



26th January 2024

Highfields Primary newsletter



Head's Welcome

Thank you to all of our parents who have been attending our workshops lately, it is lovely to see you and share the amazing things your children do at Highfields. We

have another one coming up this week about our new lockdown procedures so it would be nice to see you all there. There will be more to come throughout the year so look out for diary dates!

We also have children starting to go out on trips again this term, I'm very excited for Young Voices this afternoon, and Year 6 will be off to Plas Gwynant for their residential in a few weeks as well. Please look on the schools website to see photos

from these events

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 94.1%. The highest attending classes this week were;

Reception - RP - 93.6%

KSI - ICS - 95.1% -

KS2 - 6R - 98.3%



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Theme of the Month - January friendship



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?

Books of the Month - January

Here are January'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 the library for children to select as their reading book as and when they wish.

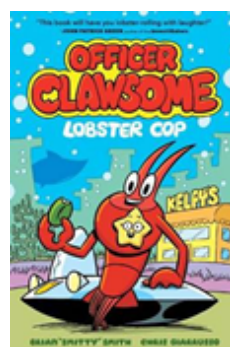
The books for January are:

EYFS: 'Rajiv's Starry Feelings' by Niall Moorjani

Years 1 and 2: 'The Best You' by Nima Patel

Years 3 and 4: 'Official Clawsome: Lobster Cop' by Brian Smith

Years 5 and 6: 'Lunar' by Chris Bradford



Eco Council – Big Garden Bird Watch

We are taking part as a school on Friday 26th January 2024 but the Eco-Council wanted to encourage as many pupils to take part themselves over the weekend.

Find out all about it on Big Garden Birdwatch ([rspb.org.uk](https://www.rspb.org.uk))

What is the Big Garden BirdWatch 2024?

The Big Garden BirdWatch is the world's largest garden wildlife survey. Every year hundreds of thousands of nature lovers like you take part, helping to build a picture of how garden birds are fairing.

Spend an hour watching the birds in your patch, between 26 and 28 January and record the birds that land.

Tell us what you saw (even if that's nothing at all)! You can submit your results online or by freepost.

RSPB School Bird Watch 2024 26-28th January 2024

The Eco Council went onto the school playground today with their tally charts and spotted the following birds. They had already prepared the school garden area earlier in the week

hanging new bird feeders and filling them with bird seed and dried meal worms. A squirrel proof bird feeder is now hanging in the Silver Birch tree along with some roosting pouches which will provide shelter to the smaller birds in the harsh weather conditions.

While out the group spotted the following birds.

Seagulls, a couple of Crows, Wood Pigeon, Magpie and a Robin hiding on the adventure playground.

They will now submit their finding online to the RSPB.



Lockdown Procedure Reminder

At Highfields Primary School, we take safeguarding and safety very seriously. It is important that we continue to review all of our procedures, considering even those events that are very unlikely to occur. As part of this process we now have a procedure called 'lockdown'.

A lockdown procedure is a standard health and safety procedure, similar to a drill. Our lockdown procedure would only be used when there is a threat to the safety of our children, staff and others in the school, and when it is safer for everyone to remain in school than evacuate. The aim is to keep people safe by confining them to a secure place. Situations where our lockdown procedure may be used include;

- A potentially dangerous person or animal on the school site
- A disturbance or dangerous situation in the local community that could affect the school
- A nearby chemical incident or other risk of air pollution
- An incident related to terrorism

As part of the school's emergency plan, we have a lockdown policy to warn staff and children if there is a risk. Although neither of these events are highly likely it is essential that staff and children know the procedures. We will ensure that the children have a clear understanding of the procedures during assembly and lesson time prior to us actually undertaking a drill. We will be running a drill of these procedures in the second half of the spring term for all members of the school. Please be assured that we have not received any information to indicate that the school is at risk from an intruder etc but it is essential that we take every step to ensure the children's wellbeing. I would be grateful if you could discuss this with your child to stress the importance of the matter and ensuring a drill is conducted in a sensible manner. If you have any questions about the lockdown procedure, there will be a parent meeting at school on Thursday 1st February 2024 at 2.45pm.



Autumn Term Attendance

92 pupils across school achieved 100% attendance in the Autumn Term compared with 48 pupils in the Autumn Term 2022/2023 thank you to all of our families who are supporting their children's education by getting them to school on time and consistently. It really does give our children the best start towards achieving their future aspirations!





Spring Term - Diary Dates

January

- 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

- 1st - Lockdown parent meeting
- 2nd - 4G swimming
- 2nd - Numbers Day
- 2nd - Y6 SATs parent meeting
- 5th - Y5 & 6 parent reading workshop
- 7th - Boys football tournament at Albion Dome
- 7th - Dentist checks for 5 year olds
- 9th - 4G swimming
- 9th - Plas Gwynant parent meeting
- 9th - Break up for half term
- 12th - 16th - Half term holidays
- 19th - Children return to school
- 22nd - Y1 trip to Warwick Castle
- 23rd - 4G swimming
- 28th - Y3 trip to Bewdley Museum
- 29th - School Council trip to Parliament

March

- 1st - 4G swimming
- 1st - Y5 Art workshops
- 5th - Rocksteady concert
- 6th - Y5 trip to Space Centre

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

School Council Update

In the last 2 weeks, School Council have been looking at the school value of staying Safe and being Respectful. They have linked these to our British Value of Mutual Respect and we have discussed how we can continue to be Safe and Respectful at school.

The children have been working to create some imaginative posters. These posters will be sent to Mrs Garratt and some of these wonderful ideas will be used in school to help remind children to walk safely in the corridors and always be respectful in school.

We look forward to seeing the finished posters in the next few weeks!



Golden Book Awards



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



12th January

RW - Jorgie
RP - Sammie
ISS - Freddie
ICS - Adrian
2D - Freddie
2M - Abdullah
3C - Freddie
3K - Mahtaab
4G - Jayden
4L - Joshua
5NB - Harry
5LB - Kara-Jai
6R - Taleah
6C - Isabella
PE - Harry B
French - Arthur

26th January

RW - Holly
RP - Islam
ISS - Luna
ICS - Harley
2D - Bobby
2M - Nikolas
3C - Nicholas
3K - Malakai
4G - Mya
4L - Mahya
5NB - Abdul
5LB - Kristopher
6R - Vinnie
6C - Emmie
PE - Bella
French - Darcie NH



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!



Harley N - RW
Thomas S - RP
Corey C - ICS
Elliott C - ICS
Matthew C - 4G
Isabel Riley - 5LB
Tristan J - 6C



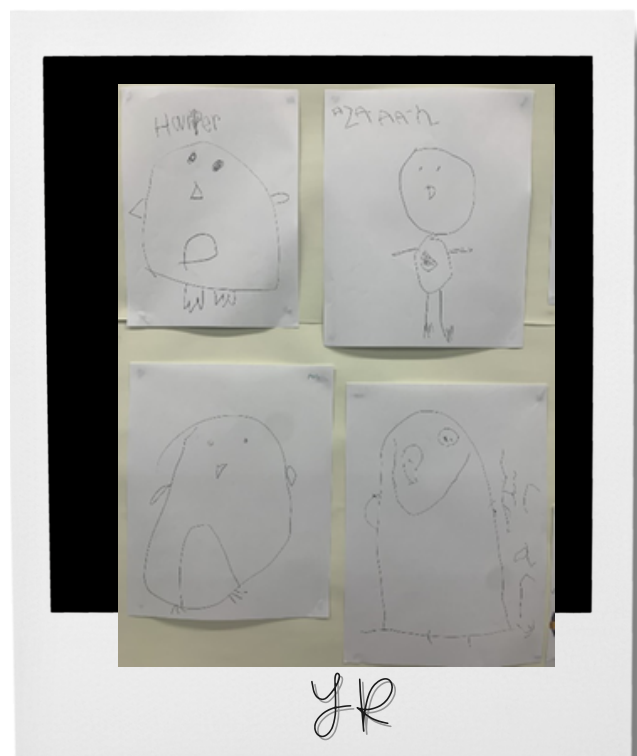
Reception

Newsletter

In Reception, we have continued exploring Crazy Creatures. The children have identified features of non-fiction texts and written facts about polar animals! They have enjoyed learning new art skills; creating animal skin patterns (just using paper and glue!) and learning how to draw a penguin.

Next week, our Crazy Creatures journey takes us under the sea to explore and learn about the animals there.

Here is some of our work from the past two weeks learning about animals from hot and cold climates.



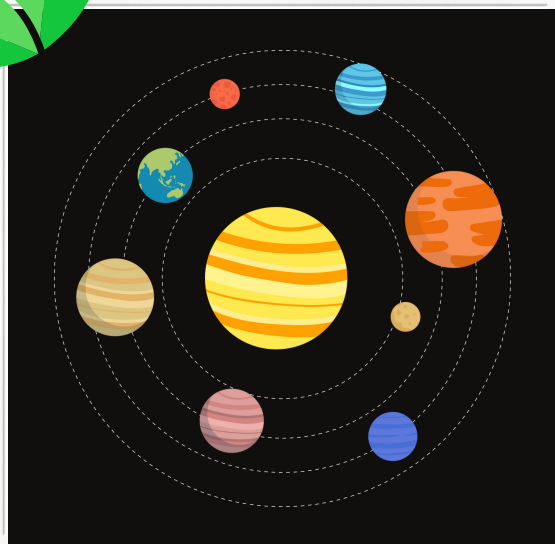
Y2 - Abdullah

Year 1 & 2's

Newsletter

In Year One geography we have been learning about the four countries that make up the United Kingdom and then labelled them on a simple map. In Science we have really enjoyed investigating different materials and their properties. We have been finding out if materials are hard or soft, dull or shiny.

In Year 2, we are starting a new topic about adverts and leaflets. We have enjoyed looking at a range of leaflets and spotting their features such as slogans, logos and persuasive language. In Art, we are exploring line, tone and texture. We have also practiced drawing a lion and gave our opinion on each other's work. Can you please make sure your child brings in their reading record, reading book and library book every day as we are hearing children read more frequently.



Y5 - Space

Year 5 & 6's Newsletter

In Year 6 we have been learning about light in Science. The children have really enjoyed using torches and mirrors to discover how light travels and finding out which materials are best at reflecting light. We have also been creating stories in English based on the book *Spilled Water*. The children have enjoyed writing about the villainous Mrs Chen and up with some excellent pronouns to describe her.

The children of Year 5 have really enjoyed our DT project. Last week we created pulleys using cotton reels in order to lift items. This week we have created a set of gears and analysed how they operate. We have also been learning about moons in our Solar System. Ask your child if they can name any moons other than our own?

Year 3 & 4's Newsletter

Year 3 have continued their science work looking at the diets of different animals and also what makes a nutritious diet. In computing, they have enjoyed learning about algorithms and have had a go at programming using Logo. Their geography work has seen them learn about rural and urban areas with a particular focus on farming in rural areas. This is in preparation for the trip they will be going on to Sheepwash Farm later in the term.

Year 4 concluded their science experiment looking at the effects of different liquids on tooth enamel (or egg shells in their experiment.) They learnt that water and milk were the best for their teeth whereas vinegar was the worst and made the shells dissolve! The children enjoyed their art day yesterday, where they produced acrylic paintings with a visiting artist. We hope you enjoyed seeing these when they brought them home with them.



Y4 - Teeth

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



A huge well done to Kristopher who ran/walked a 50 mile virtual scooby door marathon and won a medal!

This is an incredible achievement and we are all very proud of you
#myaspirations

A huge well done to Archie who represented Walsall this week at football. They competed against... Birmingham City, Shrewsbury and Burton Albion and won the Midlands UIO's Cup. Well done Archie this is absolutely fantastic
#myaspirations





Highfields Helpers

Newsletter



We wanted to say a huge thank you to everyone who attended our Highfields Christmas Fayre back in December. The final profit was £794.83!!!

Mrs Garratt and the whole school would also like to say a thank you to the Highfields Helpers team who supported us to arrange this event because it was due to this and other events that we have been able to put the money raised towards a brand new screen in the hall.

Please ask your children about the amazing new screen as this will really make a difference for the school in assemblies and workshops moving forwards