



Highfields Primary

newsletter



9th January 2026

Head's Welcome

Welcome Back to a New Year!

Happy New Year to all our families! We hope you had a wonderful festive break and are ready for an exciting spring term ahead. We have a full calendar of activities planned, along with some fantastic visitors coming into school to enrich the children's learning experiences.

A huge thank you to everyone for your support and understanding during the recent snow day. Your cooperation helped us keep everyone safe, and we truly appreciate your understanding.

As we move into the next few weeks, we're looking forward to brighter days and better weather so that outdoor learning and play can resume in full swing. Let's make this term a positive and productive one together!

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 **88.8%**. The highest attending classes this week were;

EYFS - RH 93%

KSI - ICS 95.5%

KS2 - 3K 94.2%



Contents Page

Heads Welcome / Attendance
Spring Diary Dates / PE Days
Books of the Month / SMSC / Theme
Tik Tok Reminder
Golden Book
Reception/Y1 & Y2 Newsletter
Y3 & Y4 Newsletter
Y5 & Y6 Newsletter
Highfields Hall of Fame

follow Highfields Primary
School page on





Spring Term - Diary Dates

January

- 12th Jan - Young Voices
- 15th Jan - Reception 2026 application deadline
- 16th Jan - 4G swimming
- 19th Jan - Art workshops for Y3, 4 & 6
- 20th Jan - Art workshops for Y3, 4 & 6
- 21st Jan - Girls football tournament
- 23rd Jan - 4G swimming
- 30th Jan - 4G swimming

February

- 3rd Feb - Reception Stay & Play
- 5th Feb - Reception Stay & Play
- 6th Feb - Numbers Day
- 6th Feb - 4G swimming
- 10th Feb - Y5 trip to Space Centre
- 12th Feb - children break up half term
- 13th Feb - training day - school closed to children
- 16th - 20th Feb - half term holiday
- 23rd Feb - children return to school
- 25th Feb - Parent IPP meetings
- 26th Feb - Y4 trip to Bewdley
- 27th - 4G swimming

PE Days - Spring Term

Here are the days you will need to send your child to school in their PE kits for the first half of the Spring term...

- MONDAY - Reception, Year 1 and 2
- TUESDAY - Reception, Year 1 and 2
- WEDNESDAY - Year 3, 4, 5 and 6
- THURSDAY - Year 3, 5 and 6
- FRIDAY - Year 4

Books of the Month - January

January'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.

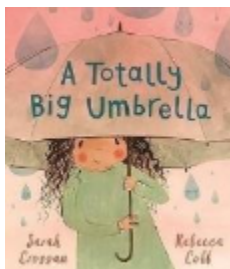
The books for January are:

EYFS: 'A Totally Big Umbrella' by Sarah Crossan

Years 1 and 2: 'Some Days I'm the Wind' by Rebecca Gardyn Levington

Years 3 and 4: 'Two Sides' by Polly Ho-Yen

Years 5 and 6: 'Robin' by Sarah Ann Jukes



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.

We will 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?

SMSC

January



January 4th - World Braille Day

January 18th - World Religion Day

January 20th - Martin Luther King Day

January 27th - Holocaust Memorial Day

January 29th - RNLI SOS Day



Tik Tok Reminder

As a school we wanted to share important guidance regarding the use of TikTok among children. While TikTok is a popular social media platform, it is not designed for primary-aged children. The minimum age requirement for TikTok is 13 years old, yet we are aware that some younger children may be accessing the app.



Why is TikTok a concern for younger children?

- Inappropriate Content: TikTok hosts videos that may include language, themes, or imagery unsuitable for children.
- Online Safety Risks: Children may be exposed to strangers through comments, direct messages, or live streams, increasing the risk of grooming or exploitation.
- Privacy Issues: TikTok collects personal data, and younger users may not fully understand how to protect their information.
- Impact on Wellbeing: Excessive screen time and exposure to unrealistic trends can affect mental health and self-esteem.

What can you do as parents?

- Check Devices Regularly: Ensure apps installed are age-appropriate.
- Use Parental Controls: Enable restrictions on devices and monitor usage.
- Talk to Your Child: Discuss why certain apps are not suitable and encourage open conversations about online safety.
- Promote Alternatives: Suggest creative, educational, and safe platforms for entertainment.

General Online Safety Tips

- Never share personal information online, including your home address, phone number, or school details.
- Do not post photos or videos wearing school uniform, as this can identify your child's location and school.
- Keep accounts private and only accept friend requests from people you know in real life.
- Avoid sharing live locations or using location-based features on apps.
- Report anything that makes your child uncomfortable and encourage them to speak to you or a trusted adult immediately.

For more guidance, visit www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety.

Thank you for working with us to keep our children safe online.



STAY SAFE ON NEW DEVICES

Whether you're an internet newbie or a pro at surfing the web, it's always important to keep online safety in mind. We've pulled together a list of top tips to make it easier for you to protect yourself and your devices in the digital world - helping you steer clear of hazards like misleading information and vicious viruses. There's never a bad time to refresh your internet safety knowledge, but it's an especially smart thing to do before you start using any shiny new devices!

SHOW RESPECT TO OTHERS

BE SUSPICIOUS OF NEW INFORMATION

TELL A TRUSTED ADULT IF SOMETHING UPSETS YOU

DON'T CHAT WITH STRANGERS

BE HONEST WITH PARENTS & CARERS

TAKE BREAKS FROM BEING ONLINE

ASK PERMISSION before downloading anything

AVOID SHARING PRIVATE PHOTOS

Stick to trusted apps

TAKE NOTICE OF AGE RESTRICTIONS

DOUBLE CHECK YOUR NEWS SOURCES

Don't give away personal information

NOS National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday



www.nationalonlinesafety.com



@natonlinesafety



/NationalOnlineSafety



@nationalonlinesafety





Golden Book Awards



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

19th December

RP - Esma F
RH - Tianna
ICS - Hoorah
ISS - George
2B - Islam
2D - Sara
3K - Harry
3C - Lilly
4G - Abdullah
4M - Ivy
5R - Rosie
6P - Mia-Leigh
6C - Wyatt
PE - George R (6P)

Going Green

A huge well done to the following children who have gone green...

Alyssa H, Millie W, Jacob H
and Abdullah



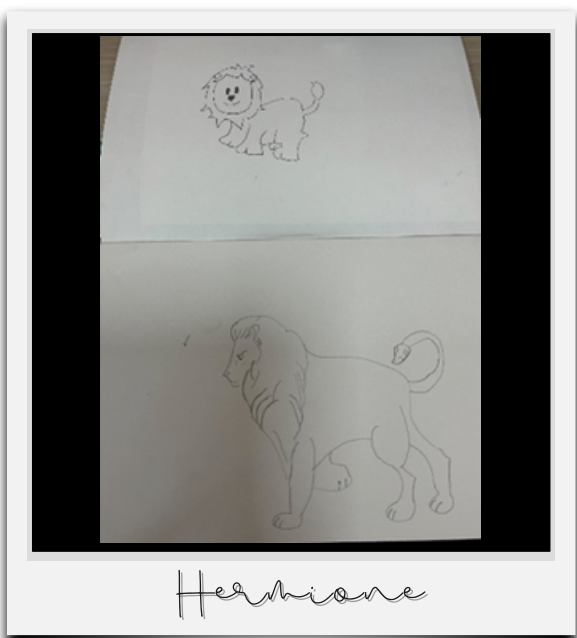
Mrs Garratt's Tea Party



16th January

I am looking forward to welcoming the first children of the 2026 to our tea party this week - the names of these children will appear in the next newsletter





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 thinking about what we already know about castles and kings and queens and what we would like to find out about them.

In English we have been working really hard to construct a sentence. We chose a picture and then wrote a simple sentence about it making sure it had a capital letter at the beginning, a full stop at the end and a finger space between each word. We then read them and checked them to make sure that it made sense.

Year Two have started their 'Into the Wild' topic. In English we have started to look at the story 'Madagascar' describing the setting and characters. In Art we have begun our line drawing work and children drew some fantastic sketches of lions. In DT we have started learning about Safari Vehicles and their features, gathering ideas for when we design and make our own Safari vehicle.

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 we are so excited to learn about some different animals! We have explored a non-fiction text about Jungle animals, and next we will be reading Monkey puzzle. In Geography, we have been learning about the different habitats that animals live in. The children have then used this knowledge to complete a sorting activity placing pictures of animals in their correct environment.

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

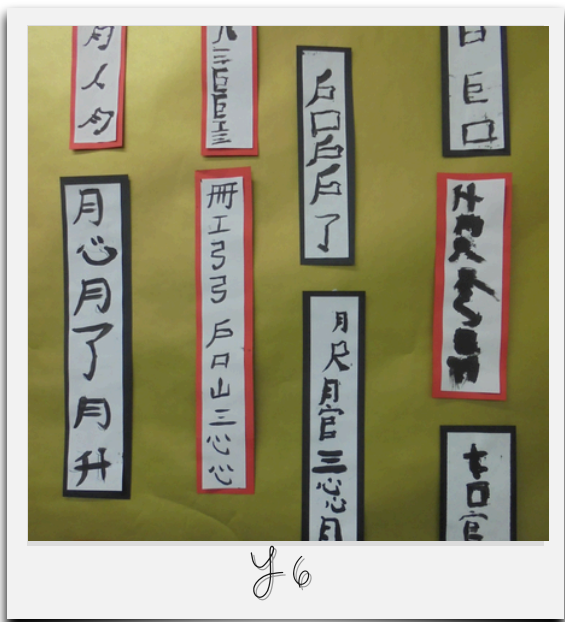




Year 3 & 4's Newsletter

In Year 3, we have launched our exciting new topic this week with a 'Stunning Start' afternoon that the children thoroughly enjoyed. The pupils took part in a range of engaging activities, including tasting juicy peaches, which sparked lots of curiosity and discussion. We also made predictions about our new class story, James and the Giant Peach, sharing ideas about what might happen and getting to know the characters.

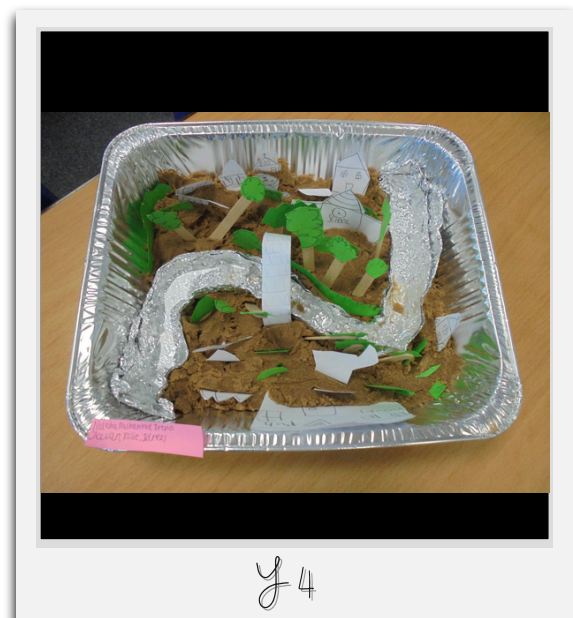
In Year 4, we have had an exciting start to our new topic all about Water. As part of our 'Stunning Start' day, the children created their own rivers and explored what happens when rivers flood. This hands-on activity led to lots of thoughtful discussion and helped bring our new topic to life. Please take a look at the photos of the children's fantastic work on the school website. In Science, the children took part in an engaging experiment to investigate how different drinks can affect the enamel on our teeth.



Year 5 & 6's Newsletter

In Year 5 the children have enjoyed the start of our new topic of Space. We have already learned about the movements of the Earth and the Sun and how day, night and the seasons are created. The children have been very enthusiastic about the topic so far and have asked some excellent questions. Our PE days will be Wednesday and Thursday this half term

The children in Year 6 we have begun our 'China' topic. We have studied Chinese writing and the children have written their own name in Chinese. We have also begun learning our Chinese ribbon dance. Over the forthcoming weeks we will be adding more moves and will eventually be recording our finished dances. Our PE days will be Wednesday and Thursday this 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



Before the holidays Harry's family shared this amazing achievement with school. Everyone is incredibly proud of Harry as he was awarded 'goal keeper of term' at his football coaching.

He also achieved a attendance trophy for attending every session of coaching this term - well done on this accomplishment Harry!
#myaspirations

