Highfields Primary newsletter

10th May 2024

Head's Welcome

I hope you all had lovely bank holiday weekends. I would like to open this newsletter with a huge thank you! We are extremely grateful for your support with our recent fundraiser for Amelia. We raised £1565 during our pink/purple mufti day and we have upcoming movie nights and an Amelia Fayre to look forward now to as well - more details to follow.

At the start of the week we were also very proud to at last be able to tell you all that Highfields is a GOOD primary school! We are all incredibly proud of the recent Ofsted report findings and we look forward to going from strength to strength over the next few years. Thank you to everyone involved in this!

Thank you,
Mrs Garratt



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Highfields Hall of Fame

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 92.4%. The highest attending classes this week were;

EYFS - RP 93.8%
KS1 - 2M 93.3%
KS2 - 6C 98.8%

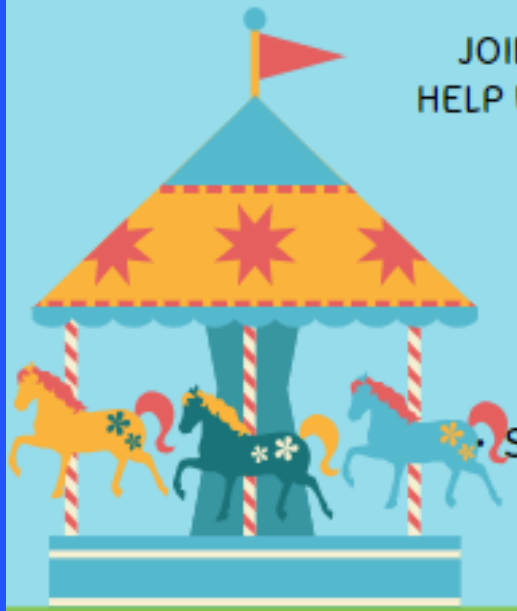
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AMELIA'S FAYRE

Friday 21st June
2:00 – 4:00pm

HIGHFIELDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

FREE ENTRY



JOIN US FOR LOTS OF FUN AND
HELP US RAISE MONEY FOR AMELIA!

- Silent Auction
- Tombola
- Raffle
- Bake sale
- Craft stalls
- Splat the Leadership Team
- and much more!



For more information on our fundraising cause:
https://gofund.me/1f2077dc

Attendance Changes

The Department of Education (DfE) have recently informed schools in the UK that there is new guidance for maintaining high levels of school attendance and a change to attendance codes which will take effect from 19th August 2024.

We will share with our parents more information around this as we receive it and how it will impact our attendance policy from September 2024. One of the changes that we would like to bring to your attention now though is around the issue of Penalty Notices (Fines for term time absence).

The new guidance states that from Autumn 2024, only 2 penalty notices can be issued to the same parent in respect of the same child within a 3-year rolling period and that the charges for penalty notices will also change.
The first penalty notice issued to a parent will be charged at £160.00 if paid within 28 days. This will be reduced to £80.00 if paid within 21 days.
A second penalty notice issued to the same parent in respect of the same pupil is charged at a flat rate of £160.00 if paid within 28 days.
A third penalty notice cannot be issued to the same parent in respect of the same child within 3 years of the date of issue of the first. In a case where the national threshold is met for a third time (or subsequent times) within those 3 years this may result in prosecution.

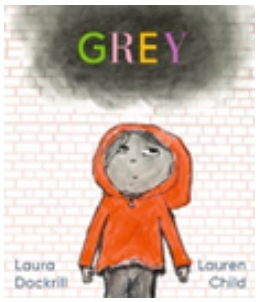
We are awaiting more information in regard to the processes that the DfE will suggest that Local Authorities and schools will need to follow from September and we will communicate these to you as soon as we have more information.

For more information please follow the QR code below to the "Working Together to Improve School Attendance Statutory Guidance" for maintained schools, academies, independent schools, and local authorities.

Books of the Month - May

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

The books for May are:
EYFS: 'Grey' by Laura Dockrill
Years 1 and 2: 'The Couch Potato' by Jory John & Pete Oswald
Years 3 and 4: 'Time Travel Twins: Stone Age Clash' by Josh Lacey
Years 5 and 6: 'The Island at the Edge of the Night' by Laura Strange









Theme of the Month - May

Democracy

During the month of May, we will be looking at the theme, Democracy. The whole school focused on the importance of voting nationally and in school using the School Council to agree decisions for how to make our school better. See if you can find out from your children what we've been talking about in school around this important theme.



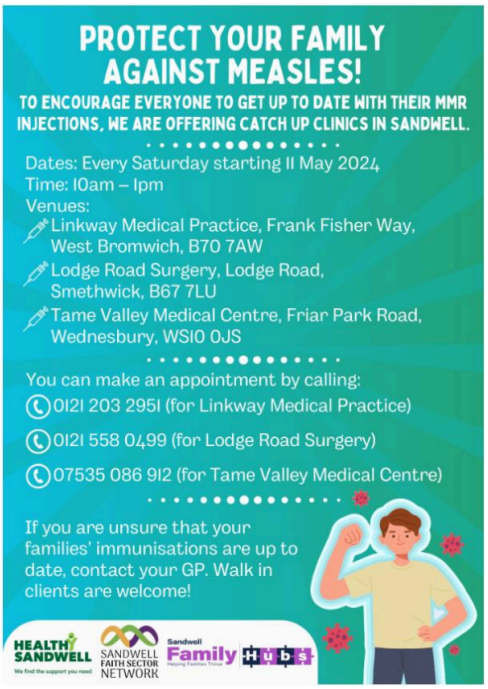
SMSC Calendar - May



All Month - Local and Community History Month
May 6th – 12th - Deaf Awareness Week
May 13th – 19th - Mental Health Awareness Week
May 15th - International Day of Families
May 17th - Endangered Species Day
May 20th – 26th - National Vegetarian Week
May 20th - World Bee Day
May 20th-25th - Walk to School Week
May 21st - World Day for Cultural Diversity
May 28th - World Hunger Day

MMR Clinics Update

Sandwell Health Protection Team are collaborating with Integrated Care Board and GP's to help promote MMR catch up clinics within Sandwell. At the moment only MMR vaccines will be delivered, within time other services will become available. There will be three clinics within Sandwell, Linkway Medical Practice, Tame Valley Medical Centre and Lodge Road Surgery, these start Saturday 11th May.



Free National Trust pass

Get a free National Trust pass worth up to £50 for your family day out this spring Fancy a day out with your partner to visit a woodland you love to walk in or even spot your favourite birds – or do you enjoy taking your friends and family somewhere new surrounded by nature? Spring has sprung and what better way to enjoy time with family and friends than with a trip to a National Trust property for FREE. With this amazing offer, up to 2 adults and up to 3 children or 1 adult and 4 children can enter a National Trust site for free in England, Wales and Northern Ireland until Friday, June 14, 2024.

SIPS Street Food Day

SIPS are holding a theme day on Tuesday 14th May - the theme for this event is street food and the menu is below



Year 6 SAT's - what you need to know



Some parents asked me to explain a little more about the SAT tests that Year 6 will begin sitting next week. First of all SAT's are just a snapshot of what your child can do. They are all sat during the morning next week on Monday to Thursday. The picture above tells you a little bit more about each day's test

If you have specific questions about SAT's that were not raised during the Y6 SATs parents meeting, please just ask a member of SLT or follow the QR code below for more information

Summer Term - Diary Dates

May

13th - 16th - Y6 SATs
21st - Class photographs
24th - Break up for half term

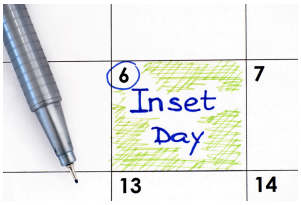
June

3rd - Children return to school
7th - Drama club production 5.30pm
11th - Art Gallery (details to follow)
18th - Y1 trip to Essington Farm
19th - KS1 Sports Day (details to follow)
20th - KS2 Sports Day (details to follow)
20th - Reception trip to Telford Wonderland
21st - Y3 assembly to parents
26th - Reception Sept 2024 parent meeting
28th - Y2 assembly to parents

July

1st - Y6 Loudmouth production
2nd - Y4 Zoolab workshops
5th - Y4 assembly to parents
8th - KS2 Sports Council trip to Wimbledon
9th - Rocksteady concert
11th - Y2 trip to Weston-Super-Mare
12th - Y3 brass assembly to parents
16th - Y6 production
17th - Parents' Evening (drop in)
19th - Break up for Summer

INSET Days 24/25



We are currently planning the INSET days for next academic year. The days we have planned so far are;

- Monday 2nd September 2024
- Friday 25th October 2024
- Monday 21st July 2025

We will notify you of the other dates later this term

Golden Book Awards

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

3rd May

RW - Affaan
RP - Harper
ISS - Rayan
ICS - Kaidon
2D - Jeevan
2M - Adam
3C - Hugo
3K - Ava
4G - Leo
4L - Ava-Grace
5NB - Hashim
5LB - Harry
6R - Mercy
6C - Nathaniel
PE - Lily-Ruth (Y4)
French - Dawson (Y4)

10th May

RW - Ellissia
RP - Gurbaz
ISS - Jessica
ICS - Lexi
2D - Prisha
2M - Lacey C
3C - Savannah
3K - Edith
4G - Jack
4L - Broden
5NB - Luca
5LB - Jennifer
6R - Kain
6C - Isabella
PE - Dilpreet (Y1)
French - Luca (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 - 3rd May
RW - Freya
2D - Eliza R
4G - Mohammed
4L - George K
5NB - Thisaru
5LB - Betsy







Y1

Year 1 & 2's Newsletter

In Year One we have completed our work on the story of Handa's Surprise. The children retold the story using adjectives to describe the animals, the fruit and the setting of the story. In DT we have started to learn how to prepare different fruits and vegetables in preparation for making our own fruit salad. We have learnt how to peel and grate a carrot. In Geography we have been learning what a continent is, their names and locating them on a map. We have learnt a song which will help us to remember them.

In Year Two, we have been continuing our work on 'The Lighthouse Keepers Breakfast'. This week the children wrote amazing character descriptions using 2A noun phrases and a range of sentence starters. In Art we have experimented with sculpting sand and have designed our own sand sculpture. In DT we have explored a range of finishing techniques which involved attaching sequins and ribbons and they used fabric pens and paint.

Reception Newsletter

As part of our topic 'On The Move', the children have been learning about how important it is to recycle and reuse things.

They celebrated Earth Day by creating sun catchers; using tissue paper to create an Earth.

We have also been learning about lots of different types of transport, including boats, trains and planes.

The children have been really looking forward to a visit from a tractor cab at school, where they will learn all about how lorries make the world go round.



YR



Yasmin - Y6

Year 5 & 6's Newsletter

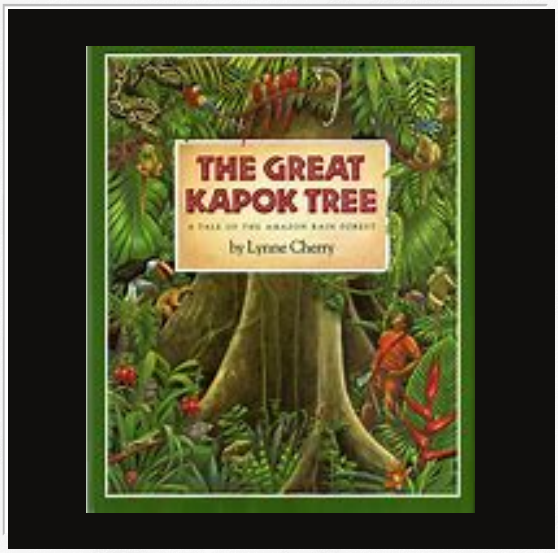
Over the last two weeks we have been working on our printing in Art. We have been studying the work of Andy Warhol and his vibrant printing techniques. The children created their own designs which they then transferred to a polystyrene printing block. They then chose the colours with which they would print their designs. The results were excellent as you can see.

In Year 5 we have been creating our own versions of Anglo-Saxon weaving. Using a paper plate and wool the children created their own designs and created a patterned design. They look excellent - ask your child about their pattern and the colours they chose.

Year 3 & 4's Newsletter

Year 3 have been busy continuing with the learning about the Ancient Greeks. This week has seen the children write their own poems in English and continue experimenting with clay ready to make their Greek pots. In computing, connections between people has been the focus for learning and how this then links to networking when thinking about computers and other devices. In R.E, year 3 have enjoyed learning about the Torah and Shabat.

Year 4 have spent their English lessons this week, reading 'The Greak Kapok Tree', a second book by the author Lynne Cherry. In history, learning has centred around the Mayan calendar with the children making one of these. Today, year 4 have had fun making a rainforest- focussing on the layers that a rainforest has. In maths, time has been the focus and if the children could practise telling the time when they are at home, it would be really helpful.



Kapok Tree



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 so we can will publish them.

A massive well done to Arlo and the whole Netherton Colts FC we took part in a tournament recently. The team won all of their matches and Arlo played the role of Captain, left winger and goal keeper! When he is older he'd like to play for Man City or Wolves! Well done Arlo! #myaspirations





We want to say a huge well done to Maisie. Maisie recently sat her grading in Taekwondo. She successfully passed her 1st yellow belt - amazing work Maisie, well done #myaspirations

Highfields Hall of Fame









We want to say a huge well done to Frankie, Callie and Keira who have recently achieved dance medals. The girls all took part in competitions and they received two awards, one in freestyle and the other in street dance. Well done!

#myaspirations