



8th December 2023

# Highfields Primary newsletter



## Head's Welcome

Welcome to the penultimate e-newsletter of 2023 - I cannot believe how close we are now to the end of the year! The tree is up and fully decorated and we are well and truly in the mood for Christmas. Spending time listening through the hall door to Reception practicing their play has really got us all in the mood! As well as that, we are all finishing off our Autumn term topics and staff are busily planning for January and beyond. There are some fantastic trips and residentials coming up, and in the next newsletter I will share all of the Spring term diary dates that we have so far! I am looking forward to hopefully welcoming you all into school over the next fortnight so we can show you how Highfields does Christmas!

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 94.6%. The highest attending classes this week were;

Reception - RP - 93.8%

KSI - ICS - 97.2%

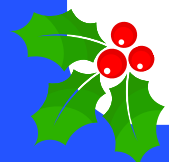
KS2 - 6R - 97.2%



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# Books of the Month – December



Here are December's recommended books for the children to read. In Nursery, Reception, years 1 and 2, the book will be read to the children in class and then put in the 'book to share' for children to bring home to read. In years 3-6, copies will go into classrooms for children to select as their reading book as and when they wish.

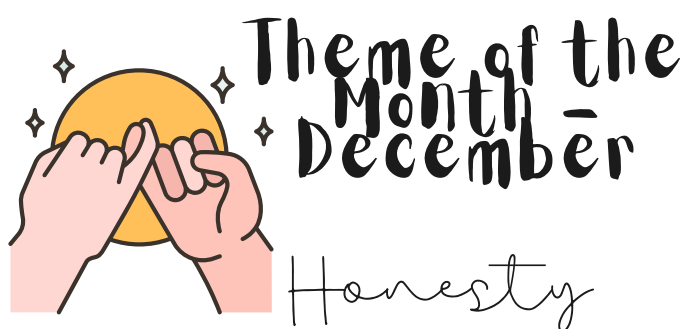
The books for December are:

EYFS: 'We're going on a Sleigh Ride' by Martha Mumford

Years 1 and 2: 'The Christmasaurus picture book' by Tom Fletcher

Years 3 and 4: 'Adventures of a Christmas Elf' by Ben Miller

Years 5 and 6: 'The Great Reindeer Rescue' by Stephen Mangan



During the month of December, we will be looking at the theme of 'honesty'. We will be asking the children to think carefully about what it means to be honest. As with other themes we want them to think about the choices they make; when do we find it difficult to be honest and tell the truth?

How do they feel when someone lies to them?

What stories do they choose to tell to others? How can actions as well as words be honest or dishonest?

## SMSC December



December 2nd – International Day for Abolition of Slavery

December 2nd – 8th National Grief Awareness Week

December 3rd – International Day of People with Disabilities (IDPWD)

December 7th – Christmas Jumper Day

December 10th – Human Rights Day

December 18th – International Migrants Day





# TT Rock Stars Battle of the Bands Results

Here are the results from the most recent battle of the bands sessions, thank you to everyone who is taking part at home!

Year 2 and 3 battle:

3rd highest scoring group - 2D

2nd highest scoring group - 2M

Highest scoring group - 3C

3rd most valuable player - Irena S(2D)

2nd most valuable player - Eliza B (2M)

Most valuable player - Arlo C (3C)

Year 4,5, 6 battle:

3rd highest scoring group - 6C

2nd highest scoring group - 5LB

Highest scoring group - 5NB

3rd Most valuable player - Victor (5LB)

2nd most valuable player - Thisaru (5NB)

Most valuable player - Boris (5NB)

The children and classes above will be receiving awards in today's 'Golden Book' assembly



## Fortnightly Debate Time!

Every fortnight we will be posing a debate question for you to answer with your family and friends.

This fortnight's question is

*Is doing a job you love important?*

I'm lucky that as Headteacher at Highfields, I get to do a job that I love, I get to work alongside some amazing people and spend my days with a fantastic group of children doing activities such as playing the steel pan drums!

But what do you think?



## KS1 Christmas Play

The children in Key Stage One have all been busy rehearsing the Christmas Play. We look forward to seeing you for the production on Tuesday 19th December at 5.30p.m. Please can you bring your child back into school for 5.00p.m. so they can get changed into their costume. If you would like any extra tickets, please ask your child's teacher as soon as possible. Thank you for providing your child with a costume for the play. If you are having any difficulties with this, please let your child's class teacher know as soon as possible. When you have the costume please send it into school in a named carrier bag.





# Autumn Term - Diary Dates

## December

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

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22nd - Christmas party day - own clothes all day

## Carols with Classes

As we can not attend a carol service at St. Paul's church again this year, we have decided to hold our own carol service at Highfields - 'Carols with Classes'!

This is an event that everyone is welcome to but as it is after school, it is not compulsory and it is your choice whether your child/ren attend or not, if your child is going to stay after school they will need an adult to attend please.

A letter will be coming out this week so we know who is staying and who will be going home. The event will be held outside on our KS2 playground and will include every class, and possibly the staff, singing a Christmas carol/song. We will be giving out song books so parents can join in as well. We are really excited to share this community event with you all and we hope that as many of you can attend as possible







# Golden Book Awards



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

## 1st December

RW - Muhammed

RP - Zara

ISS - Kaidon

ICS - India-Rose

2M - Esmé

2D - Oscar

3C - Xavier

3K - Arthur

4G - Ayyub

4L - Keiarah

5NB - Millie

5LB - Deborah

6C - Amelia

6R - Vinnie

French - Tehasha

PE - Subhan

## 8th December

RW - Finley

RP - Logan-Tate

ISS - Grayson

ICS - Corey

2M - David

2D - Lucia

3C - Charlotte

3K - Ava-Rose

4G - Mikey

4L - Layna

5NB - Lawi

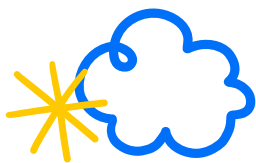
5LB - Amelia

6C - Ameera

6R - Ben

French - Poppy S

PE - India-Rose



## 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!

ICS - Princess A

ISS - Amari-Rome M

3K - Henry J

5NB - Luca C

6C - Darcie D

6R - Joe G



Logan-Tate- RP

Layla M - ICS

Amelia K- ISS

Nikolas B - 2M

Thorne-Grey - 2D

Keyaan - 4G

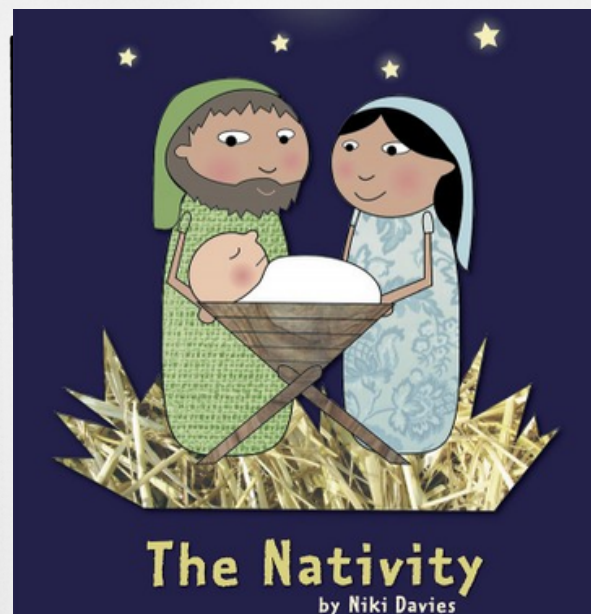
Connor B - 6C



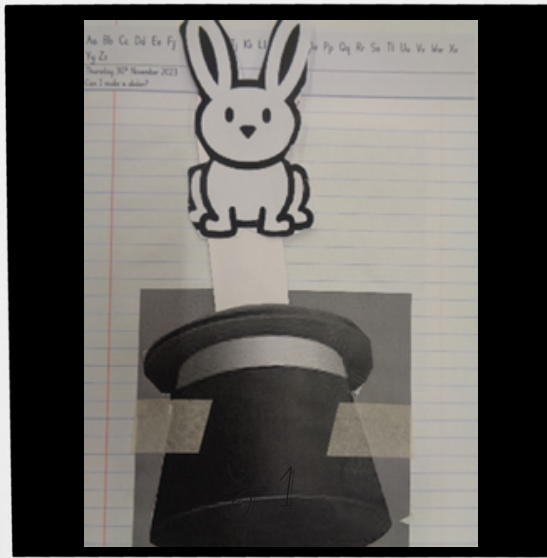
# Reception Newsletter

Reception have been very busy practicing their Christmas Nativity play. They are really looking forward to showing you all their fantastic singing and dancing. All children should have brought home 2 programmes which are your tickets to see the Nativity. If you would like any more tickets, please let a member of Reception staff know.

Reminder - All costumes were due into school today. If you have been asked to provide a costume and we do not have it in school, please ensure it is sent in on Monday, in a named bag. We will be having a dress rehearsal on Tuesday 12th December.



YR



India-Rose - Y1

## Year 1 & 2's Newsletter

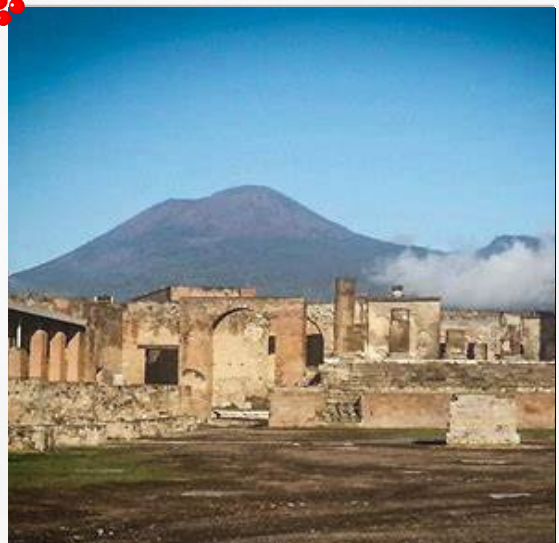
In Year One we have been looking at different mechanisms in DT and have made our own slider and level. The children worked hard to draw straight lines with a ruler, cut accurately around shapes and assemble all of the parts. In Art we have been looking at different types of fabric and thinking of adjectives to describe their texture.

In Year 2 this week, we have started working on creating our own free standing structure! In Art, we have drawn our own Great Fire of London sketch and will be colour washing it next week. We have enjoyed learning about both 2D and 3D shapes, we now know how many edges, faces and vertices each shape has. In English, our new topic is poetry. The children were able to recognise rhyming words and write their own poem!

## Year 3 & 4's Newsletter

Year 3 have been working hard asking and answering questions that will help them when they come to write their explanation texts in English. In maths, they have been focussing on learning the 8 times table. This week's science allowed the children to investigate how water is transported up the stem of a plant. The children have also been practising hard for their trumpet assembly on Friday and look forward to seeing you all there.

Year 4 have been working on multiplication in maths – learning how to multiply by 100. In English, their focus on Pompeii continues with the children reading about volcanoes, how they erupt and the events at Pompeii. In science, the children had great fun making bath bombs and these will be available to purchase at the Year 4 Christmas Fayre stall on the 15th December. Until then, they will be keeping the classroom smelling nice!



Pompeii



Taleah - Y6

## Year 5 & 6's Newsletter

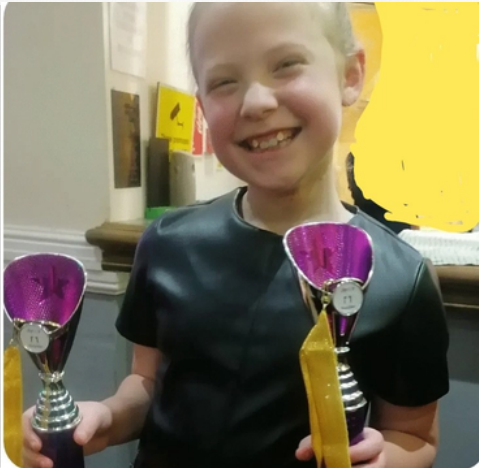
The children of Year 5 have been busy this week. We have planted leaves from succulent plants and hopefully, over the next few weeks, new plants will grow. I'm sure your child will keep you posted on their progress. We have also been studying the work of Henry Moore and the children produced some excellent drawings using chalk in the style of the artist.

Finally, we have been enjoying using the Crumble software to program our nightlights.

In Year 6 we have been focussing on the short film 'The Lighthouse' in English. The children have really enjoyed thinking about the character of 'Alf' and have created some excellent writing about his mishaps. In DT, we have begun to create our model shelters using art straws and card – ask your child about it.



# Highfields Hall of Fame



Isabelle-Rose recently attended her dance school's prize evening. Isabelle was extremely successful and as well as receiving two awards, found out she had also broken 2 dance school records. Isabelle is an amazing role model to anyone who wants to dance and we are very proud of her accomplishments! Well done!

#myaspirations

Isabelle-Rose - Y6

Last Sunday, Nikolas won 'Man of the Match' and scored the winning goal for his club. Nikolas, plays for Halas Hawks U7 (South) and has scored over 20 goals since joining the club in September 2023.

Nikolas absolutely loves football and hopes to play for Manchester City one day. We are incredibly proud of him and his achievements...and I am hoping for cheap tickets when he becomes famous!

#myaspirations



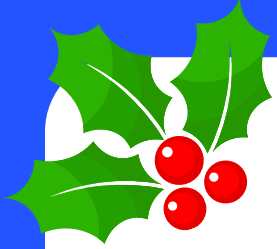
Nikolas - Y2



Maisie - Y3

A huge well done to Maisie and her sister Charlie who took part in their first kick boxing tournament/competition, last weekend. Both girls fought their way onto the medal board, Maisie with a silver and Charlie with a bronze medal! We are really proud of the girls and I cannot wait to see what the future holds for them in this sport! #myaspirations





# Highfields Hall of Fame

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Charlie - Y6



Lilli - Y6

Lilli recently sat a Mock 11+ exam (with an external company) to help determine if she was a good fit for this assessment. Lilli smashed the test with overall score of 78%! Well done Lilli - I hope you are proud of your accomplishments  
#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's Chris and I've been a parent governor for nearly two years.

**My Background** - Brought up just down the road in Quinton, I studied Maths at university in Manchester and then moved back to the Midlands where we've settled as a family of four. Our son is now in Year 2 and we're looking forward to our daughter (hopefully) starting at Highfields in Reception in September.

At work, I manage a team of data analysts with a focus on business improvement. I also volunteer with The Scouts. I'm a keen football fan and you'll often find me on a Saturday afternoon standing in the cold for a non-league match (maybe even drinking a good cup of Bovril!).

**Why do I like being a Governor?** - I value being part of a community and seeing the benefits of working together to support each other. The school community is particularly important for me as a parent and I was keen to get involved. I enjoy being able to apply the skills and knowledge I have from work and from previous volunteering, while continuing to develop and learn new things. The Governing Body plays a vital role in helping the School Leadership Team to continue developing the school to be the best it can be - supporting children both academically and wholistically - and I take pride in being able to play a small part in that.



Mr  
Wallace

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](mailto:leadershipteam@highfields.sandwell.sch.uk)



# Highfields Helpers Newsletter

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

15th December - 2.00-4.00pm Highfields Christmas Fayre

