



Highfields Primary



6th September '24

newsletter

Head's Welcome

Welcome back to the start of a new academic year here at Highfields and what an amazing start it has been.

We have welcomed new children throughout the school, but our new Reception children have been absolute superstars this week - coming every day to a new environment, with new staff and having a fantastic time! We are all very proud.

For the rest of the school, they have dived straight into their new topics and by the end of the first week we will have already sent one year group out on their first trip of the year!

Keep an eye out on the newsletter and Facebook pages for upcoming events and any queries please just contact school. Here's to another fabulous year at Highfields!

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 **93.8%**. The highest attending classes this week were;

EYFS - RW - 100%

KSI - ISS - 100%

KS2 - 6P - 96.7%



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Don't forget you can also follow Highfields Primary School page on



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

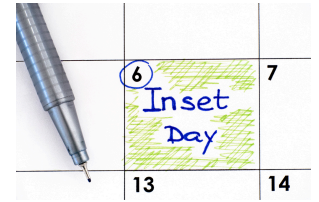
November

4th - children return to school

December

INSET Days

24 / 25



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

- Monday 2nd September '24
- Friday 25th October '24
- Friday 2nd May '25
- Monday 2nd June '25
- Monday 21st July 2025

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 (some Y6 swimming)
- Friday - Year 4 (4K swimming)

Can I also remind all parents that we have a specific PE kit and this can be found on the website. We do not allow football strips or shirts as part of our PE kit.

Celebrations & Festivals Around the World - September

As a school we know the importance of recognising the differences of others, regardless of their: race, cultural background, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, religion, and disability. People being more accepting of others and their differences can contribute to a society where everyone strives for equality so our newsletters will now celebrate diversity with your children by showcasing some of the key celebrations and festivals from around the world, happening throughout the whole year!



15th to 16th September - Milad un-Nabi/Mawlid
21st September - International Day of Peace



SMSC calendar - September

September 5th - International Day of Charity
September 9th - 22nd - Fairtrade Fortnight
September 14th - International First Aid Day
September 15th - International Day of Democracy
September 15th - International Dot Day
September 16th - 22nd - Recycle Week
September 20th - October 6th - British Food Fortnight
September 16th - 22nd - Jeans for Genes
September 21st - International Day of Peace
September 23rd - International Day of Sign Languages
September 26th - European Day of Languages
September 30th - National Sporting Heritage Day



Book of the Month - September

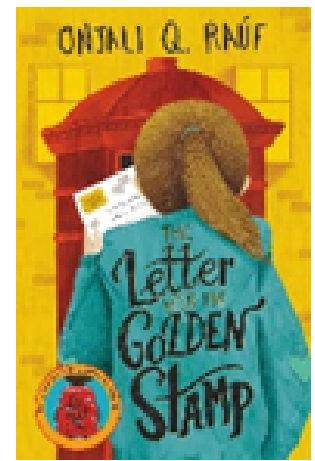
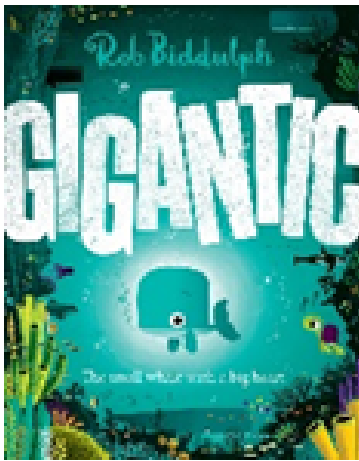
Here are September's recommended books for the children to read. In Reception, years 1 and 2, the book will be placed in the 'book to share' box so that your child will be able to bring it home and share it with you at some point during the year. In years 3-6, copies will go into the library for children to select as their reading book as and when they wish. We will also let you know the book titles on the website so please keep an eye out. The books for September are:

EYFS: 'Gigantic' by Rob Biddulph

Years 1 and 2: 'Bea's Bad Day' by Henry Percival

Years 3 and 4: 'Super Sausage to the Rescue' by Rachel Morrisroe

Years 5 and 6: 'The Letter with the Golden Stamp' by Onjali Q Rauf



Theme of the Month - September

Peace



During the month of September, we will be looking at the theme of 'Peace'. We will be discussing the different meanings and symbols of peace and how we can promote peace in different ways.

As part of this we will also be learning all about international peace day and how this is celebrated around the world.

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

Activity Ideas: Create symbols of peace.

Create a poster to advertise international peace day.

How can we promote peace?

Create a collage to represent peace





School Uniform Reminder

As we start back to school this week I wanted to remind parents about the importance of school uniform.

The children are required to wear school uniform which consists of:

Grey trousers or skirt

White blouse, shirt or polo shirt

Royal blue sweatshirt, jumper or cardigan

In the summer, children are also permitted blue checked dresses/ playsuits or grey shorts/ pinafores instead of winter uniform.

Tights should be grey or black.

Jumpers, fleeces and other items with the school logo on are available via Ace Embroidery

Sensible black shoes should be worn at all times, trainers are not permitted.

Jewellery is not permitted. Earrings may be worn if they are small studs but the children are responsible for them and they must be removed for P.E. Hair accessories should be in school colours and of a sensible size for health and safety reasons. For example, small Alice bands are acceptable.

We do not accept any responsibility for the loss or damage of such items or for accidents caused or made worse by wearing jewellery.


Make up is not permitted at any time, this includes nail varnish or artificial nails.

Please label all items of uniform and coats/hats/scarves/gloves.

PE Kit Reminder

The children are required to wear to school on P.E days a white t- shirt, black shorts or jogging bottoms and trainers. Football shirts are not allowed for PE.

Please label all items of the kit including each shoe.



From September 2024, the new National Framework for issuing penalty notices will apply

National Threshold

There will be a single consistent national threshold for when a Penalty Notice must be considered by all schools in England of 10 sessions (usually equivalent to 5 days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10-school week period.

These sessions do not have to be consecutive and can be made up of a combination of any type of unauthorised absence.

The 10-school week period can span over different terms and school years.

Penalty Notice Fines will continue to be issued per parent per child.

For example: 3 Siblings absent for term time leave, would result in each parent receiving 3 separate fines.

1

First Offence - The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for a Term Time Holiday or Irregular School Attendance the Penalty Notice will be charged at:

£160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days.

Reduced to £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.

Second Offence (within 3 years of the First Offence)

Where it is deemed appropriate to issue a second Penalty Notice to the same parent for the same pupil within 3 years of the first notice, the second Penalty Notice will be charged at:

£160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days.

(Unpaid Penalty Notices after 28 days may result in a prosecution.)

2

Third Offence and any further Offences
(within 3 years of the First Offence)

The third time that an offence is committed for either a term time holiday and/or Irregular attendance, a Penalty Notice will not be issued, the case may be proceeded straight to prosecution under the Single Justice Procedure.

3

If found guilty of the offence of 'failure to secure their child's regular attendance at a school' the Magistrates can impose a fine up to £1,000 and you will have a criminal record

PLEASE NOTE: If you take any Leave of Absence PRIOR to 19th August 2024 (e.g. in July 2024) then the Penalty Notice will be at the old rate of £60/£120. Any Leave of Absence taken in September 2024 will be charged at the new rates as above





Golden Book Awards



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

6th September

Reception - Liam C and Henna B

ISS - Harper

ICS - Elyssia

2D - Amari-Rome

2M - Lottie

3B - Mille W

3L - Max L

4G - Jorie

4K - Isabelle W

5C - Toby N

5R - Mia-Leigh

6C - Edmond Hall visit

6P - Edmond Hall visit

PE - Harley Jay

French - Mahtaab

Eco Council 2024-2025

Do you care about environmental issues such as litter, energy saving, saving habitats and growing your own food?

Are you interested in making a positive change at our school?

As we start this new school year we are electing a new team of children to our Eco Council, one child per class to ensure a representation of different ages.


The Eco Council meet regularly during an assembly slot and work together to make a difference!

Our School has recently achieved our very first Eco-Schools Green flag award with distinction.

The Eco Council this new school year will continue building on this work with a focus on improving the biodiversity of the school garden and grounds and this year we are encouraging children who have an interest in gardening to apply.

Do you think you have what it takes to be part of our Eco Council?

If so, then please fill complete an Eco Council application form that has been out to all pupils this week and return to school Monday 9th September 2024 via the school post bag.



Football Team Trials 24-25

This year, the children in Year 5 and 6 have the opportunity to trial for our school football team(s). We are looking for girls and boys in these years who have a keen interest in the sport. If your child would like to take part in the trials this year, please can we ask that parents sign them up through the School Gateway. Trials will take place during lunchtime on Tuesday 17th

September.

Thank you

Mrs Cummings and Mrs Ashfield-Saunt



School Council Applications 24-25

School Council are restarting for 2024-25 and all children from years 1 to year 6 are invited to apply. You will receive an email with information on how your child can apply... Do you have imaginative ideas that could help to improve Highfields School? Do you want to make a significant difference in helping the children of Highfields? Do you enjoy listening to the views of other children and thinking how they can be used in school life? Then you should become a member of the Highfields School Council! Last year's School Council did an amazing job and I know the 2024-25 children will reach for the stars! If you were a School Council member last year, you are welcome to apply again though there will only be 2 representatives from each year group rather than the 4 we had last year.

We are looking for a group of children to set up a new School Council. 2 children will be chosen from each year (one from each class) to form part of the Highfields School Council and play a crucial role in Highfields day to day life.

As part of our learning about Democracy at Highfields, the children in your class will be asked to vote from the list of applicants. In order to apply, you need to explain how you will be able to help to improve the school by discussing and using children's ideas to support the school. You will need to be independent, creative and an excellent listener. As part of your role, you will also help to promote British Values (Mutual Respect, Tolerance, Individual Liberty, Rule of Law and Democracy) at Highfields and work alongside the Senior Leadership Team and the Governing Body!

In order to promote high aspirations, it has been decided that applications will be made to decide the School Council for this year. Please submit your application to your class teacher by Friday 14th September

I would be a wonderful School Council member because



Reception Newsletter

Welcome to Reception!

The children have had a fantastic week settling in; they have started making new friends and are participating in our classroom routines.

Our Autumn topic is called 'All About Me'. We will be learning about lots of Traditional Tales, our first being Goldilocks next week.

Please make sure you have signed up for an account on Evidence Me, as you will receive a weekly photograph of your child in the classroom.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to speak to one of the Reception team.



Zara Y1

Year 1 & 2's Newsletter

The children in both Year One and Year Two have made a fantastic start to the school year.

They have worked hard learning the new routines and expectations.

In Year One the children have been introduced to the topic 'Step Right Up' all about the circus.

They enjoyed practising some circus skills like juggling and hula hooping.

In Year Two We have started our new topic 'Fire and Ice' where the children have explored different materials that, if wrapped around an ice cube, could possibly slow down the melting process, please check out our class page to see some photos of their investigation. We have also explored fire safety and the children designed their own fire safety poster.



Reception



Year 5 & 6's Newsletter

Year 5

We have had an excellent start to the year in Year 5. The children have begun with an excellent attitude and both Mrs Cummings and myself have been really impressed with their efforts so far. Our topic is World War II this term. We have begun reading Goodnight Mr Tom and the children have been enjoying the story so far. A reminder that our PE days are Tuesday and Thursday so if you could ensure that your child is wearing the correct PE kit on those days. If you have any questions at all about anything we are doing in Year 5 please speak to us before or after school.

Year 6

The children have made a very positive start in Year 6. We have begun to read our first book - 'The Boy Who Biked the World' - which will form the basis of our English for the first few weeks. We have also begun to study the work of Vincent Van Gogh as we will be producing paintings in his style in the coming weeks. We will be doing PE every Tuesday and Thursday so can you ensure that your child is wearing the correct PE kit on those days.

Year 3 & 4's Newsletter

Y3 - It's been lovely to welcome Year 3 back this week! We've jumped straight in with our new topic 'Prehistoric Britain'. To begin, we ordered some key events on a timeline and learnt what BC and AD meant. In addition to this, we learnt about how people in the Stone Age would survive and what tools they would have created. We had a go at creating our own wood cutting Stone Age tool.

Y4 - Welcome back Year 4! We have begun our new topic all about the Romans! As part of History, we began by adding key Roman events to a time line. We also tried some Roman food and drink - pomegranate juice, sardines and focaccia! In Art, we began learning about perspective drawings and in English we started reading our new book called 'The Sewer Demon'.



Y3 Stone Age

Highfields Hall of Fame

If your child does anything that you know we would be super proud of, outside school, please share it with us so we can add it to our Facebook or newsletter.

We have some amazing activities going on and are working hard this year to share our aspirations with each other using the #myaspirations

If you have a photograph please send it in with a little bit of information about the photo and I will make sure it is added to the next newsletter and or Facebook page/Instagram story. Send your photo's and info to highfields.enquiry@highfields.sandwell.sch.uk



Layla Y2

Over the summer Layla visited the Louvre in Paris, she was so interested in all it's culture and she was so excited to be able to see the Mona Lisa and the famous paintings by Arcimbaldo, depicting the seasons. We are so impressed as Layla had learnt all about him in year 1. Amazing work Layla - well done #myaspirations

