



Highfields Primary newsletter



13th December 2024

Head's Welcome

We are rapidly approaching the end of the autumn term, but we still have so much to do. We are back at the church on 17th December, the children have been practising their carols and sound amazing. We have also had the most wonderful Reception production, and we still have Year 1 and 2's to come! Tonight is film night, and we have eaten our Christmas lunches today. Let's hope the children have left room for all the snacks! What an amazing last week we have here at Highfields! I look forward to seeing lots of you on the playground and at the events above, but if I don't, I would like, on behalf of everyone here at Highfields, to wish you all a VERY Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Take care and enjoy!

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 93.5%. The highest attending classes this week were;

EYFS - RP - 97.6%

KSI - 2M - 96%

KS2 - 4G - 95.5%



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Autumn Term - Diary Dates



December

- 13th - Christmas gift sales
- 13th - Christmas jumper and dinner day
- 13th - Y3 brass assembly
- 13th - Christmas film night
- 17th - Carol service at St Paul's Church
- 18th - KSI Christmas production to parents at 5.30pm
- 19th - Sandwell Family Hub bus
- 19th - Y6 last swimming session
- 20th - Christmas party day
- 20th - 4k last swimming day
- 20th - Children break up for Christmas



Spring Term - Diary Dates

January

- 6th - Children return to school
- 7th - 'My Place' project starts
- 10th - 4G start swimming
- 16th - Young Voices concert

New PE Days

PE Days 24/25

Just a reminder that your child's PE day has changed for spring half term; Until February half term children should wear their PE kit to school on the following days;

- Monday - Reception, Year 1 & Year 2
- Tuesday - Year 1, Year 2 & Year 3
- Wednesday - Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 & Year 6
- Thursday - Reception, Year 5 & 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.



Christmas Card Winners!

We would like to say a huge well done to all of the following children who have been announced as this years design a Christmas card winners:

Prabhneet G 6C
Charlie K 4G
Hermione S ICS

Their cards will now be produced and sent around the Local Authority



School Council Update

This week some School Council children have been helping Mr Savvides in his Picture News assembly explaining the British Values. Thank you!



School Council have also been working hard listening to the wonderful Highfields children's ideas about how to improve the school. Mrs Garratt has reviewed these imaginative ideas and they have been narrowed down to 4.

EXCITING NEWS: Following our British Value of Democracy, there will be a school vote in a few weeks and then the idea with the most votes will then be implemented in 2025! Thank you children for all your hard work and we are always listening to your voice in how to improve our school!

The choices are...

Posters to remind children about our school values

A buddy bench in the playgrounds

More outside activities

Young Voices choir to perform for the school

Rockstars - The Battle of the Bands

We would like to say a huge well done too all of the following children who have been mentioned for their performance in Battle of the Bands!

Highest scoring group - 2D

MVP 1 - Rayan B

MVP 2 - Harry T

MVP 3 - Kaidon P

Highest scoring group - 4K

2nd Highest scoring group - 4K

3rd Highest scoring group - 3L

MVP 1 - Toby P

MVP 2 - Henry J

MVP 3 - Xavier B

Highest scoring group - 6C

2nd Highest scoring group - 6P

3rd Highest scoring group - 5R

MVP 1 - Thisaru G

MVP 2 - Susan D

MVP 3 - Ayden B-T





Donate a winter coat!



Could you donate a winter coat to help keep someone warm?

If you're having a clear out before Christmas, any good quality, second hand winter coats can be donated at your nearest Sandwell library. Please make sure the coat is clean before it's dropped off.

Please check library opening time before you travel.

#SupportingSandwell Sandwell Libraries

Donate a gift

Can you help us and Sandwell Children's Trust make Christmas special for Sandwell's vulnerable young people?

You can drop off a gift for a child at Sandwell Libraries during opening hours.

Buy a gift for any age (between newborn and 25) and pop it in a giftbag. Don't wrap it up, and please do add a tag to state what age and gender the gift is suitable for.

Please drop gifts off to libraries by Monday (16 December) and they will be delivered to children in time for Christmas. Thank you.

#SupportingSandwell #toyappeal





Important - No Nuts!

At lunch time recently we have seen a concerning increase in products and sandwiches that contain nuts.

Can I remind all parents that we are a completely nut free school and will send home products uneaten if they contain nuts.

We have staff and children on site who have extremely severe nut allergies so we are a nut free zone. This rule also remains when children are on trips and at break time as well as lunchtimes! Thank you

Baggie Bird Penalty Shoot Out!

A huge thank you to everyone who sent in sponsor money for the Baggie Bird penalty shoot out competition. WBA are coming in to collect the sponsorship money tomorrow so they can distribute prizes next week but could we put a huge well done in the newsletter please? As a school, we raised £4,982.20. Once the prizes are deducted, we should know how much our school will profit from it but it will be an incredible amount of money going into our local community and our school community which is brilliant.

Communicating with School

As you may know, we currently have Facebook and Instagram social media pages.

However, can I please ask that if you should wish to discuss any concerns or issues you have in regard to school, that you either speak to myself or a member of SLT in the playground, or email the relevant phase or leadership team email address.

leadershipteam@highfields.sandwell.sch.uk

EYFS@highfields.sandwell.sch.uk

Y1Y2@highfields.sandwell.sch.uk

Y3Y4@highfields.sandwell.sch.uk

Y5Y6@highfields.sandwell.sch.uk

Our social media pages are not the right forum for this, as they are purely to act as a reminder of our upcoming events, they are not always accessed daily and, most importantly, it is used to celebrate the children's amazing achievements both in and out of school.





Books of the Month - December

Please see below, this month's Book of the Month that we will be sharing in school. In Reception and Y1 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 Y3-6, copies will go into the library for children to select as their reading book as and when they wish.

The books for December are:

EYFS: 'Mr Santa' by Jarvis

Years 1 and 2: 'The Owl who Came out for Christmas' by John Hay

Years 3 and 4: 'Fox Goes North' by Jeremy Strong

Years 5 and 6: 'The Snowman Code' by Simon Stephenson



Theme of the Month December

Honesty

During the month of December, we will be looking at the theme of 'honesty'. We will

be asking the children to think carefully about what it means to be honest. As with other themes we want them to think about the choices they make; when do we find it difficult to be honest and tell the truth? How do they feel when someone lies to them? What stories do they choose to tell to others?

How can actions as well as words be honest or dishonest?

SMSC December



December 2nd

International Day for Abolition of Slavery

December 2nd – 8th

National Grief Awareness Week

December 3rd

International Day of People with Disabilities

December 12th

Christmas Jumper Day

December 10th

Human Rights Day

December 18th

International Migrants Day



Golden Book Awards



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

6th December

- RW - Ariyah
- RP - Maddison
- ISS - Thomas S
- ICS - Oliver B
- 2D - Harry H
- 2M - Olivia
- 3L - Karina
- 3B - Ivy
- 4G - Ehli
- 4K - Otis
- 5R - Mahya
- 5C - Ayyub
- 6P - Rocco
- 6C - Lilli M

Physical Education - Eboni K
French - Deborah

13th December

- RP - Isla
- RW - Evelyn
- ISS - Elsie
- ICS - Taleah
- 2D - Jessica
- 2M - Elliot
- 3L - Amelia
- 3B - Reggie
- 4K - Theo
- 4G - Charlie
- 5C - Jayden
- 5R - Arabella
- 6C - Boris
- 6P - Ruby

Physical Education - George
French - Ireoluwa



Mrs
Garratt's
Tea Party



13th December

- RW - Ariyah B
- 3B - Harper
- 4G - Arthur L
- 6C - Millie J
- 6P - Betsy L



13th December

- ICS - Lawson
- ISS - Elliot
- 2M - Tiarna
- 3L - Albie
- 4G - Ava
- 5R - Edward C
- 5C - Mikey B
- 6C - Thisaru



Tiarna

Year 1 & 2's Newsletter

In Year One we have been looking at different types of mechanisms in DT. We have looked at where sliders and levers are used, and we made our own.

In Geography we have been looking at aerial views and have compared photographs of the same location taken from the front and from the air. We worked really hard to make our own aerial view map of the classroom

In Year Two we have worked hard to complete our work on the Great Fire of London. In DT we used our designs to make our own Tudor house. Last week we had a fantastic time in The Great Fire of London workshop. We made our own perfume, made bread, a wax candle and tried writing with a quill!

All of the children in Key Stage One have worked incredibly hard practising the Nativity play ready to perform to you. We look forward to seeing you and hope you will enjoy it.

Reception

Newsletter

A big well done to all of the children for performing in our fantastic Nativity! You made all of the adults in Reception very proud! Next week we are looking forward to visiting the church for our carol service. We will be leaving school at 1.10pm and you are welcome to join us walking down to the church. Please wait on the school playground and join our line as we pass through. At church, Reception will be singing Jingle Bells and have been working hard, practicing the actions.

Next week your child will be coming home with some Phonics resources, which you can use to support your child at home. If you have any questions about these, please speak to a member of Reception staff. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! If Santa brings the children any new Winter coats or accessories for school, please make sure they are labelled with their name.



Carols

Year 3 & 4's Newsletter



thisarn

Year 5 & 6's Newsletter

In Year 5, we have been studying Anne Frank's diary during our English lessons. Obviously, the Holocaust and its impact is a very serious subject matter and the children have impressed us with the thoughtfulness they have displayed in lessons. They have really enjoyed learning about Anne Frank and will be writing a diary entry based on her experiences.

The children of Year 6 have recently finished their artwork based on wild animals. Using pen and pencil they have created some excellent results. They focussed on using different techniques to create light and shade and really enjoyed building up their drawings bit by bit.

Year 3 have had such a busy week this week. They were a delight to take on the school trip to Cresswell Crag on Thursday. It was fantastic to see their faces light up in the cave and when they had the opportunity to handle real Stone Age animal bones. In addition this, they performed wonderfully with their trumpets on Friday in the assembly! We're very proud of you all.

Year 4 this week have been writing their own version of the story 'Escape from Pompeii'. They created their own characters and described a terrible eruption. In PSHE, the children have finished their 'Alcohol' unit of work - they looked at adverts about alcohol awareness and learnt about some of the laws surrounding drinking.



Cresswell Crag



Highfields Hall of Fame

This week we would like to do things slightly different in this week's Hall of Fame.

I would like to nominate both of Highfields football teams who have both played in tournaments at the WBA in the last month. Both teams have worked really hard, showing determination and its been lovely to watch them encourage each other. Their behaviour has been fantastic and a credit to school!

#myaspiration





Highfields Hall of Fame

I would also like to say a huge well done to Mrs. Adams and the Eco Council whose hard work has achieved Highfields a Level 2 RHS gardening award. The award shows everyone that the group has shown the assessors that everyone is contributing to our gardening plans, that we're learning new gardening skills and using gardening to support the children's wellbeing. Well done to you all - we are so proud of your accomplishments and it means we get to put the Level 2 digital logo on our school letterheads and website so now everyone will know what an amazing job you are all doing! #myaspiration





Highfields Helpers

Newsletter



A huge thank you to everyone who came along to support Highfields Christmas Fayre this year, with your help we managed to raise an amazing £1069.51 We will let you know what we buy for the school over the next few months!