



Highfields Primary newsletter



28th February 2025

Head's Welcome

Welcome to another Highfields newsletter. We hope you had a great half term holiday. We were straight back to it at school with visitors from the CBSO and also all children started to take part in special 'Lion King' inspired dance workshops which the children and staff really enjoyed.

Also, thank you to all of the parents who took part in the parent survey this year, we had 147 responses so thank you. Senior leaders and the Governing Body will now start working through the comments parents left for how we could improve the school. We were really happy that 98% of your children (144/147) feel happy at Highfields and 99% felt safe (146/147). If you would like to see the results they are coming up in this newsletter.

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 93.2%. The highest attending classes this week were;

EYFS - RW - 94.5%

KSI - 2D - 95.5%

KS2 - 3B 97%



Contents Page

Heads Welcome/Attendance
Spring diary dates/PE days
Eco Council/World Book Day
Online Dares or Challenges
Youth Mental Health First Aiders
Parent Survey 24/25 Results (x2)
What's Going Well... (x2)
Suggestions for Improvement... (x2)
Golden Book/Tea Party
Reception/Y1 & Y2 newsletter
Y3 & Y4 newsletter
Y5 & Y6 newsletter
Highfields Hall of Fame
Highfields Governors - Miss Foster

follow Highfields
Primary School page





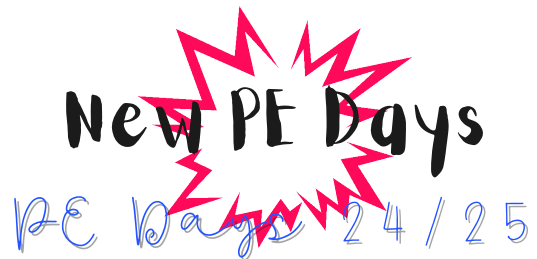
Spring Term - Diary Dates

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
 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
 28th - Children return from Plas Gwynant

April

1st - Rocksteady Concert at 2pm
 3rd - 3B trip to Sheepwash Farm
 3rd - Animal Man visiting Reception
 3rd - Girls Football match vs Rounds Green
 3rd - Drama Club Production at 5pm
 4th - 4G swimming
 8th - Y2 trip to Safari Park
 9th - Parents' Evening 4-6.30pm
 10th - Parents' Evening 4-6.30pm
 11th - Children break up for Easter



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.



Eco-Council Competition

Thank you to everyone who participated in the bird drawing and photo competitions that Mrs Adams and Eco-Council ran.

The winners were:

Isabel C (6C) for her beautiful artwork of a Linnet
Liam (RP) for his fantastic photograph of Pied Wagtail



World Book Day 2025

Thursday 6th March is World Book Day and we are looking forward to celebrating reading as a school.

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).

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.

A book themed quiz where prizes can be won for the highest scoring entries has been sent home for children who would like to participate and entries can be returned into school next week for this.

Thank you for your support.





Online 'Dares' or 'Challenges'

Over the past few weeks, we have heard more and more about the spreading craze of children taking part in online 'challenges' or 'dares'. The following information can be found on the BBC Bitesize website, and I want to share this with you all so you can talk to your children about it and we can help keep our children safe online.

When people share links to online challenges and talk about them a lot online, they can become viral 'hits', and it can seem like people you know are really taking part. This is probably not the case, but if you are worried about a friend, you should tell an adult at home (or at school).

Many challenges have been exposed as fake accounts and false stories in the past, even those with 'origin stories' where the history of how the game began is told in great detail—and apparent cases of people who have tried out the challenges are often untrue. Lies are often created about the challenges to make them seem more exciting and dangerous, but that doesn't stop them resurfacing from time to time. Being aware of this kind of online behaviour can protect you and your friends.

If you come across a challenge that looks like it will cause harm:

- Never attempt the challenges. Even if you are tempted to try them to prove that they are fake, please don't, because you may hurt yourself.
- Don't share the challenge. You could really upset a friend by passing it along, even if you are saying it's fake or silly.
- Use your common sense. Simply being aware of where these internet trends come from and questioning how likely it is that they are real will help you remember the videos or accounts are just made to scare you.
- Tell an adult. Show them what you've seen and explain how it made you feel.
- Block them. Block and report accounts of trolls who post upsetting things or try to friend you and send direct messages. Ignore it and move on. Don't go down a black hole of trying to research and make sense of something that is only designed to upset and confuse you.

If you would like any more information about this or any safeguarding issues, please just contact the school safeguarding team or phone and ask to speak to a member of the safeguarding team.



Highfields Youth Mental Health First Aiders

The last few years have been hard on everyone but especially our children. With so much change and uncertainty in the world, the need to support everyone's mental health and wellbeing is greater than ever. That's why Highfields Primary School has committed to training key staff at the school to become Youth Mental Health First Aiders.


- 1 in 5 children and young people aged 8 to 25 had a probable mental health condition in 2023 – an increase from 1 in 9 in 2017
- In 2024, the number of referrals to mental health services increased to 120,000 a month, compared to around 40,000 a month in 2016
- 50% of mental health conditions are established by age 14
- 70% of children and adolescents who experience mental health problems have not had appropriate interventions at a sufficiently early age.



Academic pressures, social media, bullying, poverty, inequality, and the lack of timely professional mental health support available are all contributing factors. It's clear that children and young people are not getting the support they need. Key figures in a young person's life – including parents, guardians, carers, teachers, and youth workers – can often spot when a young person is struggling but may not know how best to help.

Last week, I (Mrs Garratt) undertook my training to become a Youth Mental Health First Aider as we want staff at the school who have the skills and confidence to identify poor mental health and provide first-level support where it's needed. In doing so, and by training other staff, I hope we can speed up a young person's recovery, prevent their mental health from deteriorating, and ultimately save lives. What's more, by giving learners the tools to look after their own mental health, we can set a positive example for young people. We need to show that mental health should be treated equally to physical health, and that it's okay to talk about it and to ask for help.

Together we want to be able to create mentally healthy, supportive environments at home and in schools, and across our entire community. Over the next few months, Mrs Evans will also be undertaking the qualification in order to grow a team of Youth Mental Health First Aiders at Highfields.



Parental Voice Survey Results 2024/25

98%

My child is happy at Highfields
53% strongly agree

99%

My child feels safe at Highfields
61% strongly agree

98%

Highfields makes
sure its pupils are
well behaved

95%

Highfields makes me aware of what
my child will learn during the year

Of children had
either not been
bullied, or if they
had, felt it had been
dealt with quickly and
effectively
71% had never been
bullied

95%

When I have
raised concerns
with Highfields,
they have been
dealt with
properly


98%

97%

Of children do not have
SEND needs but if they do,
Highfields gives them support
to succeed

98%

Highfields supports my child's
wider development



97%

My child does well at Highfields
51% strongly agree

97%

Highfields provides valuable
information on my child's progress

96%

Highfields has high
expectations and hopes
for my child

96%

My child enjoys playtimes
and lunchtimes

My child has the
opportunity to take
part in clubs and
activities across the
academic year
52% strongly agree

97%

My child is asked
to complete
appropriate home
learning for
their age

95%

98%

Highfields provides a creative
curriculum

97%

Highfields is well led and managed
58% strongly agree

97%

of parents would
recommend Highfields
to another parent
(143/147)

98%

Highfields offers a wide range of
trips, residentials and events for my
child





What's Going Well.....

The trips offered are more affordable

My child's knowledge has developed

My daughter has made some good friends and is happy at school

A huge improvement in writing skills


My child has settled well into their first year at Highfields, and he loves coming to school


Support in my daughters learning has improved since I raised concerns

Communication is amazing at Highfields

My girls enjoy all aspects of school life

My child loves learning their times tables on TTRS





My daughter has learnt to swim
with the extra lessons
in Year 6

My son is doing well with
reading and writing and
has started to draw more.

I feel that my sons education at
Highfields is going very well.

My son particularly enjoyed
the 'My Place' project


Introduced more meetings
for parents with children
on the SEN

The support my son received
at lunchtimes with encouraging
him to eat has been amazing

My child absolutely loves
school - the staff are
enthusiastic and have such
a child centred approach!

My son had a fantastic
time at Young Voices and
loves choir club, which is
a brilliant opportunity
provided for the children.

My son has really built
up his confidence





Suggestions for improvement...

An after school/wrap around school club for working parents would be wonderful

Updating social media and the school website more frequently

Dinner feedback would be great as I'm not sure he eats well at school

The drop offs and pick up can be chaotic as they are all at the same time


I would like more opportunities for clubs to be secured for a whole term/year


A wider variety of food available on the lunch menu

More time spent outdoors in all weathers (I do appreciate this isn't always possible)

More after school club choices for all years

Offer extended learning opportunities at home for children who want them





Could PE days stay the same for the whole year?

More communication directly from the class teachers

Having the class teacher on the door occasionally

Bringing home more challenging texts to read


Have more football matches for the children to play in

More trips and maybe start swimming lessons in Year 3

Emailed or printed copies of an IPP so we can work on it at home too

More reminders via app or text about in school events and activities coming up

More encouragement to do more reading and spellings at home





Golden Book Awards



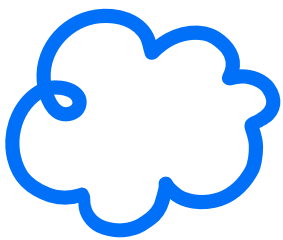
Congratulations to the following children who have been awarded a 'Golden Book Certificate' since the previous newsletter

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

28th February

RW - Kayson
RP - Finley
ISS - Emma
ICS - Affaan
2M - Logan
2D - Askari
3L - Ivy
3B - Harper
4G - Mahtaab
4K - Jeevan
5R - Mason
5C - Ameera
6P - Ravin A
6C - Susan
French - Riyad
Physical Education - Zoe



Mrs Garratt's Tea Party



7th February

ISS - Harper
2D - Amari Rome
3B - Ameera
3L - Prisha
5R - Jensen



Reception Newsletter

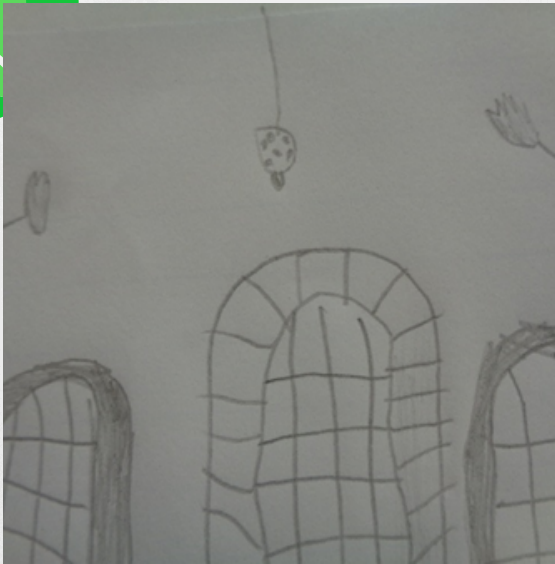
We were really impressed with Reception children this week during the Dance workshop, they followed the choreography really well and we hope they have been showing off their routine at home!

To celebrate our careers week next week, we will be exploring a range of careers and talking to the children about their aspiration. We also have a firefighter visiting Reception - we are very excited to meet them and ask lots of questions.

Later in the term, we will be having a visit from The Animal Man, please keep an eye out for a letter and consent form for this!



Reception Dance



Ava

Year 1 & 2's Newsletter

In Year One in History, we have started our learning on castles and have been learning about some of the features that make up a castle such as battlements, a drawbridge, the dungeon and the great hall. We are very much looking forward to seeing some of these on our visit to Warwick Castle. In English we are looking at the features of a non-fiction report. We have been looking at headings, subheadings and a glossary. We will be using some of these in our own writing. This week we have had an experience day where we made a toy museum and looked at different types of toys.

In Year 2 the children had so much fun in their 'Dance Days Workshop'. They enjoyed learning some dance moves to 'I just can't wait to be King' from The Lion King. In Design and Technology, the children have designed their own safari vehicle. In Geography we have started to look at physical features of Birmingham and will be looking at Toliara next week. Soon we will be starting to practise our class assembly, we can't wait to see you all there.



Year 5

Year 5 & 6's Newsletter

We enjoyed a fantastic trip to the Space Centre in Leicester the week before half-term. The children really enjoyed looking at all of the exhibits. The show in the planetarium was excellent and the our workshop, where we got to control model moon rovers using software, was great. The children really enjoyed their day and were very well-behaved throughout. Photos of the day are available to view on the school website. Simply click on the Year Group Pages/Year 5 and then look in the Year 5 Photo Gallery. In Y6 we have been busy tasting the ingredients which can be used to make Chinese foods. The children really enjoyed the session and will be designing and then cooking their own meals in future weeks. In English, we have begun our writing a non-chronological report about Mount Everest. The children have really immersed themselves in the topic and they will enjoy learning more about the mountain over the next two weeks.

Year 3 & 4's Newsletter

In Year 3 this week, the children have started learning about non-chronological reports. Eventually, they'll write their own non-chronological based on an animal. At the moment, they're beginning a shared write all about pangolins! In addition to this, as part of their DT unit, the children tasted a variety of pizzas! They had a range to taste and evaluate. This will help them when they design their own healthy pizzas.

In Year 4 this week, the children have been re-writing and extending 'The Gentle Giant' story they've been reading. Some of their story writing was beautiful! In addition to this, in Science, the children have started learning about liquids, solids and gases. They used this knowledge to help them group and compare objects according to their state of matter.



Year 3

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



We would like to say a huge well done to Emily and share this photo with you all. Emily loves music and recently passed her grade 1 Violin Grade 1 exam and we are all so proud of her - well done Emily can't wait for you hear about you getting grade 2!

#myaspirations





Highfields Governors

Newsletter

School governors work to plan the strategic direction of the school, oversee budgets, and support and challenge the headteacher. As part of the governing board, governors play a vital role in helping schools run efficiently and effectively to give children the best education possible. Schools with strong governing boards are better equipped to make important decisions that affect the education they provide for their pupils.

Who am I? - I am Janine and I have been a governor for 4 years.

My Background - I started a career in education 13 years ago.

During this time I have had the pleasure of being an Associate Director managing leadership training programmes for teachers and leaders across the West Midlands and Manchester.

5 years ago, I retrained in HR and staying in the education sector, I am now an HR Business Partner and Deputise for our Head of HR managing an HR team implementing anything from employment law, policies, managing grievances to payroll and staff wellbeing.

Why do I like being a Governor? - I became a governor because I wanted to volunteer using the areas I specialise in. Doing this at my son's school feels like a good opportunity to do that and contribute to his education at the same time.

Diversity in education could be improved to ensure there is more representation from more diverse backgrounds in schools, so I wanted to contribute to that.

I enjoy having the opportunity to contribute to the ways of working and initiatives at Highfields. This role has really given me a different insight and an increased level of respect for the work put in by the staff to ensure the children come first, receive a great education and the Highfields values are upheld. It is a monthly commitment for a couple of hours but there always some good biscuits.

Miss
Foster

