



8th March 2024

# Highfields Primary

## newsletter



### Head's Welcome

What a week it has been here at Highfields with trips and amazing costumes for World Book Day! Thank you so much for supporting school with these events, we really enjoy being able to offer these enrichment activities for our children to take part in! Next week sees some of our Y5 and Y6 children going on their residential to Plas Gwynant and I know we have some very excited children (and staff) already. If you want to see what the children are getting up to on their trips or residential please have a look at the school website or check out our social media posts. We also have our parent survey open at the moment and we would really like to hear what parents think about Highfields and what improvements we could make moving forward, so please complete the survey

Thank you,  
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 93.6%. The highest attending classes this week were;

EYFS - RW - 92.8%

KSI - 2D - 93.3%

KS2 - 3K - 97%



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# Houses of Parliament Trip

Congratulations to the 20 children who went to Parliament on Thursday 29th February. Mrs Garratt, Mrs Lewis, Miss Hughes and I felt privileged to accompany such a respectful, responsible, enthusiastic and inquisitive group of children. They did themselves and Highfields proud. Despite the rainy British weather, the children didn't complain and made the most of their historic adventure. I believe that we may have some potential leaders of the future! On arriving in London, the children were very excited to see some of the sights of the capital city. This included the London Eye, Big Ben, as well as the famous double decker red buses, black taxis and even the red telephone boxes!

We were shown around the Houses of Parliament and saw plaques and statues relating to previous kings and queens. We also learnt about the history of the building. The children were curious to learn more and asked many intelligent questions to further their understanding of the historic buildings. We were very lucky to watch debates in both the House of Lords and the House of Commons, where the children sat attentively and respectfully while the members of Parliament continued to voice their opinions on different subjects.

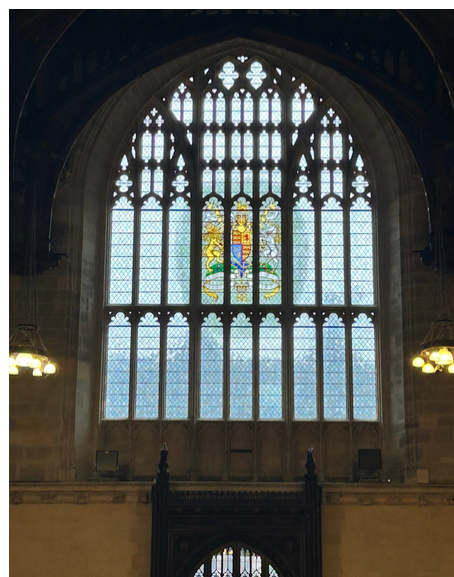
The children then discussed the differences that they observed between the House of Commons and the House of Lords. Afterwards, they demonstrated their thirst for learning by asking many intelligent questions to our guides about the Houses of Parliament, its history and about the government rules (British Values: Rule of Law).

The last activity was the Children's workshop, where the children demonstrated the British Value of Individual Liberty by confidently voicing their personal opinions in a number of scenarios. It was pleasure to see the children talking about their own individual views about the world. The children confidently explained the meaning of Democracy (another British Value) and why it is important for people's voices to be heard. They explained how Democracy is used at Highfields and how the children in our school elected them onto the School Council. They also explained how the children of Highfields are given their voice by being asked for ideas on how to improve the school. School Council then pass on these ideas to Mr Savvides and Mrs Garratt to discuss. The children enjoyed learning about the suffragettes and how women were given the right to vote. Subsequently, the children gave their views that men and women are equal and they should be given the same opportunities, as well as the fact that there is now more equality in the world than in the past. The trip concluded with lunch before our long trek home. What a momentous day for children and adults. Well done School Council, you are the stars of the future!





# Houses of Parliament Trip







# School Council The Year to Date!

A huge thank you to all the School Council representatives for all their enthusiasm, ideas and hard work.

At the start of the year, the councillors submitted imaginative applications for the School Council roles. Each child then presented their ideas to the class and the children of Highfields voted for which children they believed submitted the best applications. This shows our British Value of Democracy.

The children have shared their ideas for how to improve the school during meetings and also asked their own classes for ideas of what we could do as a school. The response was fantastic! This promotes the British Value of Individual Liberty.


Subsequently, School Council discussed the ideas proposed by their peers and many of ideas have been forwarded to Mrs Garratt to see if we can use these in the future. One idea created by the children was for the staff of Highfields to perform a Christmas Song of the children's choice. As a result of this, each child was given a choice of four Christmas Songs (chosen by Highfields Music Subject Champion Miss Banyard). The children then voted for their favourite song for the staff to perform (Democracy). The results were announced in a whole school assembly and the winning song was... Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree. 50% of the children of Highfields voted for this. The Highfields staff thoroughly enjoyed performing this song as part of Carols with Classes service!

The School Council children were a huge help in selling poppies in the week leading up to Remembrance Day. They also assisted in counting the money raised for Children in Need, where an amazing £204.86 was raised.

Next term will be an exciting one for School Council (and the teachers) including a momentous trip to the Houses of Parliament in London in February.

Thanks again to all the children.

And from the children...a huge thank you to Mr. Savvides who helps and supports us during our meetings and arranges wonderful things for us to do!











# World Book Day 2024





# World Book Day 2024 Book Quiz Winners

## Key Stage 2

Jasmine J

Isabelle T

Luca S

Freddie W

## Key Stage 1

Matilda P

Harry T

## Reception

Simrat K

Islam I

Hermione S

Muhammad J

Ibrahim N

Abiam C

Thomas S

Kiera B

Harper P

Ava T

Congratulations to all of our book quiz entrants but especially our winners who all received a book as a prize which was given out to them in the World Book Assembly on Thursday.



Also 159 pupils took part in the book swap on Thursday afternoon so thank you to all of the children and families who sent book into school, it was amazing and something we will definitely be doing again next year!

Any spare books have been left in the School Office Reception Area to encourage parents and children to continue to swap books.

# Books of the Month – March

Here are March'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.

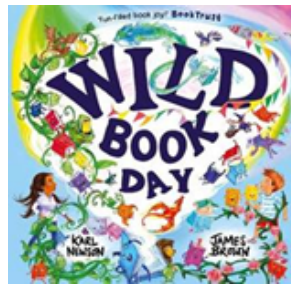
The books for March are:

EYFS: 'Supertato: Eviltato v Superpea' by Sue Hendra

Years 1 and 2: 'Wild Book Day' by Karl Newson

Years 3 and 4: 'Where Magic Grows' by Onjali Q. Rauf

Years 5 and 6: 'Aliya to the Infinite City' by Laila Rifaat



## Theme of the Month – March

### Charity



During the month of March, we will be looking at the theme, charity. We will be asking the children to think carefully about what charity encompasses. Many different needs, ideas

and activities, from looking after children to climate change campaigns, all encourage an awareness of the world and those around us and ask us to volunteer our time.

At home, we hope you will continue the discussions to build on these thoughts.

Donate an unwanted toy to a local charity, make a contribution to Comic Relief.

Look at different charities and what they do. What else can we donate?

## SMSC Calendar – March

March 3rd – World Wildlife Day

March 7th – World Book Day

March 8th – International Women's Day

March 16th – Young Carers Action Day

March 21st – International Day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination

March 22nd – World Water Day







# Parental Voice

Parent feedback is really important to use at Highfields and your thought help us to write our School Improvement Plan for 2024/25. If you could follow this QR code and complete the form I would be very grateful

Parental Questionnaire 2023/24



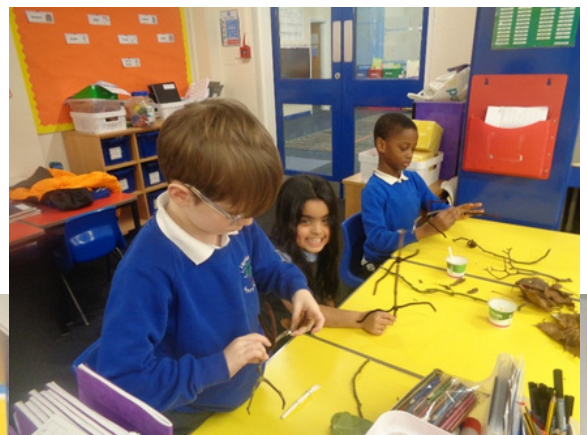
## Story Club

Over the last few weeks in story club we have been reading stories written by the author Julia Donaldson and then completed some creative activities linked to them.

We read the Gruffalo and made our own Gruffalo from a paper bag.

We made our own Highway Rat and Stickman.

We also created characters from Room on the Broom. We had lots of fun!





# Spring Term - Diary Dates

## March

8th - 4G swimming  
 8th - Girls football team @ Albion Dome  
 8th - Y1 assembly to parents  
 11th - Y6 residential to Plas Gwynant  
 12th - Reception Stay & Play  
 13th - Reception Stay & Play  
 13th - 3C trip to Sheepwash Farm  
 14th - Reception visit from Animal Man  
 15th - 4G swimming  
 15th - Y5 First Aid training  
 15th - Comic Relief - crazy hair day  
 18th - Reception Easter Bonnet Parade  
 19th - KSI Easter Bonnet Parade  
 20th - KS2 Eggs in for judging  
 20th - Parents' Evening  
 21st - Parents' Evening  
 21st - Y2 trip to Safari Park  
 22nd - 4G swimming  
 22nd - Parent Survey closing date  
 22nd - Break up for Easter

## April

8th - Children return to school  
 16th - Reception 2024 offers date  
 26th - Reception assembly to parents

## SAT's Boosters Y6

English - Monday	Maths - Thursday
18th March	7th March
8th April	11th April
15th April	18th April
22nd April	25th April
29th April	9th May



## Easter Dates



### Easter Parades

Children in YR, Y1 and Y2 are invited to create an Easter bonnet, sash or cape at home and bring this into school on the following days...

Reception - Monday 18th March - 2.30pm  
 Year 1 & 2 - Tuesday 19th March - 2.30pm

### Egg Decorating

Children in KS2 are invited to decorate an egg/s and bring their creations into school to be displayed in the Learning Zone  
 Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 - Wednesday 20th March





# Golden Book Awards



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

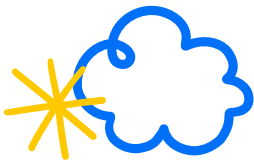


## 1st March

RW - Abiam  
 RP - Kiera  
 ISS - Rae  
 ICS - Jenson  
 2D - Ivy S  
 2M - Ivy H  
 3C - Theodore  
 3K - Jack D  
 4G - Jack T  
 4L - Mason L  
 5NB - Jack W  
 5LB - Alexandria  
 6R - Lexie  
 6C - Aneesa  
 PE - Ameera (Y4)

## 8th March

RW - Harry  
 RP - David  
 ISS - Phoebe-Lilly  
 ICS - Frankie  
 2D - Karina  
 2M - Oliver  
 3C - Otis  
 3K - Malakai  
 4G - Jayden  
 4L - Salahuddin  
 5NB - Aiden R  
 5LB - Abrar  
 6R - Darcy N  
 6C - Isha  
 PE - Aoife (YR)  
 French - Amelia (Y4)



## 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!

Tea Party - 23rd February



Tea Party - 8th March

Luna - ISS  
 le jab - ICS  
 Emily - 2M  
 Albie B - 2D  
 Freddie W - 3C  
 Miracle - 5NB  
 Anabia - 6R  
 Taylor H - 6C



# Reception Newsletter

Over the last few weeks, we have been learning all about Antarctica, penguins and friendship.

The children really enjoyed learning about 'Lost and Found' by Oliver Jeffers and have built their own boats, designed a penguin and wrote about how the penguin and the boy were feeling. Next week, we will be starting a new story about a very hungry caterpillar!

Please make sure you have signed up for one of our stay and play sessions on either Tuesday 12th or Wednesday 13th March. If you are unsure which slot you have been allocated, please call the school office.

We are also very excited to be having a visit from The Animal Man on Thursday afternoon! The children will have a hands-on experience with a variety of animals and learn new and interesting facts.

Please ensure you have completed an allergy form for your child, or they will not be able to pet the animals.



Y1

## Year 1 & 2's Newsletter

In Year One the children are continuing their learning about castles. They really enjoyed going to Warwick Castle and actually seeing the features that they were learning about such as battlements, a portcullis, spiral staircase and arrow slits. Most children said their favourite part of the day was climbing to the top of the tower, even though it made their legs ache! We saw an archer shooting arrows and we watched a birds of prey display too.

In Year Two, we have been learning lots about Toliara. We have looked at the different houses that are in Toliara and the diverse range of food found in Toliara. Just a reminder your child goes to the school library every Monday. They independently choose a book from a range of genres that interests them and may need support in reading this at home. Can you please remind your child to bring this book in every Monday so it can be changed.



## Year 3 & 4's Newsletter

3K Had a wonderful time at Sheepwash Farm this week and 3C are really looking forward to visiting next week!

Talhah: 'They showed us seeds, like tomato and onion seeds, and then we went on a tractor.'

Pixie: 'When we were in the building, he brought round some seeds so we could look at them and they were tiny.'

Edith: 'We drove backwards into a river and the bottom filled up with water!'

Henry: 'We saw 2 cows- I called Toffee and I called Coffee.'

Malakai: 'I thought it was really fun because we went on the tractor.'

Ani: 'I liked it because when we went on the tractor, there were bumps and some people jumped out of their seats.'

Year 4 had a wonderful time on their trip to Bewdley Museum.

Arabella: 'We were following the River Severn names (names people called the river) and saw animal furs.'

Salahuddin: 'I liked making the rope.'

Thea: 'I enjoyed pulling the machine to make the rope.'

Sallome: 'We found some names for the river like Sabrina and we had to guess...'

Isabelle: 'We had to guess if people made the objects or traded the objects they saw.'

Eesa: 'When learning about water safety, 'You have to throw something that can float at them and to tell them to float on their back.'



Space Centre

## Year 5 & 6's Newsletter

The children have really enjoyed learning about Mount Everest as part of our English work. We have written non-chronological reports about the mountain and the children particularly enjoyed finding out about the perils of Everest and what a dangerous place it can be. They also had a great time making their own theodolites and using them to measure objects in the playground.

Year 5 had a great trip to the Space Centre in Leicester. We really enjoyed looking at all the exhibits and had a great time in the planetarium where we learned about stars and planets and could take part in a quiz.

# Highfields Hall of Fame

This page is 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 would like your child to appear here, please could send a photograph and a short explanation via email to [highfields.enquiry@highfields.sandwell.sch.uk](mailto:highfields.enquiry@highfields.sandwell.sch.uk) so we can will publish them.



We wanted to say a huge well done to Amelia C who has achieved her yellow belt in Shotokan Karate  
Want an incredible talent Amelia!  
#myaspirations

Elsie has competed in two dance competitions over the past 3 weeks.  
Winning in total 3 Golds and 1 Silver for her group dances. She's very proud of her trophies and medals and so are we!  
What an incredible achievement!  
#myaspirations



**Highfields Helpers**  
*Newsletter*

**Superwoman**  
**Gift Sale**



**Wednesday 6th March**

**Friday 8th March**

**£2.50 a gift**



**Highfields Helpers**

