



19th July 2024

Highfields Primary

newsletter



Head's Welcome

I cannot believe that this is the last newsletter of the academic year but what a year it's been - residential, trips, fayres, class assemblies and even an Ofsted inspection! We have had a fantastic year and there is so much for us to be proud of!

To the parents who have supported us this year thank you very much, it is always appreciated.

To the teaching and support staff who have worked so hard to make the curriculum truly come alive for our children, I am so grateful to be part of this team. To the kitchen and cleaning staff, thank you for your hard work every day, to the office staff thank you, without you this school wouldn't run the way it does. To our Governors who have supported the school throughout the year, thank you too... but most importantly, to the children, you are THE most amazing group of children a school could have and we cannot wait to begin a new adventure with you all in September!

Year 6 - please don't worry, I've not forgotten about you!

On behalf of everyone here at Highfields, I would like to wish you all fantastic summer breaks and we look forward to seeing you back at Highfields on Tuesday 3rd September 2024

Take care and enjoy!

Mrs. Garratt



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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 92.8%. The highest attending classes this week were;

EYFS - RW - 92.7%

KSI - 2D - 92.7%

KS2 - 4G - 98.3%

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To our Year 6 Class of 2023/24!

As you gather your things and head for the door,
Ready to learn, to discover, and more,
Remember the times, both the laughter and tears,
Those moments of joy when you conquered your fears.

You've grown so much since those early years days,
First stumbling steps to now confident ways.
With friends by your side, you've journeyed afar,
Now it's time to reach out for that next shining star.


Each morning walk, hand in hand with a smile,
Shared dreams and hopes across every mile.
But now time is special, as you take each stride:
Your last steps to Highfields, parents at your side.

You've learned your lessons, both the big and the small,
You've answered the questions, you've conquered them all.
New adventures await, as you step out the door,
With the world at your feet and new time to explore.

So hold tight to this moment, and cherish it well,
For stories of primary school: you've many to tell.
But as you walk this path, with your head held up high,
It's your parents who might need a tear now to dry.

For as you embark upon this brand-new quest,
They too feel the change, the pride in their chest.
So Y6, be brave, but know deep inside,
It's your parents who'll need courage, or a moment to hide.

Although it's your time to take wings and fly,
Remember we're family so this isn't goodbye.
But as you move on, with dreams to defy,
You'll have to remind parents to be brave and not cry!



Autumn Term - Diary Dates

September

2nd - training day school closed to children

3rd - children return to school

6th - Y6 trip to Edmond Hall

9th - Y6 secondary school parent meeting

26th - Flu vaccinations in school

October

8th - School photographs

15th - Reception Stay & Play

17th - Reception Stay & Play

23rd - Parents Evening

24th - Parents Evening

24th - children break up for half term

25th - training day school closed to children

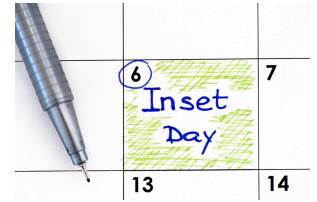
Half term - Monday 28th October - Friday
1st November

November

4th - children return to school

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 as soon as possible.

PE Days 24 / 25

Just a reminder as your child's PE day may have changed next year. From September the PE days, where children can come to school in PE kits are;

- Monday - Reception, Year 1 and Year 2
- Tuesday - Year 3, Year 5 and Year 6
- Wednesday - Reception, Year 1 and Year 2
- Thursday - Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6
- Friday - Year 4

Can I also remind all parents that we have a specific PE kit and this can be found on the website.

Congratulations – Wedding Bells!

Everyone at Highfields would like to say a huge congratulations and good luck on your wedding day to two members of staff who are both getting married in the holidays! In September, Miss Banyard will return to school as Mrs Pickin and Miss Drury will return as Mrs Drury-Banks! We cannot wait to see the photo's! Good luck to you both (and your new husbands!) and good luck for your special days!



School Uniform Banks

Please see the poster for Cradley Heath Community Link's School Uniform Banks over the summer holidays. There are days for drop-off of any clean, no longer wanted uniform and days when families can collect whatever they need.

Any queries please call Community Link on 0121 820 5332.



School Council Update

A few weeks ago, School Council conducted a thorough safety check of our school. The results of their investigation were sent to Mrs Garratt. As a result of their excellent work, Mr Savvides now has a new whiteboard in his classroom. Thank you to School Council!

School Council have also been helping Mr Savvides in his Picture News Assemblies. They have helped to explain the meaning of Democracy, Mutual Respect, Tolerance, Individual Liberty and Rule of Law to the school as well as modelling the symbols. School Council also contributed some excellent ideas to Picture News Assembly linked to the General Election and how Democracy is used at Highfields. Well done School Council.

Cradley Heath Community Link

SCHOOLS BACK



**Free School uniform
Collection Dates
Sat 10th +17th August**

**COMMUNITY LINK 140 HIGH ST
CRADLEY HEATH B64 5HJ**

Eco School Flag Update

Highfields Primary School has won a prestigious international award in recognition of its ongoing commitment to raising awareness of environmental issues.

Operated in the UK by the Keep Britain Tidy campaign, the Eco-Schools Green Flag Award is an international accreditation scheme that has been highlighting young people's environmental action for over 25 years.

Highfields had to undertake a seven-step process in a single academic year supply evidence for each step to apply for the accreditation and has now been officially recognised with the Eco-Schools Green Flag with Distinction award.

The Eco Council at Highfields Primary School have worked incredibly hard in developing the school's commitment to environmental education and pupil-led eco-action.

A multitude of activities and practices took place including tree planting, tree surveys, RSPB bird watch, environmental review and many more have been conducted this year.

We are incredibly proud of the hard work that has gone into this and received some fantastic feedback from the assessing team and lots of lovely comments. The team stated that the acrostic poem which formed our Eco Code based on the word CLIMATE was powerful and they appreciated our final line - Educate our pupils to make the world a better place. This is exactly what the programme aims to do.

We have read with interest your application and we are excited to be able to award you and Eco-Schools Green Flag with Distinction 2024.



On behalf of everyone at Highfields, I would like to also thank Mrs Adams for her continued support and dedication to getting this award and working with our Eco-Council to make a difference, not only to our site, but in sustaining these changes for future generations at Highfields



Attendance Reminder

Important Information for Parents – Changes to the issue of Penalty Notices to address School Attendance from 19th of August 2024: THE EDUCATION (PENALTY NOTICES) (ENGLAND) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 2024 No. 210.


Dear Parent,

From 19.08.24 new legislation comes into force regarding the criteria for and the issue of penalty notices to address school attendance. A national framework for parental fines is being introduced for any pupil who misses 10 or more half-days within any 10-week period. Please note that if you have requested a Leave of Absence that commences from September 2024 onwards, any Penalty Notice/s issued will be at the new rates and trigger the start of the three year threshold period, as specified below.

The following changes have been made:

- the number of unauthorised absences that may trigger a potential fine: 10 unauthorised absences (5 days) in a 10 school week period.
- the number of penalty notices that can be issued to a parent in respect of the same individual child: a maximum of 2 penalty notices will be issued (per parent, per child) within a 3 year period
- for the first penalty notice issued to each parent in respect of the same individual child in a 3-year period: the amount of the penalty notice has increased from £120 to £160 if paid within 28 days and £60 to £80 if paid within 21 days
- any second penalty notice issued to the same parent in respect of the same individual child within 3 years of the date the first penalty notice issue is now set at £160 to be paid within 28 days – NB: No discount for earlier payment is offered.
- any further absences will proceed for prosecution in the Magistrate Court for the same parent in respect of the same child within 3 years of the date of the first penalty was issued – The maximum fine the court can impose for a first offence is £1,000 per parent, per child. If, however, you have a history of offences of this nature you may be prosecuted under Section 444(1A) Education Act 1996 and the court can fine you up to £2,500 per child, order payment of the prosecution costs, impose a Parenting Order and/or sentence you to a period of imprisonment of up to 3 months. This reflects the seriousness of unauthorised absence from school.

Please speak to us if you have concerns about your child's attendance – we want to support you to address any barriers which prevent your child attending on time every day.



Golden Book Awards

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

5th July

RW - Elliott
RP - Harley
ISS - Dilpreet
ICS - Harley
2D - Max
2M - Alyssa
3C - Rosie
3K - Carys
4G - Rantej
4L - Thea
5NB - Kohen
5LB - Archie
6R - Saleha
6C - Frankie
PE - Connor
French - Bobby

12th July

RW - Jaxon
RP - Kiera
ISS - Askari
ICS - Mohammad-Mohsin
2D - Amelia
2M - Jaxson
3C - Isobel
3K - Ava-Rose
4G - Rantej
4L - Aiyanna
5NB - Charlie
5LB - Miracle
6R - Aaris
6C - Hart
PE - Charlotte (3C)
French - Toby N (4G)

19th July

RW - Frankie
RP - Renesmai
ISS - Eldana
ICS - Frankie
2D - Thorne-Grey
2M - Ireoluwa
3C - Charlotte F
3K - Ankita
4G - Dia B
4L - Dawson
5NB - Ruby
5LB - Betsy L
6R - Samuel
6C - Zion
PE - Betsy L
French - Deborah



School Games Quality Mark

A huge well done to Mrs Cummings who recently applied for the School Games Quality Mark! After submitting our evidence, I am proud to be able to let you know that we achieved the Gold School Games Mark award for their commitment, engagement in School Games for 2023/24



Reception Newsletter

What a fabulous year we have had in Reception.

The children have learned so much and there hasn't been a day go by where they haven't made us smile.

To remind us of all the amazing friends we have made in Reception, this week we made friendship bracelets.

We hope all the children have a lovely Summer break and wish them all the best on their journey into Year 1!

Year 1 & 2's Newsletter

In Year One we have continued practising the techniques that we will need to make our fruit salad in DT next week. We have all had a go at squeezing an orange. In Art we chose a piece of fruit to paint from observation.

Year 2 enjoyed showcasing what they have learnt this term at their class assembly last week. This week we have practiced creating a wave pattern in the style of Beth Krommes and learnt about what makes a seaside town more popular than others. The Y2 children (and staff) also had an amazing time at Weston Super Mare - it's always one of the best trips we do at school and the children absolutely loved it!



Reception



Y6 - Good luck!

Year 5 & 6's Newsletter

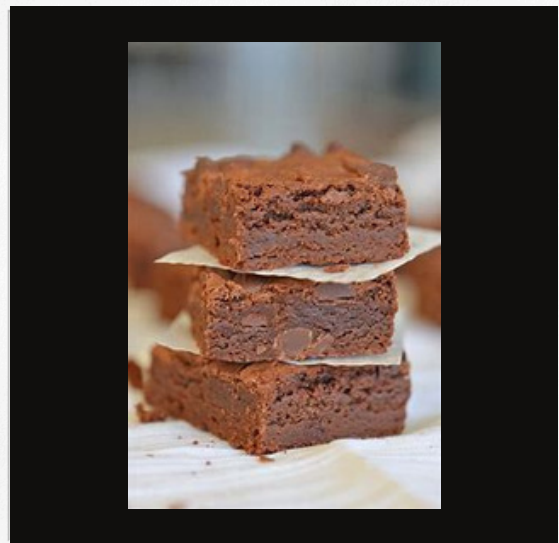
Yet again, we're at the end of another year. I'm sure that everyone who came to the end of year production had a great night. The children performed and sang beautifully and put on a great show. The end of Year 6 is always a bittersweet moment. Of course, it is sad to see the children who we have watched grow and get to know so well leave the school. However, it's also the case that they have got too big. Physically too big for the chairs and tables. But also academically and emotionally too big. They are ready to move on and carry on their brilliant work at another school. We will miss them but always be proud of them and wish them all well in everything they do. We would both like to thank the children of Year 5 for all of their hard work this year. We are very proud of their efforts and know that they will continue to thrive in Year 6.

Year 3 & 4's Newsletter

Year 3 produced some beautiful flapjacks as their contribution to Highfields' Bake Off. The children have also had a busy week completing presentations to share all of their learning about the Ancient Greeks. They were also amazing in their trumpet assembly last Friday!

Year 4 have had a busy week baking some delicious brownies during the Highfields' Bake Off. They also worked very hard in their DT lessons this week making their rainforest survival kits and have evaluated these, thinking about which items would be most useful and why.

Have a wonderful summer and we look forward to seeing everyone back in September!



Brownies!

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 publish them.



It was clearly and incredibly exciting weekend for for Henry and Elsie

On Saturday, Henry received a Gold medal at the Junior World Championships for jiu-jitsu winning all his fights in his age and weight category which means he now holds the title of a Junior World Champion in jiu-jitsu - this is an absolutely amazing achievement - we are all very proud of you!

And then not to be out done by her big brother, Elsie competed in a dance competition at Butlins Skegness with her dance school Centre Stage Dance Academy! Elsie achieved 2nd place for her Tap solo and 2nd & 3rd places in her Troupe dances - fantatsic work Elsie!

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A massive well done to Harry who on Friday 21st June Harry achieved his stage 1 swimming award, we are all so proud of him he has worked so hard to achieve this and as a school we are so proud. Swimming is an incredible skill to be have so will done and keep it up Harry!

#myaspirations

This weekend Leo was not only presented with his trophy for playing another season for Halas Hawks football team, but he was awarded with the Parents Player of the Season which he was over the moon to receive! Leo has worked very hard this season and it hasn't gone unnoticed.

Well done Leo! What an achievement!

#myaspirations



A massive well done to Arabella who recently took part in the 'Earls Dance Show' with her dance company, Acro! Arabella was in two dances and was awarded a medal for her role in their group dance and finale dance! This is great work

Arabella - keep it up!

#myaspirations





Highfields Helpers Newsletter

Thank you to the Highfields Helpers for everything they have done for the school this year. Their fundraising has meant they can donate the following to help support school...

Funds given to school

£1005

Year 6 leavers
hoodies and photo
prop balloon hoop

£2000

Whiteboard for school
hall

£500

Books for every child
at Christmas

£500

£30 given to every class at
xmas for materials for
xmas fayre & santa postbox

£180

£15 given to every
class for snacks for
last day party

£45 for the Easterbunny
£8 for lollies year 6 sats