



12th April 2024

# Highfields Primary

## newsletter



## Head's Welcome

Welcome back to the summer term here at Highfields. As you know we had an Ofsted inspection before the holidays, as soon as we receive any feedback we will share it with our parents. I just wanted to say a huge thank you to the parents who spoke to the inspector in the playground and to the children who behaved beautifully and spoke so openly and honestly about their time and experience at Highfields.

All of the classes have now started their new topics and as always we have a lot to fit in before the end of the academic year. There are lots of events, trips and a residential this term so please keep an eye on the calendar page for the most up to date information

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 92.2%. The highest attending classes this week were;

EYFS - RW - 93.4%

KSI - ICS - 96.7%

KS2 - 5NB - 98.7%



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# Parental Voice Survey

Thank you to everyone who completed our 'Parent Voice' survey before the Easter holidays, we had 136 responses in total. We were very pleased with our results and we are also going to address some of your suggestions for how we could improve the school moving forward.

98%

My child is happy at Highfields

100%

My child feels safe at Highfields

98%

Highfields makes  
sure its pupils are  
well behaved

95%

Highfields makes me aware of what  
my child will learn during the year

Of children had  
either not been  
bullied, or if they  
had, felt it had  
been dealt with  
quickly and  
effectively

94%

When I have  
raised concerns  
with Highfields,  
they have been  
dealt with  
properly


97%

99%

Of children do not have  
SEND needs but if they do,  
Highfields gives them support  
to succeed

95%

Highfields supports my child's  
wider development



98%

My child does well at Highfields

94%

Highfields provides valuable information on my child's progress

97%

Highfields has high expectations and hopes for my child

95%

My child enjoys playtimes and lunchtimes

My child has the opportunity to take part in clubs and activities across the academic year

96%

My child is asked to complete appropriate home learning for their age

89%

98%

Highfields provides a creative curriculum

97%

Highfields is well led and managed


96%

of parents would recommend Highfields to another parent

98%

Highfields offers a wide range of trips, residentials and events for my child





The following information is in response to some of your 'improvement' comments and will be happening over the next academic year.

'Lack of homework' - not preparing Y6 for the move to Y7

The Senior Leadership Team (SLT) will be looking at the reintroduction of homework and what would be most suitable and relevant for individual key stages/year groups this term

'I'd like more information about my child's progress'

SLT are looking to introduce a short report each term, these will be at the end of each term so in addition to parents evenings and as well as the usual end of year full report

Being inclusive on social media and the newsletter

I will share any child's achievements in the newsletter and on social media (if we have permission) but I rely on parents notifying me and sending in photographs and articles so please send them in and we will mention children

Wrap Around Care

This is something we started to look into at the start of this academic year and is something we do hope to offer in the near future as we understand the needs of families is now changing

Communication - 'not enough' or 'not early enough'

We currently use text message reminders, letters, social media, the website and newsletters to inform parents about upcoming events, we always try to make sure we notify parents as early as possible

'Lack of, and range of, after school clubs'

This year we have really improved the range of clubs we offer. Unfortunately we only have the space and staff to offer so many clubs, and due to health and safety restrictions, we are limited in the number of children we can have in some clubs. We try to make sure that all children who ask, get a place in at least one club at some point during the academic year. We can also not offer year long clubs as this means some children would never have the opportunity to attend a club. We will continue to develop our after school offer during the next academic year to include a cookery club

'I don't know what my child/children are learning at school'


The schools new website has every curriculum area broken down so you can see every subject and what your child/children will be learning every term. You can go to the website and it says 'Children's Year Groups Pages' and there is also a tab for 'Curriculum Information'

Transitions - children find it hard moving between year groups

This is something we will start to do earlier in the academic year. We currently have a day where children spend time with their new teacher but to help with transitions we will encourage more of these opportunities

'My child needs help with...'

If you child needs help with anything educational and or/mental health and wellbeing please let school know so we can offer, or signpost you, to the correct form of support



# Books of the Month - April

Here are April'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.

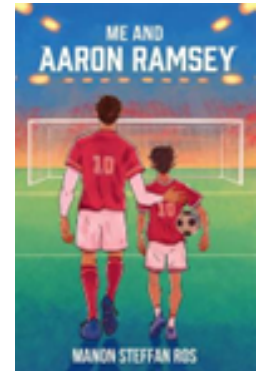
The books for April are:

EYFS: 'Wanna see a Llama?' by Simon Phillip

Years 1 and 2: 'Big Bad Wolf Investigates: Fairy Tales' by Catherine Cawthorne

Years 3 and 4: 'The Pinchers and the Diamond Heist' by Anders Sparring

Years 5 and 6: 'Me and Aaron Ramsay' by Manon Staffan Ros



## Theme of the Month - April

Freedom



During the month of April, we will be looking at the theme, freedom.

We will be asking the children to think carefully about what freedom is, how we might achieve it, what freedoms should people have and when do they feel most free.

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

## SMSC Calendar - April

April - Stress Awareness Month

April 2nd - World Autism Awareness Day

April 7th - World Health Day

April 15th - World Art Day

April 22nd - Earth Day





# SIPS Recipes

SIPS Catering have let us know that they have lots of requests from parents to share some of their recipes so pupils can cook the dishes at home. As a result of these requests, they are planning to share with you a different recipe on a termly basis, this will now be included in our newsletter and posted on the website. They thought it would be a great idea to start with the Easter biscuit recipe from the week's Easter Theme Day.

## Iced Easter Biscuits - makes 12 biscuits

150g plain Flour  
100g cooking and baking margarine  
50g caster sugar  
1 / 2 teaspoon vanilla essence  
50g icing sugar

## Method

Mix the flour, margarine, caster sugar and vanilla flavour together until they form a ball.

Do not overmix.

Roll out and cut into shapes (we used a bunny shaped cutter). Bake in a pre-heated oven

190C/375F/Gas 5.

Cool a little, remove from the tin and place on a cooling rack to set. Drizzle with the icing when cool.



Family Hubs have partnered with the Child Development Centre in Tipton to offer FREE services and sessions to families on the first Saturday of every month. The Child Development Centre will be open from 9.30am – 11.30am and will offer the below services for free to all families that live in Sandwell

They are continuing to offer the following services during the week for all families within Sandwell. Please scan the codes below for more information. you should have also received these via email this week





# Highfields Easter Results

Congratulations to the following children who were all winners and runners up in either the Early Years or KS1 Easter bonnet/sash or cape competition

And to the KS2 children who designed the winning Easter eggs

## Winners

RW - Elliott

RP - Simrat

## Runners Up

RW - Harley

RP - Isla-Rose

## Winners

ICS - Harry

ISS - Amari-Rome

2D - Ira

2M - Emily

## Runners Up

ICS - Oliver

ISS - India-Rose

2D - Matilda

2M - Harper

## Winners

3K - Elysia

3C - Harrison

4L - William

4G - Matthew

5NB - Isabel

5LB - Alexandria

6C - Leo

6R - Isla-Jo

## Runners Up

3K - Arthur

3G - Meisha

4L - Arabella

4G - Mikey

5NB - Anabelle

5LB - Lola

6C - Isha

6R - Jasmine



# Eco Group Updates



Just before we broke up for Easter the Eco Group received their Woodland Tree Pack of 15 saplings to plant. We received Hazel, Crab apple and Rowan which a small group of children from the Eco Group planted to extend the hedge from our woodland area into the seating and Bird watching area of the school garden. The hedge will eventually form a great habitat to encourage wildlife into our school garden. Though it might take a little while to grow!! Trees clean the air by trapping particles of pollution and provide natural shade, creating cooler and more comfortable outdoor spaces. Trees also capture and slow rainfall, which reduces runoff and the risk of flooding during heavy rainfall. The more trees we can plant, the better, but even a single tree can have a significant impact on biodiversity.

Help us to document the wildlife of Birmingham and the Black Country this April!

From April 26th-29th, Birmingham and the Black Country (Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall & Wolverhampton) will be taking part in the 2024 City Nature Challenge - a fun, free, global challenge to see which city is wildest! Will you help us show the world how wild we REALLY are? How do I take part?

That's the easy bit - simply make a record of any wildlife you spot in Birmingham and the Black Country from April 26-29th, whether that's wildflowers in your garden or a list of birds from your local nature reserve. Every record counts and will help towards our total and move us up the global leader board!

The easiest way to make your records count is to use the free iNaturalist app or website. Simply take a photo of any plant or animal and the app's inbuilt software will help you to identify it whilst sending the record straight to us! below. Alternatively, you can email any records of wildlife you've spotted to [enquiries@ecorecord.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@ecorecord.org.uk).



What is City Nature Challenge?

The City Nature Challenge is an annual competition between cities all over the world to see how many wild species their citizens can spot over the space of four days. As well as being a fun activity, it generates useful species information that helps us to monitor the state of wildlife across our region and target our nature conservation activities to better protect wildlife. During last year's challenge we collectively managed make over 11,828 observations of a massive 1,355 different species! This result meant that Birmingham and the Black Country made more wildlife observations than any other UK city area and the 7th most of any city in Europe!

In 2024 there will be more cities than ever taking part, including our neighbours in Coventry, Solihull, Staffordshire and Warwickshire! We need you to help us beat our total in 2024!

Breaking News!!! National Education Nature Park Success

Over the last 4 months we have been working on an application to the National Education Nature Park Grant Programme to improve biodiversity within our school playground. On the 13th of March 2024 we were informed that our application had been successful, and we had been approved for funding of £10,000.00. The money is being used to improve nature in our education setting and the vegetable area of the school garden will shortly be completely cleared with new flooring being laid, raised beds and seating installed creating a new improved outside space for our pupils to grow fruit and vegetables. The work will be undertaken by an external landscaping company during our next half-term holiday in May and the new area will be ready for use shortly afterwards with lots of exciting opportunities for our pupils to use the new space from September onwards.





# Summer Term - Diary Dates

## April

8th - Children return to school  
10th - CBSO performance  
16th - Reception 2024 offers date  
23rd - Bell Heath parent meeting 2.30pm  
23rd - Boys football match  
26th - Reception assembly to parents  
29th - 5year old dental checks  
30th - Reception - School Nurse - heights & weights and hands & teeth talk  
30th - Y6 - School Nurse - heights & weights and secondary transition talk

## SAT's Boosters Y6

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

## May

1st - Y2 - School Nurse - PANTS talk  
1st - Y6 - School Nurse - body changes talk  
1st - Y3 & Y4 - School Nurse - healthy eating talk  
2nd - School closed for voting  
6th - Bank Holiday - school closed  
13th - 16th - Y6 SATs  
21st - Class photographs  
24th - Break up for half term

## June

3rd - Children return to school  
7th - Drama club production 5.30pm  
11th - Art Gallery (details to follow)  
13th - Y2 trip to Weston-Super-Mare  
20th - Reception trip to Telford Wonderland



# Golden Book Awards



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

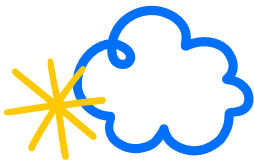


22<sup>nd</sup> March

RW - Jorgie  
RP - Layla  
ISS - Jessica  
ICS - Dwitt  
2D - Sylvia  
2M - Chase  
3C - Arlo  
3K - Edith  
4G - Toby  
4L - Aiyanna  
5NB - Hashim  
5LB - Eesa  
6R - Alfie  
6C - Frankie  
PE - Ashley (Y6)  
French - Ayyub (Y4)

12<sup>th</sup> April

RW - Gabriel  
RP - Gurtaaj  
ISS - Mason  
ICS - Alyssa  
2D - Ria  
2M - Ajay  
3C - Tayla  
3K - Laci-Mae  
4G - Alayah  
4L - Lily B  
5NB - Mason  
5LB - Isabel  
6R - Chloe  
6C - Chloe  
PE - Ava (YR)  
French - Millie (Y5)



## 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 - 12<sup>th</sup> April

ISS - Jessica  
ICS - Olivia  
3C - Isobel  
4G - Matthew C  
5NB - Ameerah  
6R - Ashley  
6R - Amelia



# Reception Newsletter

In Reception the children have had a fantastic couple of weeks finishing off our Crazy Creatures topic. They had a visit from the animal man, learned lots of facts and got to pet different animals - they were very brave!

We will be inviting you to our class assembly on Friday 26th April at 9am, where we will tell you lots of things we have been learning about in our Crazy Creatures topic.

We will now be starting our new topic called 'On The Move'. We will learn about all different types of transport, including those which take us to space!



Y2 - Joy

## Year 1 & 2's Newsletter

Our new topic in Year One is called 'Yum Yum' and is all about food. In English we have been reading the story of Handa's Surprise and have thought of adjectives to describe Handa and used these to write a character description of her. Later in the term we will be tasting the fruits from the story. In art we have been learning about the artist Arcimboldo who made portraits using fruits and vegetables.

Before breaking up for the Easter Holidays, Year 2 had lots of fun at West Midlands Safari Park. The children enjoyed seeing a range of animals and were able to hold either a snail or a cockroach. All of their photos are on the website, please take a look

Our new topic this term in Year Two is called Buckets and Spades. The children have started learning about lighthouses and a significant person called Grace Darling. In History, they have learnt lots of facts about Queen Victoria.



YR - Ava T

## Year 3 & 4's Newsletter

Year 3 started off their topic of 'The Ancient Greeks' wonderfully on Monday by coming in dressed up in clothing inspired by this time period. This week, the children have created some wonderful Greek masks as part of their stunning start and enjoyed tasting some Greek food including olives, feta and tzatziki- their reactions were very mixed to these foods!

Year 4 joined in with the dressing up on Monday - coming into school dressed either as an animal or explorer ready for their topic of 'The rainforest.' The children have also really enjoyed learning their first Samba dance moves; located some of the key rainforests of the world and also tasted some food that originates in rainforests (chocolate, bananas, grapefruits and cinnamon.)

Both year groups also enjoyed watching the concert from the CBSO where a string ensemble took the children on a story through a castle



Y4



Dream Catchers

## Year 5 & 6's Newsletter

This week Y6 begun to study our new topic of the USA. On Monday the children wrote their own 'American Dream' and made Dream Catchers. In English, we have begun our work based on the animation 'Wing It'. The children have really enjoyed inventing their own flying machines and have written journal entries describing their failed attempts at flight. We have also begun looking at electrical circuits and used the correct symbols to create circuit diagrams.

Y5 have begun our new topic and are studying the Anglo-Saxons. To begin our learning, we made Anglo-Saxon brooches. We also created dragons using pipe cleaners and made our own highlighted letters.



# 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.



Well done Amelia who has passed her stage 4 in swimming. This is an amazing life skill are we are all very proud of her! Well done Amelia!  
#myaspirations

Leah is a member of the 1st Primrose Hill Guides and has achieved her bronze award alongside badges for craft, networking, influencing and theme awards including know yourself and take action. Great work Leah!  
#myaspirations

