



22nd December 2023

# Highfields Primary newsletter



## Head's Welcome

Welcome to the last Highfields e-newsletter of 2023 - and what a term it has been!

We have had plays, assemblies, workshops and concerts and on behalf of the staff here I would like to thank you all for your continued support in helping make Highfields an amazing school for our children to attend! I know we are all looking forward to the next two weeks, a time to relax and celebrate Christmas with our family and friends before starting a new 2024 together but before that I would like to say a huge thank you for your continued support. A thank you to the staff who always go over and above and most importantly a thank you to our children! We are all incredibly proud of you and cannot wait to hear all about your Christmas holidays!

Whatever your plans are for the festive season on behalf of the entire Highfields community, I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Take care and enjoy!

Mrs Garratt

Merry  
Christmas  
&  
Happy New Year  
2024



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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.

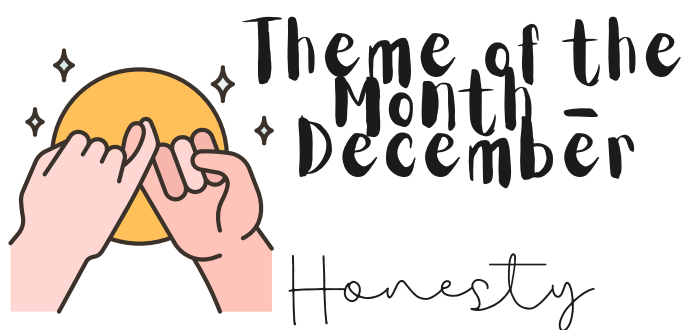
The books for December are:

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





# Thankyou Trelleborg



The Highfields Eco Council work hard throughout the year to help raise awareness within the school community of the ongoing climate crisis and the importance of looking after our environment. Last year a local company called Trelleborg, very kindly worked with us to talk about recycling and provided school with the character bins your children use in the playgrounds every day.

This year, Trelleborg have supported us again, this time with our work on reducing our carbon footprints by supplying EVERY child in the school with a light up reflector that can be easily attached to their school bags or clothes. As a school we are encouraging our children and their families, to think more about using their cars less on the journey to and from school and helping to reduce our carbon footprint. As the nights become darker, these reflectors will help to keep the children safe, not just when walking to school but whenever they are out and about. Highfields would like to say a huge thank you to Trelleborg for its ongoing support as it genuinely helps our children to make a difference not only to school, but also to our local community!

## Thankyou Eco Council

Our Eco Council were successful in their application to the 'Blakemore Foundation' requesting some money to purchase Eco books for our school library. Eco Council are trying to increase the number of books in our school library around environmental issues. A big thank you to the 'Blakemore Foundation' who donated one hundred pounds. The Eco Council will choose some books in the New Year.





# Looking for a Reception PLace?

## Primary School admissions



Applications close on 15th January 2024 online admissions

If your child was born between 1st September 2019 and 31st August 2020 you need to apply for a primary school place by **15th January 2024**.

Apply online through your the Local Authority for where you live.

Dudley - <https://www.dudley.gov.uk/residents/learning-and-school/school-information/school-admissions/primary-reception-intake/>

Sandwell - <https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/school-admissions/apply-school-place>

## Being Safe Online

**Skips Safety Net** Keeping children safe online

### Parent Guides to Online Safety

**THINK before you send!**

...but your Mum could see it  
...but your Gran could see it  
...but your neighbour could see it  
...but a stranger could see it  
...but a burglar could see it  
...but a cyberbully could see it  
...but a policeman could see it  
...but your teacher could see it  
...but your classmates could see it  
Anyone in the world could see your butt!

**If you share it, you are involved**  
If you have, or forward an indecent image of someone under 18, it is a criminal offence. It can affect your future.

**Online safety is when young people know who they can tell if they feel upset by something that has happened online.**

Parents please contact your school to enquire attending their next e-safety workshop or have any concerns.

Working with Home Office 'PREVENT', The Police and Crime Commissioner and Children's Safeguarding Partnerships to help keep children safe online.

Skips Educational Email: [info@skipssed.com](mailto:info@skipssed.com) Tel: +44 121 227 1941

Developed in partnership with

**Skips** [www.skipssafetynet.org](http://www.skipssafetynet.org)

School have been sent this from our local safeguarding team as there is a real and growing concern of how many young people find it ok to share inappropriate images online. It is leading to so many becoming vulnerable to potential exploitation, blackmail and harm from a young age, leaving a lasting digital footprint. If you share it, you are involved. This poster serves to reinforce online safety practices and encourages open conversations among parents, caregivers, and colleagues on this sensitive issue.

If you have any concerns or questions please contact a member of our Safeguarding Team







# Sandwell Support Services



[fis.sandwell.gov.uk](https://fis.sandwell.gov.uk)



Scan the QR Code to  
access the FIS Hub

**Helping you to find the services, support,  
and activities available to you in Sandwell**

Find family support, childcare, funded places  
for 2, 3 and 4-year-olds, Sandwell local offer,  
health & wellbeing and money, welfare &  
benefits

**Sandwell Family  
Information Service**



## Highfields New Library



We cannot wait to open our new library in the new year. We have over 350 brand new books to be able to share with our children and staff. Watch this space as we will also be moving onto a new online library system – more details to follow!

Some new titles include;

- The Hatmakers by Tamzin Merchant
- Little Echo by Al Rodin
- The Good Turn by Sharna Jackson





# Spring Term – Diary Dates

## January

8th – Training Day – school closed to children  
9th – Children return to school  
11th – Parliament trip parent meeting at 2.45pm  
12th – 4G swimming  
15th – Reception September 2024 application deadline  
19th – 4G swimming  
22nd – Y3 & 4 parent reading workshop  
26th – Young Voices  
26th – 4G swimming  
29th – Y4 SPARKS visit in school  
29th – Y2 parent reading and phonics workshop  
31st – Girls football tournament at Albion Dome

## February

2nd – 4G swimming  
2nd – Numbers Day  
5th – Y5 & 6 parent reading workshop  
7th – Boys football tournament at Albion Dome  
9th – 4G swimming  
9th – Break up for half term  
  
12th – 16th – Half term holidays  
  
19th – Children return to school

## PE Dates

In the Spring term your child's PE days may have changed. From January your child will now have PE on the following days and so can come to school in their PE kit...

Reception – Monday & Wednesday  
Year 1 – Monday & Wednesday  
Year 2 – Monday & Wednesday  
Year 3 – Tuesday & Thursday  
Year 4 – Tuesday & Friday  
Year 5 – Tuesday & Thursday  
Year 6 – Tuesday & Thursday

## Poppy Appeal

£284.46 for this year's Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.



## 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 – 91.7%  
KSI – ICS – 95.5%  
KS2 – 6C – 99.3%





# Golden Book Awards



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

## 15th December

RW - Harley  
RP - Hermione  
ISS - Eldana  
ICS - James  
2D - Idrees  
2M - Reggie W  
3C - Oliver H  
3K - Elyssia H  
4G - Matty  
4L - Dawson H  
5NB - Isabelle C  
5LB - Rocco  
6R - Charlie C  
6C - Olivia W  
French - Elli jah E  
PE - Chace

## 22nd December

RW - Sara  
RP - Isla-Rose  
ISS - Rayan  
ICS - Jaden  
2M - Lola-Mai  
2D - Asad  
3C - Ismail  
3K - Khayim  
4G - Toby M  
4L - Salahuddin  
5NB - Leah  
5LB - Lilly  
6C - Elli jah  
6R - Brooke  
French - Talhah  
PE - Leo W





# Reception Newsletter

In Reception we have been enjoying some festive fun with Christmas activities. Children have been using their number skills to count out pompoms on the wreath, they have made glitter trees, decorated tissue paper trees and applied their phonics learning to label matching. They have particularly enjoyed the story of 'The Jolly Christmas Postman' and exploring all the different deliveries that he made!

We are so proud of how well the children learnt their lines, dances and songs for The Nativity. Even though some children felt nervous on the day, I am sure you would all agree that they performed superbly!



YR



Ria - Y2

## Year 1 & 2's Newsletter

Wow!! What an incredible performance we had on Tuesday evening! The children were amazing, we are so proud of every single one of them. Thank you for your support in helping your child to learn their lines, provide them with a costume and of course coming to see them perform.

Y1 have been working hard in Art to design a circus costume in the style of Alexander McQueen. They then worked carefully to use their design to help them create the costume. We have also been making Christingles and learning about the significance of each part. Y2 have had a very busy final week, finishing off our Tudor houses, which were very impressive, recording our 'Rainbow Bird' sound effects and creating calendars and Christmas cards.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support throughout Autumn term  
From all the staff in Years 1 and 2, Merry Christmas.

## Year 3 & 4's Newsletter

Year 3 have been working hard to complete their explanation text all about pollination. They have also focussed on plants in science and learnt about the lifecycle of plants and what they need to survive.

Year 4's geography work has focussed on volcanoes and the positives and negatives of living near to one. The current eruption in Iceland has helped them link this to current world events.

Merry Christmas!

The final week has been a happy one filled with cards, calendars and Christmas songs. Everyone in years 3 and 4 would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy 2024!



Christmas Dinosaur

## Year 5 & 6's Newsletter

In Year 6, the children really enjoyed researching dinosaurs as part of our Science work. They were only allowed to research dinosaurs that were found in the UK. They then presented their information in a powerpoint which they presented to the rest of the class. Ask your child about the dinosaur that they researched.

The children of Year 5 did a brilliant job creating their own musical compositions based on the Second World War. We began by using a rhythm based on morse code which we then incorporated into our own melodies. The results were excellent.



From Y3 & Y4

# Hightfields Hall of Fame



Elsie - YR



Elsie - YR

Elsie had her dance Christmas presentation recently. Not only did she receive her exam Rosette's but she was also awarded an 'Outstanding Dancer' award for her age group. She didn't stop there though because she also went on to achieve her badge 7 from gymnastics!! - well done!

#myaspirations

Not to be out shone by their little sister Henry and Theodore both received their new belts last week too! They've worked extremely hard to earn these and everyone was incredibly proud of them. The boys are incredibly hard working and love their activity of Brazillian Jui Jitsu

#myaspirations



Henry - Y4



Theodore - Y3





# Hightfields Hall of Fame

Lilli swapped her football boots for her tap shoes last weekend. She performed in four pantomime productions of 'Goldilocks & Three Bears' over the weekend with 'Debonair Dance Academy' and made some amazing memories with her friends.

Lilli's performance was confident, expressive and adaptable and she thoroughly enjoyed every minute! Well done Lilli - if your future aspirations are not to be a Lioness it might well be a West End star! #myaspirations



Lilli - Y6



Aneesa - Y6

We were incredibly proud to welcome our special guest a couple of weeks ago, MP James Morris. He was in school to award Aneesa (Y6) with a specially framed copy of her Christmas card that has been selected as a runner up in his competition. Aneesa's card will now be sent to over 500 people including the Prime Minister and King Charles III!!! Every child who entered the competition will also come home with a certificate!

Amazing work everyone!

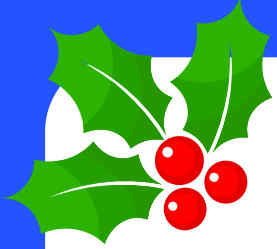
#myaspirations

An absolutely massive well done to Ivy in Y2 who is the first person to ever bring in a horse riding rosette, this is another example of some of the wonderful things our children take part in outside of school! Her rosette is for jumping a small fence at her riding centre in Stourport. You are incredibly brave Ivy and we are all very proud of your accomplishments!

#myaspirations



Ivy - Y2



# Highfields Hall of Fame

A huge well done to Rudy in Y5 who was recently awarded this trophy for the dedication, effort and enthusiasm he shows towards his after school interest.

Rudy is a keen mixed martial artist and is doing extremely well with his kick boxing! Well done Rudy - keep it up we are all really proud of you!

#myaspirations



Rudy - Y5

# Highfields Helpers

## Newsletter



Highfields Helpers would like to thank everyone who bought a Christmas gift in the recent Christmas gift sales. Highfields Helpers managed to raise a huge **£256** to help support the children of Highfields!

