



24th November 2023

Highfields Primary

newsletter



Head's Welcome

Last week we spent a lot of time learning about 'Anti-Bullying Week' and 'Making a Noise About Bullying'. We started the week wearing odd socks and I was so proud of hearing how the children would support and look after each other to make sure that bullying doesn't take place at Highfields. The children have some amazing ideas. We ended the week being 'Spotacular' and supporting Children in Need. Thank you all for supporting your children and Highfields in both of these events. They mean a lot to us as both events make a difference to the lives of children.

Its beginning to look a lot like Christmas...We are now in full swing with Christmas rehearsals at Highfields! It is so lovely to walk around the school and hear the children singing carols and songs! Very festive!

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 95.4%. The highest attending classes this week were;

Reception - RP - 96.6%

KSI - ICS - 99%

KS2 - 5NB - 98.3%



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Books of the Month - November



Please see below, this month'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 classrooms and library for children to select as their reading book as and when they wish.

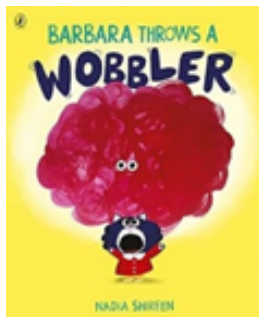
The books for November are:

EYFS: 'Barbara Throws a Wobbler' by Nadia Shireen

Years 1 and 2: 'Little Echo' by Al Rodin

Years 3 and 4: 'The Worries: Jaz and the New Baby' by Jion Sheibani

Years 5 and 6: 'Orphans of the Tide' by Struan Murray



Theme of the Month November Kindness

During the month of November, we will be looking at the theme of 'Kindness'. We will be celebrating kindness day.

Throughout the month we will discuss the importance of being kind and different ways we can show kindness towards others. We will be carrying out acts of kindness throughout the month around school and within the classroom. At home, we hope you will continue the discussions to build on these thoughts

SMSC November



- November 1st World - Vegan Day
- November 5th - Guy Fawkes Night
- November 11th - Remembrance Day
- November 13th - 20th Inter Faith Week
- November 13th - World Kindness Day
- November 14th - 20th UK Parliament Week
- November 14th - World Diabetes Day
- November 16th - International Day of Tolerance
- November 17th - Children In Need
- November 14th - 18th Anti-Bullying Week
- November 14th - 20th Road Safety Week



Nursery Consultation

Sandwell are currently running a consultation in regards to the closure of our school Nursery. For more information please access the school website



Children In Need

A huge thank you to everyone who sent money in for Children in Need this year. We managed to raise £204.86 so thank you all! Also a huge thank you to our School Council who counted up all of the money we received.

Dudley Lights Switch ON

If anyone is out and about visiting the Dudley Christmas light switch on this weekend please look out for our very own

Miss Grove who will singing with her theatre group! As well as group pieces she is also singing a solo! We wish her all the best! #myaspiration

Mental Health First Aid course

I wanted to let you know about a fantastic opportunity for parents and carers of children aged 8 – 16 in Rowley Regis to attend a fully funded Youth Mental Health First Aid course on the below four dates, all of which are 10.00am–2.30pm at Cradley Heath Community Centre, Reddal Hill Road, B64 5JG.

Friday 2nd Feb

Monday 5th Feb

Friday 9th Feb

Monday 12th Feb

The course will give parents the skills, knowledge, tools and techniques to help and support the children in their families to develop and maintain positive mental health and wellbeing while effectively managing any struggles the children may experience. The course is fully funded so is FREE to all parents and carers attending.

Following the course all parents will receive 6 group mentoring support sessions from trained professionals to help them put their new skills and knowledge into practice, share experiences and deal with any challenges or questions.

Places are limited so please can parents either email TCE@kaleidoscopeplus.org.uk or call 0121 565 5605 and speak to the training team to book a place.

Attendance Review

Highfields Primary School has a target for attendance of 97% and our school register is monitored daily for absences and punctuality. Each half-term attendance and punctuality is reviewed for all of the pupils at our school. When school have identified a decline in a child's attendance parents will be contacted by our attendance officer. Parents may be contacted by text, email, letter, phone call and sometimes will be asked in for a meeting. The reason for the contact is to establish reasons for absence and offer advice and support if necessary.

Highfields is committed to supporting parents in helping their children attend school and achieve success in life. If you need additional support with any issue which is affecting your child's school attendance, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs E Adams, Learning Mentor or Mrs M Lewis, Deputy Head who is our school Attendance Champion.

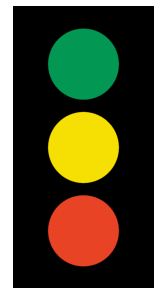
Fortnightly Debate Time!



School Council children were very enthusiastic helpers with the selling of poppies, wristbands and poppy merchandise. Different School Council children helped Mr Savvides with the sales over 4 days during Remembrance week. Thank you so much children, you were amazing! We are still waiting for the total amount that has been raised at Highfields for this year but will let you know as soon as possible.

School Council also worked hard to count the money raised by Highfields School for Children in Need for Friday 17th November. The total amount raised was an amazing £204. Well done Highfields! This week School Council met and discussed some of the imaginative ideas collected by the creative children of Highfields School. These best ideas will be submitted to Mrs Garratt!

Road Safety Assemblies



We were lucky enough to have Karen Hale visit us this week to speak to all of the children about the importance of road safety. Each key stage had an assembly and Reception a separate session that included a story, song and the use of the miniature crossings? It was a fantastic morning and everyone had the chance to get involved!



Autumn Term - Diary Dates

November

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 Boys Football team at Albion Dome

30th - Christmas tree delivery



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

December (cont)

8th - Y3 brass band assembly (parents welcome)

8th - 4L last swimming session

11th - Mufti day for tombola gifts (KSI chocolates/KS2 bottles)

12th - 2.00pm Rocksteady concert

14th - Reception Christmas Production 2.30pm

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

Please keep checking dates and times as these may be added over the next few days and weeks!

Christmas Dates....

14th - Reception Christmas Production (2.30pm start)

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



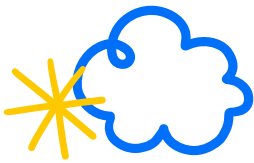
Congratulations to the following children who have been awarded a 'Golden Book Certificate' since the previous newsletter

17th November

RW - Ryan SW
RP - Renesmai
ISS - Amelia K
ICS - Lottie
2M - Harper R
2D - Muhammad I
3C - Nicholas P
3K - Ayana U
4G - Jasneet
4L - Henry W
5NB - Lilli M
5LB - Betsy L
6C - Elijah E
6R - Joe G
French - Darcie D
PE - Aaris B

24th November

RW - Ava
RP - Simrat
ISS - Albie M
ICS - Rania
2M - Emily S
2D - George T
3C - Hugo J
3K - Pixie M
4G - Alayah A
4L - Hugo J
5NB - Ameera S
5LB - Elijah J
6C - Nichole
6R - Elouise
French - Layla SW
PE - Susan D



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!

Ivy L - RP
Royalty - ICS
Callie - ISS
Jaxson SW - 2D
Mason L - 4L
Sallome C - 4G
Hart R - 6C



Hashim - 5NB
Tehasha - 5LB
Lily B - 4L
Mukundi C - 4G
Talhah M - 3K
Gabriella - RW



Ava-Lilly T - 5LB
Finley R - 3G
Animae M - 2D
Chace E - 2M
Amelia - 6C



Reception Newsletter

In Reception, we have been learning about Anti-bullying week, where we explored what bullying means and how we can use our voice to help others. We each decorated our jigsaw piece to show how we can help each other, which has created our jigsaw display in class.

We were really impressed with the children's understanding of Remembrance Day when talking about how we show our respect. They then created some wonderful poppy art and discussed their work with a friend.

As the weather has turned colder, we are seeing lots more hats, scarves, gloves and ear muffs in school. In case these get misplaced, can you ensure they are named so they can be returned to their owner.



Y1

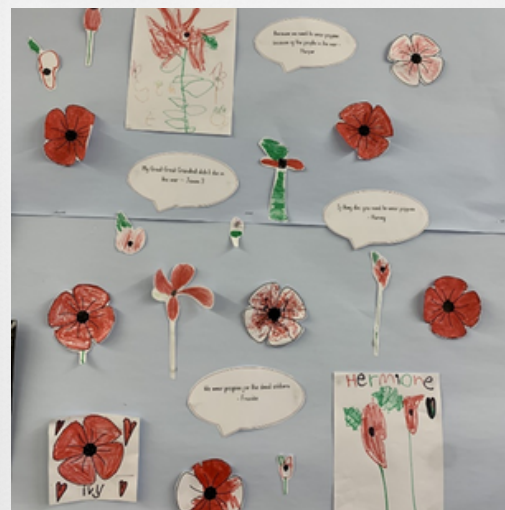
Year 1 & 2's Newsletter

Year 1 enjoyed their walk into Blackheath and looked for clues that told them if a building was old or new. They also identified the uses of different buildings e.g. shop, church, dentist, library, or travel agents.

In History we have been learning about the famous magician Harry Houdini and the tricks he did, escaping from handcuffs, jail cells and locked trunks. We also learnt that he was a film star and could fly a plane!

Year 2 had so much fun at Aston Hall, we walked around the hall and recapped what we have learnt about 'The Great Fire of London'.

We then used quills to write our names, looked at a variety of artefacts from the Tudor period and completed some art activities. Take a look at your classes photo gallery on the website! This week, we have designed our own Tudor House and discussed its features. In Art, we have practiced a variety brush strokes using a range of paintbrushes.



YR

Year 3 & 4's Newsletter

Year 3 have been working hard on their 'Colour Collector' poem. We have been really impressed with the quality of vocabulary and ideas that the children have produced in these lessons.

They have also started in science to focus on what plants need to grow and have set up an investigation to see if their predictions are right.

Year 4 really enjoyed listening to the Nutcracker Suite in their music lessons. They have played parts of the 'Dance of the Toy Soldiers' using the glockenspiel. The children have also been working hard on their times table knowledge through TT Rockstars and in science have been investigating circuits and what they need to work.



Cosford - 5NB

Year 5 & 6's Newsletter

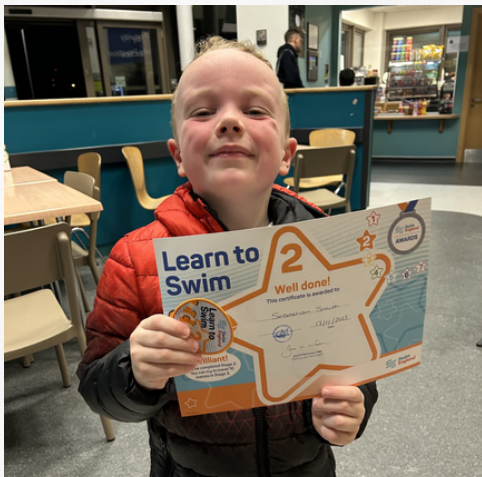
In Year 6 we have begun to focus on shelters as part of our DT project. The children had a great time experimenting with different ways of joining art straws and will be making miniature shelters in the next couple of weeks.

The children of Year 5 had a fantastic time at Cosford RAF Museum. They were fantastically behaved throughout the day and really enjoyed looking at all of the aircraft. The photos from the trip will be on the school website very soon so please have a look.



Nutcracker

Highfields Hall of Fame



Sebastian - Y1



Sebastian in ISS has achieved his stage 2 swimming certificate recently and was very happy. He is now excited for stage 3 at Sandwell Aquatic Centre and we wanted to share this amazing accomplishment with you. #myaspirations

Recently Carys undertook her gymnastics exam. We wanted to share this photograph with you all of her receiving her two awards at Earls gymnastics. You performed amazingly Carys and I know everyone is really proud of your accomplishments so well done!

#myaspirations



Carys - Y3



Amelia Y3

We are so proud of Amelia who has recently achieved her stage 3 swimming certificate. Swimming is such an important life skill and I am always happy to see these pictures!

Well done Amelia!

#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 Andrew Parkes and I'm the Governor Responsible for Health and Safety. I have been a member of the Governing Body at Highfields since 2019

My Background - I served in the Royal Navy for 23 years as an Engineer and now work as an Area General Manager for a Global company responsible for the maintenance of buildings.

Why do I like being a Governor? I enjoy being a Governor at Highfields to hopefully make a difference to the lives of children who attend there by providing a safe environment to learn.

I utilise my knowledge of maintaining and keeping buildings safe as a job to support and offer advice to Mr Malek the Site Manager.

Over 80 years ago my mother attended Highfields (Beeches Road School as it was known then) as a Pupil and I feel by supporting the school now is a thank you for the happy times she spent there.



Mr Parkes

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
(£2.50 per gift)

7th December - Highfields Helpers Christmas gift sales
(£2.50 per gift)

11th December - Mufti day for tombola gifts (KS1 children
please donate chocolates/KS2 children please donate
bottles)

15th December - 2.00-4.00pm Highfields Christmas
Fayre

