



# Highfields Primary newsletter



17th January 2025

## Head's Welcome

Welcome back to Highfields Primary School and Happy New Year to you all! I hope you all had great Christmas breaks.

The children have had a fantastic first fortnight of 2025 and have settled straight back into the routines of school life. We have had a busy fortnight already and I was lucky enough to accompany our school choir to Young Voices this week where, as always, the children did us proud throughout the rehearsals and also the performance!

Please make sure you check out the diary pages as there are several important dates coming up this term, these include a parent meeting for our residential to Plas Gwynant! If you have any questions please contact school and here's to a happy and successful 2025!

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

EYFS - RW - 95.9%

KSI - ICS - 92.7%

KS2 - 6C - 98.7%



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- Highfields Hall of Fame

follow Highfields  
Primary School page





# Spring Term - Diary Dates



## January

- 6th - Children return to school
- 7th - 'My Place' project starts
- 10th - 4G start swimming
- 16th - Young Voices concert
- 17th - 4G swimming
- 24th - 2.30-3.20pm - Plas Gwynant parent meeting
- 24th - 4G swimming
- 28th - CBSO String Quartet performance in school
- 30th - Sandwell Family Hub Mobile Bus
- 31st - 4G swimming

## February

- 3rd - Y4 SPARKS visit
- 4th - Reception Heights & Weights and Hands & Teeth talk
- 4th - Y6 Heights & Weights and Emotional Health/Secondary Transition talk
- 5th - Y2 PANTS talk
- 5th - Y3 Healthy Eating talk
- 5th - Y4 Healthy Eating talk
- 5th - Y5 Puberty talk

## February continued

- 6th - Reception Stay & Play - 2.15-3.20pm
- 7th - NSPCC Numbers Day
- 7th - 9am - Y5 class assembly
- 7th - 4G swimming
- 13th - Reception Stay & Play - 2.15-3.20pm
- 14th - 4G swimming
- 14th - Children break up for half term
- 17th - 21st - half term holiday
- 24th - Children return to school

## 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.

# Books of the Month - January

Here are January's Books of the Month that we will be sharing in school. In Reception and 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 school library for children to select as their reading book

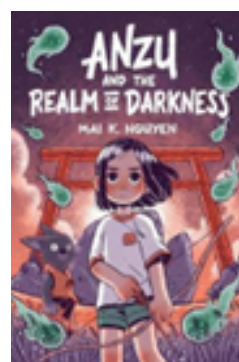
The books for January are:

EYFS: 'Big Red Dragon: Play-Rhymes Throughout the Year' by Jane Newberry

Years 1 and 2: 'Dancing Dumplings for my One and Only' by Eva Wong Nava

Years 3 and 4: 'Guardians of the New Moon: Ming and Miaow's Great Race' by Eric Huang

Years 5 and 6: 'Anzu and the Realm of Darkness' by Mai K. Nguyen



## Theme of the Month - January

### Friendship

During the month of January, we will be looking at the theme of friendship. We will be asking the children to think carefully about what it means to be a good friend. Learning to be a good friend, someone who can be trusted and is loyal, takes a lifetime. Talk together about how friends come in all shapes and sizes. Some are young, some are old. Some are always there, some we see only occasionally. How do we choose our friends? What makes a good friend? Are we a good friend to others? What does it mean to be a good friend? Is it possible to have a bad friend? Have you ever upset a friend?

## SMSC - January



January 4th  
World Braille Day

January 19th  
World Religion Day

January 20th  
Martin Luther King Day

January 27th  
Holocaust Memorial Day

January 29th  
RNLI SOS Day



# Parental Support Offers

## Sandwell SEND Parent Survey

Sandwell Parents Voices United (SPVU) are working in partnership with Sandwell Councils child voice initiative, The SHAPE Programme, to develop a SEND Co-Production charter as part of the SEND Local Area Partnership Plan. Both SPVU and SHAPE would like your from parents whose children have SEND needs to hear their voices regarding the SEND process. The preferred and method is online at the following link:

<https://onlined.snapsurveys.com/SENDsurvey>

These will need to be completed and handed back to school reception by end of the school day on Friday 24th January 2025.

## Winter Wellness Sessions



**KPG welcomes you to our new Winter Wellness sessions for 2025**

Beat the winter blues by attending our wellness session, where you'll gain valuable insights on how to navigate the challenges of the colder months. Learn effective strategies for self-management, boost your mental and physical well-being, and discover ways to support those around you. Our sessions will equip you with practical tools to stay energised, motivated, and connected throughout the winter season.

 **Salvation Army**  
Meredith Street, Cradley Heath  
B64 5EP

 **Wednesday 5th Feb - Managing Stress & Anxiety**  
**Wednesday 12th Feb - Mindfulness/Sleep Hygiene**  
**Wednesday 19th Feb - Self-Care/5 ways to wellbeing**  
**Wednesday 26th Feb - Nutrition & Diet**  
**Wednesday 5th March - Wellness Action Plan**

 **10am - 12 noon**  
(Light refreshments available)



 **Sandwell**  
Metropolitan Borough Council

 **Black Country Healthcare**  
NHS Foundation Trust

To book a place please get in touch on either of the following:  
 [tce@kaleidoscopeplus.org.uk](mailto:tce@kaleidoscopeplus.org.uk)  0121 565 5605

Winter  
Wellness  
Sessions





# Training Offers



## Mental Health & Suicide Awareness Training



A **FREE** introductory course raising awareness of mental health and how we can challenge stigma. Developing skills and confidence to be able to support someone experiencing mental health struggles, in distress or having thoughts of suicide.

### Sessions available

Monday 10th February 12.30pm - 4pm at **Smethwick Fire Station**  
Thursday 13th February 9.30am - 1.00pm **ONLINE**  
Thursday 20th February 9.30am - 1.00pm **ONLINE**  
Monday 24th February 1.00pm - 4.30pm **ONLINE**  
Tuesday 25th February 1.30pm - 4.30pm at **Hope Place, West Bromwich**  
Wednesday 5th March 10am - 1.30pm at **Wednesbury Library**  
Monday 10th March 1.00pm - 4.30pm **ONLINE**  
Wednesday 12th March 10am - 1.30pm - **Haden Cross Fire Station**  
Wednesday 26th March 10am-1.30pm at **Bangladeshi Community Association**

Oldbury session to be confirmed



To book a place please get in touch on either of the following:

✉ [tce@kaleidoscopeplus.org.uk](mailto:tce@kaleidoscopeplus.org.uk) ☎ 0121 565 5605

## TIA CHI TUESDAYS 2:00PM TO 3:00PM FOR BEGINNERS

The Community Link  Cradley Heath

1. Gentle Exercise for all ages
2. Effort less Exercise for a better body
3. Can be done seated
4. Good for physical & Mental Health

**STARTS FEB 4TH YOU CAN DO IT !**



# Tai Chi classes



The Community  
Link   
Cradley Heath

**STARTING THURSDAY  
6TH FEBRUARY**

**THURSDAY'S 4PM - 6PM**

**FAMILY  
FUN**

**GAMES, ARTS AND CRAFTS  
AND SOCIALISING**

CRADLEY HEATH COMMUNITY LINK  
140 HIGH STREET  
CRADLEY HEATH  
B64 5HJ

**ALL CHILDREN MUST BE  
ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT**

*Family fun  
offer*

**ST. GILES CHURCH, ROWLEY REGIS  
(CHURCH HALL, HAWES LANE)**

**SALE OF NEW &  
PRE-LOVED ITEMS**

***BARGAINS GALORE!***

**SATURDAY 1ST FEBRUARY 2025  
2pm to 4pm**

**Refreshments Available**

**[www.stgiles-church-rowley.co.uk](http://www.stgiles-church-rowley.co.uk)  
Find us on Facebook**

*New and  
Pre-Loved  
Sale*

# What's On at Blackheath Library

January

## Activities & Events

2025

Children's Activities

Children's Activities

### Saturday Crafts

**Every Saturday 1pm - 2.30pm**  
Get creative at our art and crafts session for children.



### After School Activities

**Monday - Friday 3.30pm – 5pm**  
Daily craft activities, board games, jigsaws, colouring sheets, Lego and more.



### Play Talk Read

**Mondays 9.45am - 10.45am**  
Fun, interactive story & craft session for Under 5s with a different theme each week.



### Sandy Bear Story Time

**Saturdays 11am - 11.30am**  
Listen to stories & take part in our Sandy Bear Challenge

### Half Term Activity - Puppet Craft Workshop

**Monday 17 February 2pm- 3pm**  
Making animal puppets out of recycled materials. This workshop is suitable for ages 4 -12 years old.

### Teenage Volunteers

Teenagers can volunteer at the library via the Duke of Edinburgh award.  
*Please ask staff for more details on volunteering*

### Opening Hours

Monday to Thursday 9.30am - 5.30pm  
Friday 9.30am - 5pm  
Saturday 10am - 4pm

☎ 0121 569 4920  
[blackheath\\_library@sandwell.gov.uk](mailto:blackheath_library@sandwell.gov.uk)



Download eBooks & eAudiobooks



# What's On at Blackheath Library

January

## Activities & Events

2025

### Adult Activities

### Adult Activities

#### Advice & Information

##### **Barclays Bank Local**

**Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays  
9.30am - 11:30am, 12pm-4.30pm**  
Here to help customers with banking needs - **no cash transactions.**

##### **Police Surgery**

**Wednesday 29 January 10am-3pm**  
Open door drop in surgery with Rowley Regis policing team.

##### **Rowley Regis Community Hub**

**Every Wednesday: 10am - 4.30pm**  
Sandwell Council community service: Housing, benefits, council tax, My-Sandwell and other council enquiries. Health and wellbeing information.

##### **Cost Of Living Advisers**

**Every Tuesday: 1pm - 4pm**  
Free support with benefits, budgeting, debts, employment and energy.

##### **Councillor Surgery (Cllr. Jag Singh)**

1st and 3rd Wednesday &  
last Saturday each month

**Wednesday 15 11am—12:30pm**

**Saturday 25 10am to 11am**

##### **Reach & Reconnect (SWEDA)**

**Thursdays**

**1pm - 3pm**

Free sessions on basic IT skills and internet safety. Find out more about your health online.



Download  
eBooks &  
eAudiobooks



#### Health & Wellbeing

##### **Age UK Falls Prevention Service**

**Every Friday 11.30am - 2pm**  
*Prior assessment required to attend a library session - please call/email:*  
Phone: 0121 437 0033  
Email: sandwellfallsprevention@ageuksandwell.org.uk

#### Hobbies and Interests

##### **Blackheath Writers Group**

**Monday 6 and 20 January  
11am-1pm  
11am - 1pm**  
*(Expression of interest to participate.)*

##### **Greedy Readers Reading Group**

**Wednesday 8 January  
10.30am - 11.30am**  
*(Expression of interest to participate.)*

##### **Happy Painters Art Group**

**Every Tuesday  
10.30am - 12.30pm**  
*(Expression of interest to participate.)*

##### **Digital Training**

**Wednesdays  
10.30am - 12pm**  
Supporting customers with digital needs.

# Baggie Bird Congratulations!

A huge well done to everyone who took part in the Baggie Bird penalty shoot-out before Christmas. The Baggie Bird prizes, tickets, and certificates should have all arrived with your children now. A shout out to the following children who have also won a place at the training camp in half term; their letters should be arriving next week, and their parents will have been informed by text message - an amazing effort, well done everyone!

Liam C  
Harley N  
Layla M  
Lucia S  
Thea R  
Archie R  
Arlo C  
Sienna S  
Albie M  
Jaxson K  
Riley H  
Zara W

Millie W  
Toby M  
Ellis C  
Harper P  
Samuel C  
Oscar M  
Lily-Mae T  
Jackson C  
Izzy E  
Aiden R  
Susan D  
Harley R

Carter W  
Ria R  
Isla J  
India-Rose D  
Salahuddin K  
Lewis S  
Sebastian S  
Ava-Rose J  
Aubany S  
Leah H

## Sandwell Family Hub Mobile Spoke



### Welcome to Sandwell Family Hubs Mobile Spoke

The family hub mobile spoke will be visiting Highfields Primary School on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January. It will be on playground from 2:30pm to 4.30pm. There will be a range of services including:

- Mobile Library
- Family Hub staff to provide advice and information about the services available.

Do pop in and say hello!

# Young Voices 2025!

Last night Highfields attended the Young Voices concert at the BP Pulse arena in Birmingham. There were over 4,000 children there to take part in the biggest choir event in the world! As always, I was blown away by our children; not only was their singing phenomenal, their dance moves were amazing, and their behaviour was exemplary! I was easily the proudest Headteacher in the building! I would also like to thank all of our 'raving' parents who joined in. We love sharing this event with you all, and we are already on the countdown to YV 2026!



## Going Green TTRS!

A huge well done to the following children who have 'gone green' on Times Tables Rockstars this week!

Nicholas P    Ismail    Arlo C  
Harrison P    Dave A    Sallome    Zavier  
Toby P    Ayana    Elysia





# Golden Book Awards



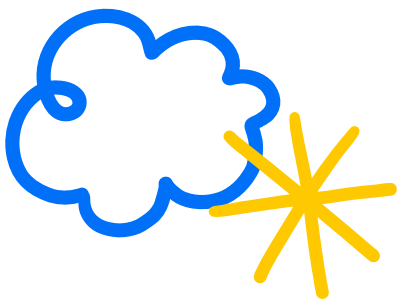
Congratulations to the following children who have been awarded a 'Golden Book Certificate' since the previous newsletter

*10th January*

RW - Carter  
RP - Emmeline  
ICS - Harley-Jay  
ISS - Laura  
2M - Tiarna  
2D - Morgan  
3B - Eliza  
3L - Sebastian  
4G - Dave  
4K - Charlotte  
5C - Luca  
5R - Broden  
6C - Hashim  
6P - Darcie  
PE - Henry  
French - Karina

*17th January*

RW - Reggie  
RP - Shayan  
ICS - Gabriella  
ISS - Arlo  
2M - Frankie  
2D - Callie  
3B - Braydon  
3L - Anas  
4G - Coby  
4K - Harrison P  
5C - Matthew C  
5R - Lily B  
6C - Mushaim  
6P - Kristopher  
PE - Kevin  
French - Bella C



Mrs  
Garratt's  
Tea Party



*17th January*

ICS - Harley N  
2D - Yahya  
3B - Saara  
6C - Lilly-Grace



# Reception

## Newsletter

Happy New Year and welcome back to school from everyone in Reception!

Reception have started their new Spring topic of 'Crazy Creatures' and they have been so enthusiastic! We have explored a non-fiction text about Jungle animals and we are now reading Monkey puzzle, which we love! In DT, we have been practising our scissor skills by cutting animals out and attaching them with split pins. The children have then continued this skill to create their jungle pictures.

Just a reminder that PE days have changed in Reception and we are now having our PE lessons on Mondays and Thursdays. Can you please make sure earrings are removed or covered with tape.

Thank you!

## Year 1 & 2's

### Newsletter

In Year One we have enjoyed learning about our new topic of 'Turrets and Tiaras'. In History we have been learning about the Royal Family and King Charles III.

In English we have a new class story called Sir Kit's Quest. The children have worked really hard learning the new vocabulary from the story such as cackled, isolated and clambered.

In Year Two, we have started our new topic called 'Into the Wild'. In English, we have looked at the film Madagascar and wrote both a character and a setting description about it. In Art, we have followed a video which taught us how to draw 2 very different lions and compare them.



Royalty



Crazy Creatures



## Year 5 & 6's Newsletter

This week the children in Year 5 have really enjoyed our English. We have been studying the Apollo 13 mission to the moon and the mishaps that befell the crew. They wrote excellent descriptions of the interior of the Aquarius craft and will be creating their own stories next week. The children have really impressed me with the enthusiasm they have for the topic and have asked many brilliant questions in both English and Science lessons which has made for some great discussion. In Year 6, we are studying light in Science. This week we carried out an experiment to confirm that light travels in straight line. The children really enjoyed reflecting light onto different surfaces and the experiment can easily be recreated at home using a torch and a piece of card or dark paper. We have also begun learning a Chinese song in Music - ask your child if they can remember the words!

## Year 3 & 4's Newsletter

Welcome back Year 3!

Year 3's new topic this term is 'James and the Giant Peach'. During their 'Stunning Start' day, the children learnt some facts about Roald Dahl and some of the other stories he's famous for. Throughout English over the last 2 weeks, the children have started to read the story of 'James and the Giant Peach', began making predictions, answering questions about the text and describing the characters. In Geography, the children have started to learn about urban and rural areas across the UK.

Happy New Year Year 4!

Year 4's new topic this term is 'Water'. As part of their 'Stunning Start', the children built miniature flood scenes! They then added water and watched as their landscape was flooded with water. In addition to this, the children in English have started reading a text called 'The Water Horse'. Lots of their English work in the incoming weeks is going to be linked to this story. Year 4 have also started practising their Times Tables Rockstars every morning on the iPads to support them with their Times Tables check in June. Practising Times Tables Rockstars at home will really help your child with this too.

# Highfields Hall of Fame

This part of the newsletter is for us to celebrate our children's achievements outside of school. If your child/children have done something you would like us to know about and to share on here (and our social media pages) please email a short description and a photograph to [Highfields.Enquiry@highfields.sandwell.sch.uk](mailto:Highfields.Enquiry@highfields.sandwell.sch.uk) with the subject #myaspirations



Tayla

A massive well done to Tayla our dancing queen who, before the Christmas holidays, took part in a dance exam presentation and Christmas party! We are pleased to have been told that she passed her acro exam with a distinction and also won a trophy for most improved dancer of 2024! What an amazing way to end the year Tayla - well done!

#myaspirations

A massive congratulations to Kristopher who was awarded his blue belt and his brother Nicholas who was awarded his green belt recently. Both boys attend Halesowen Martial Arts Centre and I'm sure you'll agree it's an amazing way to start a new year!

#myaspirations



Kristopher & Nicholas



# Highfields Hall of Fame



Arthur

A huge well done to Arthur on his recent achievement in receiving his brown belt in kick boxing, he trains 7 hours a week and his grading test was 6 hours long! Arthur is now working towards his black belt and trains at Halesowen Martial Arts Centre  
#myaspirations

A massive congratulations to Rocco who took part in a football tournament Saturday 28th December! Stourbridge FC are his under 11s team who not only took part in the Redditch tournament but they also won the trophy  
#myaspirations



Rocco

