



Highfields Primary

newsletter



14th February 2025

Head's Welcome

Welcome to another Highfields newsletter. Yesterday you may have noticed two visitors on the playground. They were HMI inspectors as Highfields was asked by Ofsted to work with them on a school visit as they are currently in the trial stages of the new inspection framework. Can I thank all of the parents who took the time to talk to the inspectors and also to let you know that they thought we had polite, caring, well spoken and general all round amazing children here! I also want to say thank you to all of the parents who came to our Reception 'Stay & Plays' And also to those who attended our SEND coffee morning with Reflexions - I hope you all agree that they were both extremely useful sessions! I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy half term and we will see you back at school on Monday 24th February

Take care and enjoy your break!

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 94.4%. The highest attending classes this week were;

EYFS - RW - 97.6%

KS1 - 2D - 95.5%

KS2 - 4G - 98.1%



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Spring Term - Diary Dates

February

- 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
- 26th - Y6 SATs parent meeting 2.45pm
- 28th - 4G swimming

March

- 5th - Firefighter visiting Reception
- 5th - Girls football team tournament
- 6th - World Book Day
- 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
- 11th - Reflexions parent workshop 8.50am
- 11th - Boys football match vs Summerhill
- 12th - Class photographs
- 13th - Y4 music workshops
- 13th - Girls football match vs Langley
- 14th - 9am - Y3 class assembly
- 14th - 4G swimming
- 18th - Y4 trip to Bewdley
- 19th - Y5 first aid training

March continued

- 21st - Comic Relief
- 21st - 9am - Y2 class assembly
- 21st - 4G swimming
- 21st - 1-3pm Y5 & 6 Mother's Day gift sales
- 21st - Disco
- 24th - 28th - Plas Gwynant residential
- 25th - Musicals event for 10 pupils
- 26th - Mother's Day gift sales
- 27th - 3L trip to Sheepwash Farm
- 28th - Mother's Day gift sales
- 28th - 4G swimming

New PE Days

PE Days 24/25

Just a reminder that your child's PE day has changed for the second half of the spring term;

Until Easter children should wear their PE kit to school on the following days;

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

February's Book 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 as and when they wish.

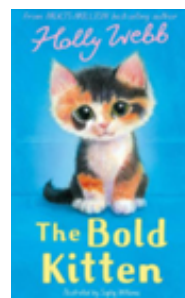
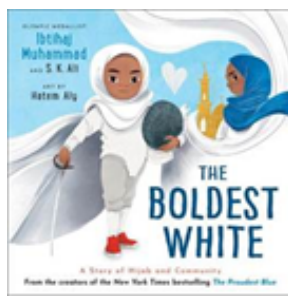
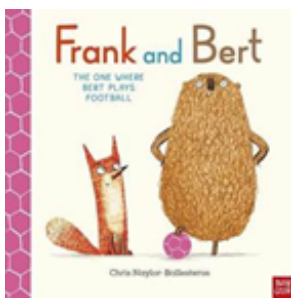
The books for February are:

EYFS: 'Frank and Bert- The One Where Bert Plays Football' by Chris Naylor-Ballesteros

Years 1 and 2: 'The Boldest White' by Ibtihaj Muhammad and S. K. Ali

Years 3 and 4: 'The Bold Kitten' by Holly Webb

Years 5 and 6: 'The New Famous Five' by Chris Smith



Theme of the Month - February



Respect

During the month of February, we will be looking at the theme of respect. Possibly the most important theme of all, we are already a very 'respectful community', but we will be exploring this theme even more through the month of February. Respect is at the core of everything we do in school. It underpins learning through behaviour and one's attitude to the people and the world around them. We will be asking the children to think carefully about what giving and having respect means. At home, we hope you will continue the discussions to build on these thoughts.

SMSC February



All month - LGBT+ History Month

February 6th - Time to Talk Day

February 3rd - 9th

Children's Mental Health Week

February 11th - Safer Internet Day

February 14th - 20th

Random Acts of Kindness Week

February 21st

International Mother Language Day



TT Rock Stars - Going Green!

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

Otis B, Charlotte F, Finley R

And a huge well done to the following classes and children who
were Highfields winners after taking part in last weeks global
competition for 'Number Day'

3rd top player - Xavier
2nd top player Charlie E
TOP PLAYER - THISARU

3rd top class - 6P
2nd top class - 4K
TOP CLASS - 6C



Bhandal Dentist Surgery

We have noticed an influx in child appointments in the area from the surrounding schools and parents have said they weren't aware that our practice was accepting new patients. It seems that since the COVID-19 pandemic many people have gotten out of sync with regular dental check ups.

If children's teeth are not monitored regularly this can cause a delay in orthodontic treatment and also create problems for future appointments for example children that aren't regular attenders struggle with routine treatment as they are very nervous. Our friendly team are on hand to help any nervous patients and start building up good relationships to ensure all children get the best dental care.

All children under the age of 18 are entitled to free NHS dental care, this includes orthodontic treatment if eligible. We would really appreciate if this information leaflet could be used in your school news letter or printed and placed where everyone can see as it is very important to us that all children have a good oral education.

Many thanks

Bhandal Dental Practice Black Heath.



74 Birmingham Road
Rowley Regis
B65 9BA
0121 561 3526

Have you had a dental check up recently?

We are now accepting new NHS patients!

We have availability for early morning, later evenings
and weekend appointments.

Please call us on 0121 561 3526 to inquire about
registering today!



Dance Days

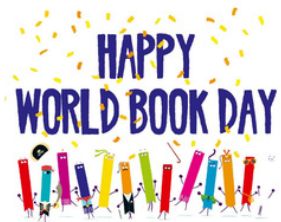
On Tuesday 25th and Wednesday 26th February, Dance Days will be spending time in school delivering a 'Musicals' Dance Workshop to each class. The theme for the musical is 'The Lion King' and we hope the children enjoy their experience and learn lots of skills and tips of how to be a musical performer!

'Star Performers' will then be chosen and invited to a Musicals event at Temple Meadow Primary School later in March where they will then have the opportunity to take part in dance workshops and share a performance from 'The Lion King' to other children from local schools.

Please keep an eye out for a text message sharing which of the two days your child will need to wear their PE Kit.



World Book Day 2025



Thursday 6th March is World Book Day and we are looking forward to celebrating reading as a school. More information about the details for the day will follow after half term but we wanted to let you know the ideas the Reading Ambassadors have come up with so that you have a little bit of notice before we break up for the holiday.

We will be asking children to come dressed on the day as either an author or a book character that inspires them. This could be an author like J.K Rowling or Tom Fletcher or James from James and the Giant Peach or Zog if thinking of a character from a book. On the day, we will also be running a book swap in school (children can bring in a book from home that they no longer want and swap for a different book from the swap collection) as well as a book sale at the end of the day. Some of the Reading Ambassadors will be reading to other classes so everyone can enjoy a story with a difference at the end of the day. There will also be lots of reading activities in classes and we are aiming to run a book themed quiz/ competition where prizes can be won for the highest scoring entries.

We will write out with more information after half term and thank you in advance for your support Mrs Lewis

Safer Internet Day 2025

On Tuesday 11th February, it was Safer Internet Day. Safer Internet Day is an international celebration to promote safety and well-being online. The Digital Leader's visited all classes in school and quizzed the children on their knowledge of how to stay safe online.



World Thinking Day 2025

Every year, on 22nd February, Guide and Scout organisations celebrate 'World Thinking Day'; a day where they think about everyone in Guiding and Scouting, all over the world. They celebrate the opportunities they provide and the lives they impact. To help support our local Guiding and Scout units I have agreed that all children that attend Guide or Scout organisations such as; Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, can wear their full Guiding or Scout uniform to school on Monday 24th February 2025. All other children will need to wear their school uniform as normal.



Number Day 2025

Last Friday, Highfields took part in NSPOCC Number Day - we wanted to say a huge thank you to everyone who donated as school raised a massive £206.00 so thank you all!

THANK YOU

School Council Update

School Council have enjoyed helping Mr Savvides present his Picture News Assembly. They helped explain that British Values is about being a good British citizen. They also explained the meaning of our British Values of Democracy, Mutual Respect, Individual Liberty, Rule of Law and Tolerance. The children then learned about Climate Change and what they can do to tell. Next half term is another exciting term for School Council and they will be helping to carry out a Safety Check throughout the school in line with our school value of staying Safe.



Golden Book Awards



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

7th February

RW - Aaron

RP - Aubany

ISS - Simrat

ICS - Na'imah

2M - Layla M

2D - Atidaishe

3L - Perla

3B - Nikolas

4G - Ankita

4K - Arlo

5R - Henry W

5C - Jasneet

6P - Alexandria

6C - Prabhneet

French - Ranveer

Physical Education - George T

14th February

RW - Francesca

RP - Adiva

ISS - Isla-Rose

ICS - Jorgie

2M - Alyssa

2D - Zara

3L - Jaxson

3B - Ivy

4G - Cairo

4K - Reggie

5R - Salahuddin

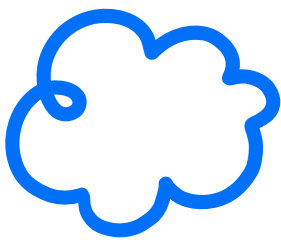
5C - Ayyub

6P - Mayya

6C - Evie-Mai

French - Lucia

Physical Education - Tiarna



Mrs Garratt's Tea Party



7th February

ISS - Harper

2D - Amari Rome

3B - Ameera

3L - Prisha

5R - Jensen



Reception

Newsletter

This week we have been reading 'A Hole In The Bottom Of The Sea'. The children have loved listening to this story and have learned a super song they can sing to you!

We have enjoyed welcoming parents to our Stay and Play sessions in the classroom - thank you to everyone who was able to attend.

Yesterday your child brought a Phonics pack home with them, with some highlighted sounds they are unsure of.

Please could you practice these with your child over half term. If you have any questions, please speak to a member of Reception staff.



Year 2

Year 1 & 2's

Newsletter

In Year One we have continued our topic of Turrets and Tiara and our learning about different monarchs. The children particularly enjoyed learning about Queen Elizabeth I and how clever she was. However, probably the favourite fact that they learnt was that she had a very bad temper and would throw her shoes at people when she was cross! In Science we have enjoyed learning about different materials and their properties, investigating whether they are shiny or dull, soft or hard, rough or smooth, bendy or not bendy. This then helped the children understand why materials are selected to make particular products.

In Year Two, the children have enjoyed learning about wheels and axles in preparation for making their own Safari Vehicle. This week they have had a go at trying to make a car using construction kits. In Computing, they have worked hard to create their own Beebot mat and are now trying to debug a Beebot. In English, they have started reading a new story called 'The Lion and the Mouse'



George

Year 3 & 4's

Newsletter

This week in Y3, the children have written some beautiful diary entries in the role of James as part of our 'James and the Giant Peach' topic. In addition to this, the children designed their very set of instructions for a number of Sprites on Scratch. They had to use the different motion, sounds and event blocks to programme their sprites to complete an algorithm set by them. Just a reminder: 3L will be going to Sheepwash Farm on Thursday 27th March and 3B will be going on Thursday 3rd April.

In Year 4 this week, Year 4 have built on their knowledge about teeth and began to focus on how animals have teeth that have adapted to suit their dietary requirements. They were able to apply their knowledge of herbivores, omnivores and carnivores to talk about what different types of teeth they have. Additionally, the children have written some beautiful setting descriptions about the setting from 'Gentle Giant'. Just a reminder: Year 4 will be going on their school trip on Tuesday 18th March.



Year 4



Year 6

Year 5 & 6's

Newsletter

The children of Year 6 have had a fantastic time creating their mythical beasts out of wire and modroc. The wire is not easy to bend into shape and the children have done a brilliant job of creating the creatures that they have. After waiting patiently for the modroc to dry, they painted their creatures and the final results are excellent.

In Year 5 we have been creating biographies of Neil Armstrong in English. The children have enjoyed finding out about Armstrong's life and have created some excellent writing. A big thank you to all of the parents who attended our Year 5 assembly. It was lovely to see you all there and the children read out their work very well. Hopefully you all got a flavour of the space-related work we have been doing this term and will be continuing after half-term.

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



Bobby

Bobby has started swimming recently, he is now confident in the water and making lots of new friends! He's doing really well and trying really hard every week - this is an amazing life skill to learn Bobby and we are all very proud of you!
#myaspirations

Toby

We also wanted to give a shout out to Toby in Y5. Toby is a member of a local scouting group, in May this year he will be joining other members of his scout troop, 1st Wollescote Scout Group, on a visit to Luxembourg for a 5 day trip. During the trip he will be visiting Luxembourg as well as Belgium, Germany & France visiting some Historical landmarks as well as having lots of fun & meeting up with some local scouts. During the visit to the European museum there is a point where 3 countries borders meet (Germany, France & Luxembourg) where the troop intend to have everyone on the trip renew their scout promise, not many people will be able to say they have done that and we cannot wait to share the phot's with you all! What an amazing life opportunity

Toby!

#myaspirations