



Highfields Primary

newsletter



31st January 2025

Head's welcome

Welcome to another Highfields newsletter. We have been working hard this week and hopefully the newsletter section written by your child's phase leader always gives you an insight into what we have been doing. If there is something else you would like to see in our newsletter or included on our social media pages, then please let me know leadershipteam@highfields.sandwell.sch.uk as we would like these to both be as useful and informative as possible. As always as we get new dates we are adding them to the diary section of the newsletter so please keep an eye on that section as well. We are doing a lot of work on aspirations at the moment so if you have some spare time at all and would like to come in to school and talk to a group of children about your job then also let me know on the email address above. Take care and enjoy your weekend!

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%. The highest attending classes this week were;

EYFS - RW - 93.8%

KSI - ISS - 95.4%

KS2 - 6C - 96.3%



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Spring Term - Diary Dates

February

March

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
 5th - Where's your head at trip (x13 children)
 6th - Reception Stay & Play - 2.15-3.20pm
 7th - NSPCC Numbers Day
 7th - 9am - Y5 class assembly
 7th - 4G swimming
 11th - SEND coffee morning
 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
 24th - Thinking Day for Guides, Scouts
 24th - Y4 Art workshops
 25th - Musical/Dance workshops for whole school
 26th - Musical/Dance workshops for whole school
 28th - 4G swimming

5th - Firefighter visiting Reception
 6th - World Book Day - details to follow
 6th - Sandwell Family Hub Mobile
 7th - 9am - Y4 class assembly
 7th - 4G swimming
 10th - Y4 music workshops
 11th - Y1 trip to Warwick Castle
 11th - SEN Yoga festival
 12th - Class photographs
 13th - Y4 music workshops
 14th - 9am - Y3 class assembly
 14th - 4G swimming

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.



Attendance Update

Every week we monitor attendance at Highfields and make phone calls and complete home visits to talk to our families about their children's attendance. We completely understand that children are ill at times and there are times when children cannot attend school. However, when children's attendance falls below 90%, this means they become a 'persistent absentee' and this is worrying as research shows that children achieve better at the end of both primary and high school when their attendance has been high. The table below explains how many days' absence make your child's attendance fall below 90% over the course of a school year.

Half Terms:	Number of Days off School:
September until October half term	3.5
September until Christmas	7
September until February half term	10
September until Easter	12.5
September until May half term	15.5
September until July	19

As you can see from the table, time off school means very quickly that children are missing more than 10% of their schooling and this can really impact the progress they make. As said before, we completely understand that at times children are ill but please try to send your child to school regularly and to let us know if there are any problems that we can help with to increase your child's attendance at school.

Thank you for your support.



TT Rock Stars - Going Green!

Congratulations to the following children, who have 'gone green'
on TT Rock Stars!

6C - Emily C

6P - Miracle E

4K - Koray B, Theodore W, Freddie W, Jeevan K, Isabelle W

4C - Cloe M, Yusuf M, Mahtaab R



NSPCC - Number Day 2025

On Friday 7th February, Highfields will be celebrating NSPCC 'Number Day' - on this day all children and staff are invited to come to school dressed up wearing digits on their clothing, or a onesie!

Any donations can be paid via the school gateway and children in Years 2-6 can take part in NSPCC Rocks on TT Rockstars from 7.30am-7.30pm on the same day.

For more information please scan the following QR code



CBSO Performance



On Tuesday 28th January, the CBSO visited school and treated the children to a strings ensemble performance. This was a very informative and enjoyable experience!

Key Stage One Reading



Please can we ask for your support with reading. Your child will either have been allocated an online reading book or given an actual reading book. These are linked to our Phonics scheme and help them practise the sounds and words we are learning. Please could you listen to your child read these at home and then record this in their reading diary. This really supports them in both their reading and Phonics.

West Bromwich Albion Football Sessions



Mondays | Gospel Oak

Gospel Oak Secondary School, Tipton, DY4 0BZ
6:00pm - 7:00pm

Tuesdays | Goals Dudley

Goals Dudley, Rowley Regis, B65 0QX
5:00pm - 6:00pm

Thursdays | George Salter Academy

George Salter Academy, West Bromwich, B70 9UW
5:00pm - 7:00pm

Fridays | Hadley Stadium

Hadley Stadium, Smethwick, B66 4NL
4:30pm - 6:00pm

FREE Football For All

Mini Kicks | Ages 8-12 | School years 4 -7

SIGN UP & PLAY



SCAN ME



Mondays | Gospel Oak

Gospel Oak Secondary School, Tipton, DY4 0BZ
8:00pm - 9:00pm

Tuesdays | Goals Dudley

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6:00pm - 7:00pm

FREE Football For All

Post-16 | Ages 16-18

SIGN UP & PLAY



SCAN ME



Eco Council Update

RSPB Big School Birdwatch



Eco-Council are presently taking part in the RSPB's Big School Birdwatch. They are keeping a track of what birds they see around our school site and this information will be sent to the RSPB to feed into the UK data. They will then update us on which bird is most common in the UK. We are also encouraging our pupils to do some bird watching at home and over the February half-term.

The Bird Photographer of the Year 2024 has just revealed its winners in the news and so Eco-Council have decided to organise their own Highfields Primary School Bird Photo competition.

They are asking our pupils to send in photographs of any birds that they spot between now and over the half-term holiday, please state where the photograph was taken and the date along with the pupil's name. Please send entries into school via the enquiries line.

Highfields.enquiry@sandwell.sch.uk

In addition, they are also running a Bird Art Competition and asking pupils to create a piece of art inspired by their birdwatching.

The closing date for both competitions is Wednesday 26th February 2025
Winners will be announced in assembly on Friday 28th February 2025 and winning prizes are bird related.





Pharmacy First

This NHS service allows children and adults to get quick access to healthcare advice as they can walk into a pharmacy and access the service, removing the potential delay of having to wait for a GP appointment. The person will be offered a consultation with a pharmacist in a private consultation room, with some pharmacies also offering the service remotely as a video consultation.

The service supports the following conditions:

- Earache (ages 1 to 17 years)
- Impetigo (ages 1 year and over)
- Infected insect bites (age 1 year and over)
- Sore throats (age 5 years and over)
- Shingles (age 18 years and over)
- Sinusitis (age 12 years and over)
- Urinary tract infections (UTIs) in women (ages 16 to 64 years)

The pharmacist will provide advice and, if clinically necessary, a prescription medicine to treat the condition. Any medicines are supplied free of charge to children under 16 years, with the normal NHS prescription charge rules applying to people aged 16 or over. Should the pharmacist be unable to help, they will direct the person to their GP surgery or other health professional. They have developed an animation to explain about the service which is available on YouTube and more information can also be found on the NHS website at [nhs.uk/thinkpharmacyfirst](https://www.nhs.uk/thinkpharmacyfirst)



Spot Prize winners

Last week SIPS, our catering providers, ran a spot prize for children who had a school meal. This week the lucky winners of a voucher were drawn by their staff and so a huge well done to the winners who were...

RW - Jackson

6C - Lawi



My Place celebration

On Thursday, Steven, Zaki and a group of children from years 4 and 5 shared some of the ideas that they had generated about their local area and stories that can be written about it.

Thank you to all the parents who attended and to the children for their hard work- I think we have some definite film and script writers of the future in our midst!



Golden Book Awards



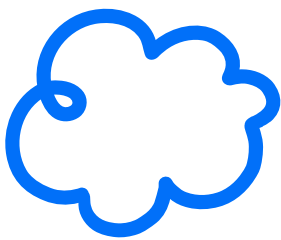
Congratulations to the following children who have been awarded a 'Golden Book Certificate' since the previous newsletter

24th January

RW - Henry
RP - Sultan
ICS - Fateh
ISS - Islam
2M - Rania
2D - Precious
3B - Ameera
3L - Matilda
4G - Harrison C
4K - Theo
5C - Mya
5R - Layna
6C - Lily-Grace
6P - Emily
PE - Liam
French - Divine

31st January

RW - Betiel
RP - Gabriel
ICS - Ryan
ISS - Sara
2M - Jaden
2D - Luna
3B - Noah
3L - Bobby
4G - Anya
4K - Reggie
5C - Leo
5R - Thea
6C - Zahra
6P - Ravin
PE - Seb
French - Mya



Mrs
Garratt's
Tea Party



31st January

RW - Imaani	2M - Royalty
RP - Aubany	2D - Rayan
ICS - Logan	4K - Isabelle
ISS - Isla-Rose	6C - Leah
	6P - Victor



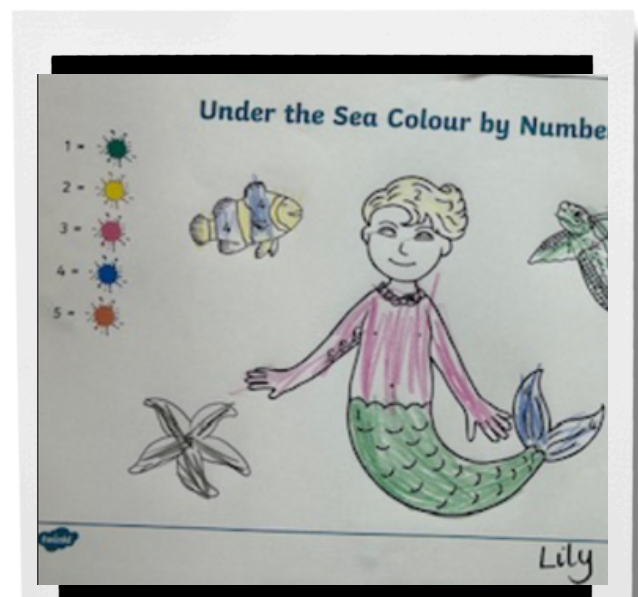
Reception

Newsletter

Reception have continued their learning about 'Crazy Creatures' and exploring a range of environments. This week, we have been learning to write phrases about ocean animals!

We have been continuing to develop our fine motor skills by drawing sea animals and colouring with accuracy when completing 'colour by numbers'.

In Maths, the children have really enjoyed exploring mass and capacity. Why not see if they can compare the mass of different objects around the house using the language; heavier, lighter and equal.



Crazy Creatures



Year 1 & 2's Newsletter

In Year One we have continued our learning on the topic of 'Turrets and Tiaras'. In history lessons we have been learning about Queen Elizabeth II and the fact that she was our queen for seventy years! We learnt about her many hobbies and the animals that she owned. In geography we have been learning about the four countries that make up the United Kingdom and then labelled them on a simple map.

In Year Two, the children have been learning all about features of an advert. Next week they will create their own advert about West Midlands Safari Park. The children have had lots of fun in Computing creating their own BeeBot mat, next week they are going to test a range of algorithms and see where their Beebot ends up. Reminder: Can all reading books and reading records be in school every day as we are hearing your child read regularly.

Year 3 & 4's Newsletter

It's wonderful to see the enthusiasm of the children in Year 3 and Year 4 with Times Tables Rockstars. It's great to see lots of the children in Year 4 'going green' on their heat maps. Any times tables practise at home on Times Tables Rockstars will support your child wonderfully with learning their vital times tables that will underpin lots of their Maths work in the future.

The children in Year 3 this week have been re-writing the story of 'James and the Giant Peach'. They worked beautifully to try and include paragraphs, direct speech and possessive apostrophes. In addition to this, in Science, the children have been learning about the nutrition our bodies gain from eating a variety of different food.

The children in Year 4 this week have demonstrated and explained the process of digestion. They used different objects to represent part of the digestive system and watched to see what happened from when the food enters someone's mouth and travels through their body. In addition to this, the children located areas of the UK that are commonly known for flooding.



Year 5

Year 5 & 6's Newsletter

In Year 5, we have been studying gears and pulleys as part of our DT topic. We created Pulleys using cotton reels and experimented with gears to see the impact of different gear sizes. In Science, the children have really enjoyed learning about the planets in the Solar System and have produced some excellent work which will be on display in our classrooms.

The children of Year 6 have begun to work on their model of a mythical creature that will be made using wire and modroc (a bit like they plaster they use if you break a limb). This week, they designed their creatures and in coming lessons they will begin to create their beasts. We also celebrated Chinese New Year by creating Chinese lanterns and learning about the origins of Chinese New Year.

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 with the subject #myaspirations



George

A massive well done to George who has been taking part in mix martial arts. Over Christmas George went up not one, but by two belts and even winning a massive personalised trophy for winning multiple competitions that he took part in, this competition included people of all ages from as young as him all the way up to age of 21! We are all so proud of his accomplishments! Well done George!

#myaspirations

