



# Highfields Primary

## newsletter



23rd January 2026

## Head's Welcome

Welcome back! We have had a fantastic start to the term, filled with positivity, enthusiasm, and a real buzz around school. The children have settled in brilliantly and are already excited to dive into their new topics, showing great curiosity and a genuine eagerness to learn. We're looking forward to seeing all the wonderful progress, creativity, and achievements that the coming weeks will bring. Thank you for your support during the recent period of bad weather. If the weather forecasts are to be believed, there may be another spell on the horizon. We will send a text message and update our social media pages as soon as we can with any changes. As always, the most important factor when making any 'snow update' is ensuring the safety of our children, staff and school site.

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 **94.9%**. The highest attending classes this week were;

EYFS - RH 96%

KSI - 2B 98.2%

KS2 - 4G 98.3%



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# Spring Term - Diary Dates

January

30<sup>th</sup> Jan - 4G swimming

February

3<sup>rd</sup> Feb - Reception Stay & Play

5<sup>th</sup> Feb - Reception Stay & Play

6<sup>th</sup> Feb - Numbers Day

6<sup>th</sup> Feb - 4G swimming

10<sup>th</sup> Feb - Y5 trip to Space Centre

12<sup>th</sup> Feb - children break up half term

13<sup>th</sup> Feb - training day - school closed to children

16<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> Feb - half term holiday

23<sup>rd</sup> Feb - children return to school

25<sup>th</sup> Feb - Parent IPP meetings

26<sup>th</sup> Feb - Y4 trip to Bewdley

26<sup>th</sup> Feb - Boys football match vs Moat Farm

Juniors

27<sup>th</sup> Feb - 4G swimming

March

4<sup>th</sup> March - Y1 trip to Warwick Castle

5<sup>th</sup> March - World Book Day

6<sup>th</sup> March - 4G swimming

11<sup>th</sup> March - School Photographs (class)

11<sup>th</sup> March - Superwoman Gift Sales

12<sup>th</sup> March - Y2 trip to Safari Park

12<sup>th</sup> March - Y4 SPARKS visit

13<sup>th</sup> March - Y2 assembly to parents

13<sup>th</sup> March - 4G swimming

13<sup>th</sup> March - - Superwoman Gift Sales

## 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

Just a reminder that football shirts are not permitted for PE days, it should be a white tshirt and black shorts/jogging bottoms and trainers

## Going Green

A huge well done to the following child who has gone green...

Nicholas B





# Big Schools' Birdwatch 2026

## Eco Council RSPB School Bird Watch 2026

Our Eco Council are taking part in the School Bird Watch which runs until the end of February 2026 but this weekend 23rd – 25th January 2026 is the Big Garden Birdwatch.

The Big Garden Birdwatch is the world's largest garden wildlife survey.

Across the UK, over 590,000 people took part in Big Garden Birdwatch 2025, counting a whopping 9.1 million birds! House Sparrows took the top spot, but counts of these chirpy birds are down by 60% compared to the first Birdwatch in 1979. In fact, we've lost 38 million birds from UK skies in the last 60 years. With birds facing so many challenges, it's more important than ever to get involved in the Birdwatch. Every bird you do – or don't – count will give us a valuable insight into how garden birds are faring.

Anyone can take part. The only requirement is you spend one hour watching and recording the birds that land in one location, that can be in a garden, on the balcony, outside your window, or in the local park or green space while you're out and about.

Further information can be found on the RSPB website.

When you have finished recording, you then need to send the results to the RSPB either online or by post.

### Eco Council Bird Competition 2026

To encourage everyone to get involved Eco Council are running some competitions.

1. Take a photograph of a bird that you see over this weekend and send it into school.
2. Get creative by either writing a poem about a bird or producing a piece of art work. The originals can either be sent into school to Mrs Adams or you can send a photograph.

Please send your bird, poem or artwork photographs into school using the enquiry line email.

[highfields.enquiry@highfields.sandwell.sch.uk](mailto:highfields.enquiry@highfields.sandwell.sch.uk)

There are a number of bird related prizes to win.

Closing date Friday 30th January 2026.



# Football Team

A huge well done to the Highfields girls' football team who took part in a tournament this week at the Albion Dome.

Although they didn't qualify on this occasion, we are incredibly proud of every one of them and the fantastic way they played. Well done Maisie, Tayla, Divine, Isabelle, Mahya, Thea



## 100% Attendance

A huge well done to the following children who have achieved 100% attendance so far this year: N Mannan, I Shaibu, MM Smith, AA Din Kamran, I Foulkes, A Nauman, Z Raja, F Spear, A Bozward, R Hall, A Smith, J Brown, J Heritage, S Mudassar, R Terziu, A Coca, A Johnson, S Kahlon, H Nash, H Sidaway, H Smart, S Sylvester, A Tivescu, K Dubif, I Ishag, T Stevens, C Dubif, V Edegbe, P Ekwuye, D Ghuman, J Harris, A Ayas, F Dubif, M Farhan, K Price, J Shaibu, J Stokes, H Townsend, A Chatha, N Coca, J Hamana, I Holloway, I Makinde, A Sana, E Stevens, A Bakar, A Byatt, N Cisljanu, L Harris, M Ishag, R Rutter, B Wild, K Bayrak, D Ekwuye, N Poole, R Sidaway, I Islam, C Kimberley, A Lango, A Lester, P Mahon, R Beddoe, A Blount, W Crumpton, T Martin, A Rashid, L Scrivens, P Sidaway, L South, L Bartczak, S Coca, G Kimberley, Z Muhwati, S Shorley, M Townsend and B Whitehouse

Why does 100% attendance matter?

### ★ Consistent progress

Being in school every day means children never miss key lessons, explanations or activities. This helps them build strong foundations in all subjects and make steady progress across the year.

### ★ Stronger friendships and routines

Regular attendance helps children feel more settled, confident and included. They build stronger relationships with classmates and staff, and enjoy the stability of established routines.

### ★ Greater confidence and independence

Children who attend regularly often develop

better independence, resilience and responsibility. They feel part of daily school life and gain confidence from contributing to lessons and activities.

### ★ Long-term success

Good attendance forms positive habits that benefit children far beyond primary school. Research shows that strong attendance is linked to better outcomes in later education and future opportunities.

We are incredibly proud of all the children who have shown such dedication and commitment so far. Let's keep up the fantastic effort as we move through the rest of the school year!



# Amelia's Birthday Card Challenge

We are delighted to share some wonderful news from our school community. Over the last week, we have been collecting cards to send to our little superstar Amelia, and the response has been nothing short of incredible. Today, we carried out our very first card count - and the total was an astonishing 1,598 cards collected from the Highfields collection box alone! This remarkable number reflects the kindness, generosity, and unity of our school family and all those beyond who have joined in to help make Amelia's dreams come true.

Every card represents a message of love, encouragement, and support, and we know they will bring a huge smile to Amelia. Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to write, create, or send a card. Your thoughtfulness is truly making a difference.

We will continue collecting cards, so please keep them coming! Together, we are showing Amelia just how many people are cheering her on. Please don't forget you can also donate to Amelia's cause at <https://www.solvingkidscancer.org.uk/children/amelia/>



**AMELIA'S 8TH BIRTHDAY**  
**HELP MAKE HER DREAM COME TRUE** ❤️ 🎂

- 🎂 Amelia is turning 8 years old  
3.03.2026
- ❤️ Her dream is to receive  
8,000 birthday cards
- 🇬🇧 She wants to break a UK  
record

## AMELIA'S STORY

In 2020, Amelia was diagnosed with stage 4 neuroblastoma. She went through 23 months of intensive chemotherapy, immunotherapy, radiotherapy. After reaching a stable condition, the cancer even after taking part in clinical trials. Amelia is now receiving palliative care.

### Card drop-off points

- Highfield Primary School, Beal Road, Highfield, B65 0DQ
- Leasowes High School, Leasowes, B62 7JG
- Artisan Espresso Bar, 100 Blackheath, R11 1AA

PayPal: Amelianeuroblastoma

## Amelia's campaign

Amelia is a kind and caring seven-year-old. Her favourite colours are pink and purple, and she loves exploring new places. In September 2020, Amelia was diagnosed with high-risk neuroblastoma. After completing treatment in August 2022 and enjoying life, devastatingly scans showed her cancer had returned in April 2024.

Fundraising total **£113,326.49**



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT





## Young Voices Concert 2026

On Monday 12th January, our wonderful school choir proudly represented Highfields at Young Voices 2026. Performing alongside more than 5,000 children, they helped to lift the roof off the Utilita Arena in Birmingham with their incredible singing, enthusiasm and energy.

From start to finish, the children were absolutely outstanding. Their behaviour was impeccable, their dance moves were spectacular, and their singing was simply unbelievable. We could not have been more proud of each and every one of them.

A huge thank you must also go to all of our fantastic parents who joined in the excitement on the night—especially those who took part in the biggest parents' dance-off!

You certainly represented Highfields in style and added to the joy and spirit of the evening. We would also like to send a very special thank you to Mrs Pickin, who taught the children all of the songs and dance routines. Her passion, dedication and musical magic shine through every performance. She is, without doubt, the best music teacher any school could ask for!

The night was truly amazing- one that will stay in the memories of all who took part for years to come



## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

# ROBLOX

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Roblox is an online platform where users can play and create games known as 'experiences' made by other users. Roblox has a large UK audience. ITV News has reported that millions of people in Britain use the platform regularly, with children forming a significant proportion of its users. The sheer scale of it makes it extremely difficult to moderate effectively, creating risks for unsupervised children.

### A PLATFORM RATHER THAN A GAME

Roblox differs from traditional video games in that it hosts millions of user-created experiences rather than a fixed set of developer-produced content. Each experience is self-rated by its creator rather than independently age-rated in advance, as is the case with PEGI-rated games. With millions of user-created experiences, moderation is largely automated which means that inappropriate content may reach younger players and have a harmful effect.

### MATURE CONTENT

With much of Roblox's moderation automated through AI and creators self-certifying suitability, inappropriate content frequently appears on the platform. Some experiences may include content intended for older players. While Roblox has tools to restrict access based on age settings, these systems are not always perfect. Younger players are likely to encounter content you may deem unsuitable.

### IN-GAME SPENDING

Roblox is free to play, but many experiences and cosmetics include optional purchases using Robux, the platform's virtual currency, to get advantages in games. This business model is common across online games, but reporting has highlighted cases where children have spent large amounts of money unintentionally or without understanding the real-world cost.

### RISK OF ADDICTION

Roblox encourages repeated and extended play. Many experiences are made of short tasks, rewards, and progression systems that can prompt users to keep playing for longer periods of time. Some games also use reminders, daily rewards, or timed events to encourage frequent logins. These designs can make it difficult to stop playing. Spending long periods online may affect sleep, schoolwork, or other activities if boundaries are not in place.

### COMMUNICATION WITH OTHER USERS

Roblox includes text and voice features that allow players to chat in shared game spaces. While the platform uses automated filters and moderation tools, media investigations have found that inappropriate and potentially harmful messages can still get through. There are risks that children could be targeted by groomers. In response, Roblox has announced changes to how chat works. The platform plans to use facial age-estimation technology to restrict chat access between adults and children they do not know.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Roblox's parental controls provide an important starting point. Linking a child's account to an adult account allows parents to apply spending controls, limit communication features, and review recent activity. Regular supervision, use of parental controls, and conversations with children about what they see online can help reduce the risk of exposure to inappropriate content.

### CONSIDER LIMITING OR DISABLING CHAT

Although Roblox is introducing tighter age-based chat restrictions, some parents and educators may prefer to disable chat entirely for younger children. Children can still play games while communicating with friends they know through other supervised platforms.

### PLAY TOGETHER WHERE POSSIBLE

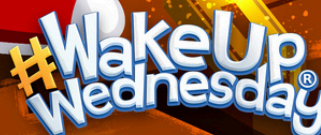
Playing Roblox with a child can help adults understand the types of experiences available, how monetisation works, and how children interact online. This shared engagement can also make it easier for children to raise concerns if something feels wrong. Parents and educators should monitor all games played on Roblox due to its self-rating nature.

### ENCOURAGE OPEN CONVERSATIONS

Many Roblox experiences are creative and age appropriate, and for many children, the platform is an important way to socialise with friends. Rather than banning it outright, parents and educators should talk openly with children about online safety, spending, and how to respond to inappropriate behaviour.

### Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is a technology journalist who has written for publications including Wired, TechRadar, The Telegraph, The Evening Standard, The Guardian and The New Statesman.



See full reference list on our website



# Golden Book Awards



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

*16th January*

RP - Zaira  
RH - Hunter  
ICS - Riley  
ISS - Maddison  
2B - Thomas  
2D - Hope  
3K - Joanna  
3C - Rae  
4G - Emily  
4M - Idrees  
5R - Thomas  
6P - Gracie  
6C - Ayyub  
PE - Esme (6P)  
French - Leo (5A)

*23rd January*

RP - Loen  
RH - Lucas  
ICS - Zara  
ISS - Taron  
2B - Amiyah  
2D - Arlo  
3K - Mohammed  
3C - Husna  
4G - Miral  
4M - Sylvia  
5R - Isabelle  
6P - Dia  
6C - Isla  
PE - Matilda (4M)  
French - Beau (2B)



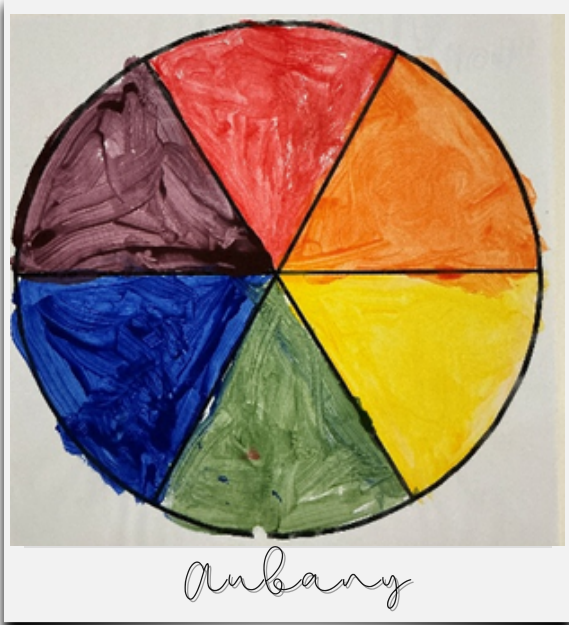
Mrs Garratt's  
Tea Party



*23rd January*

Zainab (RH)  
Hooria (ICS)  
Albie (4M)  
Jack (5A)  
Lewis (6C)





## Year 1 & 2's Newsletter

In Year One we are enjoying our new class story Sir Kit's Quest. We have been looking at the new vocabulary such as clambered, strolled, jubilant and cackled. We have learnt what these words mean and used them to write a simple sentence. In Art we have continued to look at primary colours. We have used these to mix secondary colours and complete a colour wheel. We have also begun to learn about the artist Georges Seurat and the technique of pointillism that he used to create his paintings.

In DT Year 2 have been looking at products that have wheels and axles and what each of these mechanisms do. We have thought about the job both of these things do and what would happen if there were no wheels or if they were different sizes.

In Science we have been learning what a habitat is. We have looked at the features of a polar habitat, urban habitat and micro habitat and the creatures that would live in each one.

## Reception Newsletter

Reception have continued their learning about 'Crazy Creatures' and exploring a range of environments.

This week, we have been learning to write names of the animals from our English book by segmenting, sounding and recording in phonic frames.

We have been continuing to develop our cutting skills in the creative area this week making coiled snakes and Lion faces!

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.



Reception





## Year 5 & 6's Newsletter

In Year 5 the children have really enjoyed our English over the last two weeks. We have been learning about the Apollo 13 mission that nearly ended in disaster. We have also begun work on designing a Mars Rover in DT. We will continue over the next few weeks culminating in our trip to the Space Centre where the children will take part in a workshop where they control a model moon rover and carry out tasks.

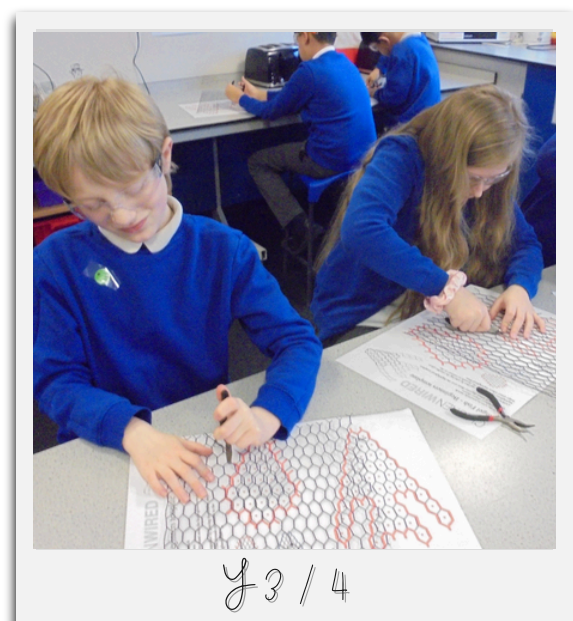
The children of Year 6 had a fantastic time with the visiting artist in school. They spent time creating sculptures from wire, which is a tricky skill to master, and the results were excellent. In English, the children have been enjoying our work based on the book 'Spilled Water'. The book deals with some difficult themes but the children have been very mature and are very engaged with the story.

## Year 3 & 4's Newsletter

In our recent art workshop, children in Years 3 and 4 took part in an exciting 'Cut, Connect and Create' project using chicken wire and pliers.

The children carefully cut the wire, connected pieces together by twisting them, and shaped their designs into 3D animal forms. Once the structures were complete, the children decorated them with colourful tissue paper to bring their creations to life. Year 3 children created birds, while Year 4 children chose to make either an angelfish or a dolphin.

The workshop encouraged creativity, problem-solving, and hands-on making, and the children were very proud of their finished artwork. They will be bringing home their sculptures very soon!



# 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



*Ava*

We wanted to say a huge well done to Ava who has been creating these amazing pieces of art - I am sure you will agree she is extremely talented!

Keep up the hard work Ava, they are absolutely amazing pieces  
Well done!  
#myaspirations

