Make a poster design,
Make a speech,
Clean a beach,
Don't chill and bathe,
We have an Earth to save.

Ameera School Council Representative in Year 4 has been looking at the impact on our Eco Systems.

If we don't act now we could lose millions of species within the next few decades which would mean that we could lose our coral reef. This will impact first the fish and then the fishing industry and the impact on this economy would be huge. It doesn't have to be this way. What if I told you that there is a solution? It is called Eco System Restoration. A Healthy eco system regulate our drinking water and carbon which are the backbone of life on Earth. All living things need Carbon. Trees and soil store Carbon but their eco system becomes weak as they release Carbon instead of storing it. Healthy soils grow 95% of our food but pollution, climate change and pesticides are making the soil less productive and then the yields reduce. Instead of restoring we are expanding turning wild places into farmlands and then polluting healthy soils. When we lost forests, wildlife is forced to come closer to where humans are living bringing 'zoonotic disease' a virus that is passed between animal and humans like Bird Flu, Ebolar and possibly Covid 19. There are some actions we can take today to help. Growing trees in Cities would help cut pollution dramatically as they will filter and cool the air improving our health and reducing global warming.





Let's Get Cooking

Highfields recently became part of the 'Let's Get Cooking' programme, as well as receiving £250.00 pounds we will now be hosting and delivering 7 cookery sessions over the upcoming academic year!

The funding has come from a private individual legacy which has been set up by two sons following the death of their Mother, we are so proud to be able to work with the Gill Crabb foundation.



Highfields being Respectful



Thank you to all of the parents and children who supported our poppy appeal this year by sending in donations for poppy merchandise.

I also wanted to thank the children who were incredibly respectful today and asked if they could attend school in their different organisation Guides/Brownies/Scouts/Beavers/St. John's Ambulance/Girls Brigade uniforms - what an amazing gesture!





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Autumn Term - Diary Dates

November

- 10th - 4L swimming
- 10th - Minute silence for Remembrance day
- 13th - 17th - Antibullying Week
- 13th - Odd socks for school day
- 14th - Boys football match Highfields v Langley (Home 3.15pm KO)
- 15th - Y5 trip to RAF Cosford
- 17th - 4L swimming
- 17th - Children in Need (wear spots!)
- 20th - 25th - Road Safety Week
- 20th - Girls football match Highfields v Holy Trinity (Home 3.15pm KO)
- 21st - ISS walk around Blackheath
- 21st - Boys football match Highfields v Tipton Green (Home 3.15pm KO)
- 21st - Road safety assemblies
- 23rd - ICS walk around Blackheath
- 24th - 4L swimming
- 29th - 9.00-1.00pm Football team at Albion Dome
- 30th - Christmas tree delivery

December



- 1st - 4L swimming
- 1st - 9.00am Y5 class assembly (parents welcome)
- 1st - 3.15-5.30pm - Christmas film night
- 6th - Steel band performance for children then workshops
- 6th - Highfields Helpers Christmas gift sales
- 7th - Highfields Helpers Christmas gift sales
- 8th - Y3 brass band assembly (parents welcome)
- 8th - 4L last swimming session
- 12th - 2.00pm Rocksteady concert
- 13th - Reception Christmas Production (PM time TBC)
- 15th - Flu vaccination catch up session
- 15th - 4G start swimming
- 15th - 2.00-4.00pm Highfields Christmas Fayre
- 19th - 5.00pm/5.30pm KSI Christmas production (Children back for 5.00pm please!)
- 20th - Christmas Jumper day
- 20th - Christmas dinner day
- 20th - 3.30-4.30pm Carols with Classes (details to follow)
- 22nd - Christmas party day - own clothes all day

Christmas Dates....

- 13th - Reception Christmas Production (PM time TBC)
- 15th - 2.00-4.00pm Highfields Christmas Fayre
- 19th - 5.00pm/5.30pm KSI Christmas production (Children back for 5.00pm please!)
- 20th - Christmas Jumper day
- 20th - Christmas dinner day
- 20th - 3.30-4.30pm Carols with Classes (details to follow)
- 22nd - Christmas party day - own clothes all day





Golden Book Awards



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

27th October

RP - Aoife

RW - Gabriella

ICS - Kevin

ISS - Amari-Rome

2D - Ira C-H

2M - Bella C

3C - Harrison P

3K - Leo J

4G - Tanisha

4L - Edward C

5NB - Anabelle

5LB - Lola

6C - Taylor

6R - Anabia

French - Victor

Physical Education - Henry J

10th November

RP - Bailey

RW - Frankie

ICS - Oliver

ISS - Dilpreet

2D - Anas

2M - Amelia S-B

3C - Isobel

3K - Harrison H

4G - Ali

4L - Sophia

5NB - Ruby

5LB - Idrees

6C - Leah

6R - Clive

Physical Education - Amelia K

French - Logan



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!

Eldana - ISS

Mia-Leigh - 4L

Luca - 4G

Aaris - 6R

Ankita - 3K



Ivy - RP

Royalty - ICS

Callie - ISS

Jaxson SW - 2D

Mason - 4L

Sallome - 4G

Hart - 6C



Reception Newsletter

This week the children have been telling us all about their experiences on Bonfire Night. We created lots of firework art, including glitter glue fireworks. We have been exploring colour in different ways and conducted a science experiment, where we observed how oil prevents colours from mixing.

You might have heard your child singing Christmas songs at home! We have started to practice some of the songs for our Nativity, which will be on Wednesday 13th December. Please keep an eye on the newsletter for further information.

Year 1 & 2's Newsletter

Year One had a fantastic time when Stu from Circus Sensible came to visit. He was very funny. He taught the children lots of circus skills like juggling with scarves and plates, how to use a hula hoop and to do tricks with a flower stick.

In History the children have been learning about circuses in the past. They learnt that there used to be lots of animals in circuses but people realised how cruel this was and if you go to a circus now there will not be any animals performing.

In Geography we have been learning about the season of Autumn. We went outside and looked for signs that told us it was Autumn. We looked at the trees and plants, thought about what type of clothes we need to wear and talked about how the days get shorter at this time of year.

We have settled back into school routine quickly. The children have been learning about the life cycles of humans. In Geography we have recapped our knowledge on countries which make up the United Kingdom and seven continents. We then learnt about the five oceans. In English, we have started a new unit about diaries and have looked at what features are in a diary. Soon, your child will be receiving a letter about the Christmas Production, this will contain information about what role your child will play, costumes they are advised to wear and their lines that will need practicing at home. We hope you can support us to help the children learn their lines.



YR



Y1 Circus

Year 3 & 4's Newsletter

Year 3 had a wonderful day yesterday with their visitors in to school. They completed a Stone Age workshop in the hall and really enjoyed watching a show and then taking part in some drama activities following the performance. The children looked brilliant in their costumes.

Year 4 have started their new English unit which started with a trip to Sicily during an experience lesson with their teachers (sorry-flight attendants!). The children were given their boarding passes, sat on the plane and then went on a flight to Sicily and back to start their work on creating a travel brochure about the country.

Please remember to practise spellings using the EdShed website and spelling packs, to practise times tables on the TT RockStars website and to read at home as often as possible. This practise at home each week will really help your child.



Stone Age!



Lexie G - Y6

Year 5 & 6's Newsletter

In Year 5, we have been studying wartime music and singing 'We'll Meet Again' by Dame Vera Lynn. We have also started looking at the wartime art of Henry Moore which will form the basis of our next unit of art work. In English, we have been studying the poem 'The Malfeasance' which has a strong moral message - ask your child about it!

The children of Year 6 did a brilliant job creating their landscape paintings in the style of van Gogh. They worked hard to use van Gogh's brush technique in their painting. They didn't find it easy as it is so different to the type of paintings they have produced before. However, the results were excellent!

Highfields Hall of Fame



Theo - Y3



Theodore competed in his first gymnastics competition in Nottingham recently for Earls boys Gymnastics squad. He did really well and enjoyed himself, unfortunately he didn't place but he really enjoyed the experience and he's already looking forward to the next one - what an amazing attitude to have Theo sometimes it's about having a go and taking part!

#myaspirations

If your child does anything that you know we would be super proud of, outside school, please share it with us so we can add it to our Facebook or newsletter. We have some amazing activities going on and are working hard this year to share our aspirations with each other using the #myaspirations

If you have a photograph please send it in with a little bit of information about the photo and I will make sure it is added to the next newsletter and or Facebook page/Instagram story

Send your photo's and info to
highfields.enquiry@highfields.sandwell.sch.uk





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 Mrs Garratt and I have been a Governor here since 2012.

My Background - I qualified as a teacher in 1998 and have worked in primary schools in Birmingham, Dudley and now Sandwell. I started teaching in Year 3/4 and have taught most year groups but my favourite has to be teaching in Early Years, especially Reception! I started at Highfields as Deputy Headteacher in 2012 and became Headteacher in 2017. When I'm not at school I'm usually at home or out and about with my family and our dog - Pud! I love going to the theatre, Terry's Chocolate Orange and anything Disney!



Mrs
Garratt

Why do I like being a Governor? As the Headteacher at Highfields I get to work alongside the children and staff here everyday, but being a Governor helps me to see school through a different set of eyes. Being a Governor means I get to work with a whole team of people who also want the best for the children. Being the Headteacher then means that I can also make sure all of the things we want to do and would like to do, are shared with the Governing Body so I get to help create the vision and share the vision for our school!

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



**6th December – Highfields
Helpers Christmas gift
sales**

**7th December – Highfields
Helpers Christmas gift
sales**

