



12th January 2024

Highfields Primary newsletter



Head's Welcome

2024

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Welcome back to the start of the Spring term here at Highfields. We are straight back into learning so please ask your child all about their new topics. We have a really full term which sees us visiting places such as Young Voices, the Houses of Parliament and also Year 5/6 attending the Plas Gwynant residential.

Please keep an eye on the diary section of the newsletter, the schools website and our Facebook page for more information of what we have to look forward on the run up to Easter.

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 **92.9%**. The highest attending classes this week were;

Reception - RW - 94.4%

KSI - ISS - 96.6%

KS2 - 6R - 100%



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Theme of the Month - January

friendship

SMSC Events - January



During the month of January, we will be looking at the theme of friendship. We will be asking the children to think carefully about what it means to be a good friend. Learning to be a good friend, someone who can be trusted and is loyal, takes a lifetime. Talk together about how friends come in all shapes and sizes. Some are young, some are old. Some are always there, some we see only occasionally. How do we choose our friends? What makes a good friend? Are we a good friend to others? What does it mean to be a good friend? Is it possible to have a bad friend? Have you ever upset a friend?



January 4th - World Braille Day
January 15th - Martin Luther King Day
January 21st - World Religion Day
January 27th - Holocaust Memorial Day
January 29th - RNLI SOS Day



Celebrations & Festivals from Around the World - January

January 1st - New Year's Day
January 16th - Epiphany
January 13th - Lohri
January 15th - Martin Luther King Day
January 24th - Tu B'Shevat/Arbor Day
January 25th - Burns Night

Looking for a Reception Place?

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 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>





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

Smoking and Vaping

We spend time during your child's PSHE lessons talking to them about the dangers of smoking and vaping.

Please help support school with this by not standing at the front school gates smoking and vaping.



When you have dropped your child/children off to school, please you leave site as quickly as possible. We have had several complaints recently about parents smoking and vaping right outside the school at the start of the day



Golden Book Awards

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



12th January

RW - Freya
RP - Arlo
ISS - Ati
ICS - Harry T
2D - Ebony
2M - Braydon
3C - Freddie
3K - Ehli
4G - Archie
4L - Thea
5NB - Zara
5LB - Idrees
6R - Kayden
6C - Connor
PE - Hermione

Next week we will restart the Head Teachers tea party so please remind your child to look out for their invitation



Parent 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, Cradley Heath, B64 5JG.

Friday 2nd Feb

Monday 5th Feb

Friday 9th Feb

Monday 12th Feb

Parents/carers must attend all 4 dates.

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. Parents/carers must attend all 4 dates.

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.



Reception Newsletter

This term our new topic is called Crazy Creatures. We will be learning about a variety of animals and insects from around the world. We will have a special visit from the Animal Man and will be practicing some animal songs to sing in our Class Assembly.

Please keep your eye on the newsletter for the date of our assembly.



Atti - Y1

Year 1 & 2's Newsletter

In Year One we have enjoyed learning about our new topic of 'Turrets and Tiaras'.

In English we have a new class story called Sir Kit's Quest. The children have enjoyed joining in reading the story and making the different voices of the characters particularly the witch and the ogre. They have worked really hard learning the new vocabulary from the story such as cackled, isolated and clambered. Some of the children acted out these words.

This week in Year Two, we have started our new topic called 'Into The Wild'. In English, we have started a topic on Madagascar. We have located Madagascar on a map and drew it! In Art we have begun to look at animal sketches and give our opinion about it. We have also looked at safari vehicles and it's features. We have now changed our day to swap books. So can you please ensure your child brings their reading book, record and book to share book on a Friday

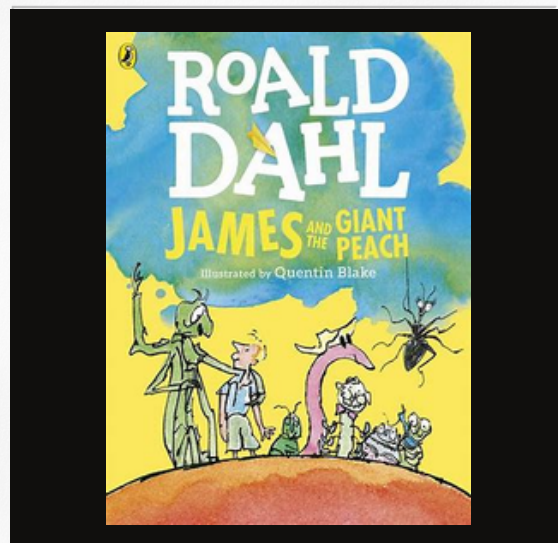


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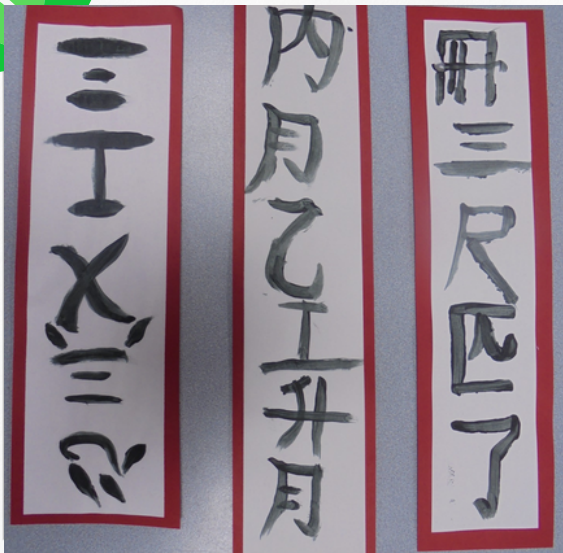
Year 3 & 4's Newsletter

Year 3 have started their 'James and the Giant Peach' topic and started with taste testing some peaches and writing reviews about their taste. Following this, they imagined being James and collected items that they felt he would take in his case at the beginning of the story. They have moved on to writing predictions about what they think will happen in the book and are now beginning to read and enjoy the story together.

Year 4 recreated a river for their stunning start as they begin their topic on 'Water.' They went into the garden to collect stones and twigs and used sand to recreate a river in trays in their classrooms. They added blue dye to water and then poured a river, allowing it to flood as the water continued to rise. This allowed the children to see first hand the devastation that flooding can cause. The children have also set up a teeth experiment in science and we will update you on their results in the next newsletter.



Y3 - James



Y6 Chinese
Symbols

Year 5 & 6's Newsletter

In Year 6 we are now studying China. Our English will be based around the book 'Spilled Water' and the children have enjoyed the beginning of the story. We also produced some calligraphy, the children wrote their names using Chinese symbols to represent each letter.

In Year 5 we have begun our Space topic this week. We have begun to study the Solar System and have learned the name of the planets. In English, we have begun to write a story about the Apollo 13 disaster.

Highfields Hall of Fame

This page will be used to celebrate the things your children do in their spare time that they would like to share with us all e.g earning gym

certificates, football or swimming trophies etc. If you could send a photograph and a short explanation via email to highfields.enquiry@highfields.sandwell.sch.uk

Mrs Garratt will publish them. If we have permission, we will also post them on our schools private Facebook page

