



Highfields Primary newsletter



1st May 2026

Head's welcome

It's hard to believe how quickly this year is flying by - suddenly we're already approaching another busy and exciting few weeks!

We have just a handful of school days ahead before our Year 6 pupils begin their SATs, and we're also looking forward to the much-anticipated Plas Gwynant residential.

Thank you to all parents and carers who took the time to complete our recent survey; we really value your feedback, and you'll find a summary of the results in this newsletter. It has also been lovely to welcome and show several new families around school this week, we look forward to welcoming your little ones in September!

Wishing everyone a wonderful extended weekend and bank holiday - fingers crossed for some more sunshine! ☀️

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 96.5%. The highest attending classes this week were;

EYFS - RH 96.6%

KSI - 2D 98.2%

KS2 - 4M 99.3%




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Parental Voice Survey 2025/26 (152 responses)

98%

My child is happy at Highfields
60% strongly agree

99%

My child feels safe at Highfields
59% strongly agree

97%

Highfields makes sure it's
pupils are
well behaved
72% strongly agreed

95%

Highfields makes me aware of what
my child will learn during the year
46% strongly agreed

Of children that
had either not been
bullied, or if they
had, parents felt it
had been dealt with
quickly and
effectively

70%

72% said their child
had never been bullied

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

99%

89%

Of parents of children with SEND needs, felt
Highfields has gives them the support to
succeed

76% of parents who answered do not have a
child with SEND needs

96%

Highfields provides valuable information on my child's progress
58% strongly agreed

95%

My child enjoys playtimes and lunchtimes
53% strongly agreed

95%

Highfields has high expectations and hopes for my child
49% strongly agreed

95%

My child is asked to complete appropriate home learning for their age
45% strongly agree

97%

My child has the opportunity to take part in clubs and activities across the academic year

59% strongly agreed

99%

Highfields is well led and managed
58% strongly agree


97%

Highfields provides a creative curriculum
43% strongly agreed

97%

Highfields offers a wide range of trips, residential and in school visitors for my child





91%

Highfields offers parent workshops that support my child's learning and development?

99%

My child feels safe at Highfields
59% strongly agree

65%

of parents whose child has a lunch from SIPS would recommend to another parent

99%

My child does well at Highfields
61% strongly agree


97%

Highfields supports my child's wider personal development

97%

of parents would recommend Highfields to another parent

Thank you to everyone who completed the survey, it really does help us to improve the school and make sure we are offering our children the best start to their educational journey



Examples of 'what's Going Well'...

My child has enjoyed her after school clubs this year, especially gymnastics. she is progressing well with her spelling and writing too

My child has settled in well, made good friends and is enjoying school. I am particularly happy with her progress in learning sounds (phonics). Nice to see her growing in confidence too!

We enjoyed the opportunities to see our son at school whether it's been at 'stay and play' sessions or the nativity, he is happy, he really likes his teachers and support staff

My daughter has really improved in confidence this year and enjoys coming to school every day

The school provide a great amount of information about my child's progress

The support given to both of my children has been amazing and staff are very supportive, they pass on daily information

My daughter loves going to school and loves her library books that she got on Tuesdays!

The school environment feels happy. My child feels valued and seen which I believe is really important to his development

Communicaton between myself and his teacher has really helped to support my son with the understanding of his requirements in the classroom





Examples of 'What's Going Well'...

My daughter has enjoyed the learning in her core subjects and going on two school trips

My daughter has done very well in phonics this year

The SEND coffee mornings are very useful

My daughters confidence has grown over this past year. Her work is coming along beautifully and it is a credit to her teacher, she's a wonderful teacher who my daughter adores

My child enjoys taking part in the wide range of subjects using a wide range of both physical and mental skills

My son is doing well in all areas and is becoming a very caring and helpful young man

As always I'm absolutely happy with the support my child gets - you offer a fantastic environment for learning

When my child was feeling lonely and isolated her teacher really helped and supported us both through it

My daughter has really enjoyed her teachers class and the way they have entwined fun themes into the lessons and class atmosphere

My son enjoys learning new things and has extended his knowledge

My child has progressed well this year and has come out of his shell a lot more

Examples of 'Suggestions for Improvement' ...

It would be good to have access to the curriculum online so we can check what they are learning and what types of lessons they're having. Also if school clothes are lost but named that they are sent back to the class room rather than put in a huge box that is impossible to sift through. It would be great if there was also an online calendar because things are easily missed on emails.

I think a forest school would be a good idea, especially for the younger ones

Overall, we are happy with the school. It would be helpful to have more regular updates on progress and learning areas so we can support at home more effectively. Also, sharing more resources or guidance for home learning would be beneficial. Keep up the good work.

Would love more parent workshops

Afterschool club spaces. It would be great if the school could outsource wrap round care

I don't feel the general communication has been good since September. We don't seem to get some emails til the last minute and same with messages on Gateway. Felt with some things I've had to chase the information

The learning expectation for this age is too high. I do not see any appreciations for their learning progress.





Examples of 'Suggestions for Improvement' ...

You are already good but I want to request to add a Punjabi or Urdu speaking person at reception for better communication with parents

Lunch menus are poor, mostly jacket potatoes.

Would always love more wraparound care options (understand why these aren't easy to offer and breakfast club is really helpful, but as working parents more wraparound options would always be a plus)


Children meal portions to be reviewed as think some children have a bigger appetite than others.

Communication with accidents a bit more information on the accident would be better for the parents.

Please stop changing PE days, keep them the same each year. Double checking parents have received texts when clubs are cancelled. A year group termly newsletter with what the children will be learning about that term. Would be nice to also inform parents of the reason children get selected for HT tea party.

Communication with accidents a bit more information on the accident would be better for the parents.

I'd love more personalised school reports but I can understand how that would create a whole load of additional time and stress for teachers. The parents evening's are always personalised but to have it in writing would be nice to look back on.



Summer Term - Diary Dates

May

- 1st May - Y5 assembly to parents at 9am
- 4th May - bank holiday - school closed
- 7th May - school closed for voting
- 8th May - school closed for staff training
- 11-15th May - Y6 SATs week
- 12th May - Reception Stay & Play 2.30pm
- 14th May - Reception Stay & Play 2.30pm
- 15th May - Reception tractor visit
- 15th May - Highfields Helpers meeting 2-3pm - all welcome
- 18-22nd May - Plas Cwynant residential
- 22nd May - break up for half term
- 25-29th May - half term holiday

June

- 1st June - children return to school
- 1st June - Y5 Saxon workshop
- 2nd June - Art gallery (details to follow)
- 4th June - Baggie Bird shoot out (details to follow)
- 5th June - Y3 assembly to parents at 9am
- 10th-12th June - Y4 Bell Heath residential
- 17th June - Superhero gift sales
- 18th June - Y1 trip to Essington Farm
- 19th June - Reception assembly to parents at 9am
- 19th June - Superhero gift sales
- 23rd June - September 2026 Reception parent mtg at 2.30pm

PE Days

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

Monday - Reception, Year 1 and 2

Tuesday - Year 3, 4, 5 and 6

Wednesday - Year 3, 4 and 5

Thursday - Reception, Year 1, 2 and 6

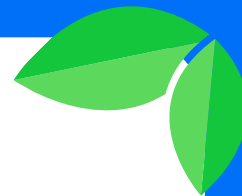
Photo Consent



At Highfields, we love celebrating the wonderful things our children do. Whether it's special events, themed days, class activities or proud moments around school, we always try to include as many children as possible in our photos. However, there are times when we cannot include every child. This is usually because we do not have parental consent for a child to appear in photos that may be shared outside of school. If you would like to change or update your consent, or if you're unsure what you have previously agreed to, please contact the school office and we will be happy to help.

Thank you for helping us keep our children safe while still sharing the lovely things happening across school.

Sensory Fidget Toys



At Highfields, we are always looking for ways to support all children in their learning and wellbeing. As part of this commitment, we provide access to a classroom “fidget box” containing a range of carefully selected resources, often referred to as fidgets or fidget toys. These items are designed to support children’s sensory needs and can help with focus, self-regulation, and engagement in learning.

In many primary classrooms, fidget tools are used effectively as part of daily practice. However, we have noticed an increasing number of children bringing fidget toys or similar items from home. While we completely understand that this comes from a positive intention, to help children feel calm and focused, this has begun to create some challenges within the classroom. Fidgets brought from home can vary widely in type and purpose, and in some cases they have become a distraction rather than a support. They have drawn attention away from learning, lead to comparisons or disagreements between children and have been used more as toys than as tools for regulation. This can make it more difficult for staff to ensure that all children are using resources appropriately and benefiting from them in the way intended.

To address this, Highfields will now provide all fidget resources used in school. These will be introduced and monitored by staff to ensure they are used consistently, safely, and effectively to support learning. By having a shared set of resources, we can better meet children’s sensory needs while maintaining a calm and focused classroom environment. We kindly ask for your support in this by ensuring that children do not bring fidget toys or similar items into school from home. Please note that any toys or items brought in from home will be kept by the teacher until the end of the school day.

Our aim is to create an inclusive environment where every child, particularly those with sensory needs, has access to the right support at the right time. With your partnership, we can ensure that these resources are used in a way that truly benefits all pupils, helping them to feel settled, ready to learn, and successful in the classroom.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

Books of the Month - May



Please see below, May'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 May are:

EYFS: 'The Chase' by Jenny Bloomfield

Years 1 and 2: 'Sorry Sammy' by Scott Rothman

Years 3 and 4: 'Jake in the Middle' by Michael Catchpool

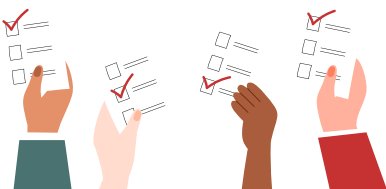
Years 5 and 6: 'Entangled' by Emma Rea



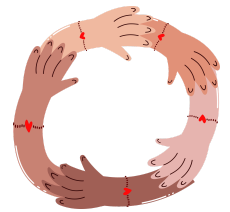
Theme of the Month - May

Democracy

During the month of May, we will be looking at the theme, Democracy. The whole school focused on the importance of voting nationally and in school using the School Council to agree decisions for how to make our school better. See if you can find out from your children what we've been talking about in school around this important theme.



SMSC May



All Month - Local and Community History Month

May 4th - 10th - Deaf Awareness Week

May 9th - World Fair Trade Day

May 11th - 17th - Mental Health Awareness Week

May 12th - International Nurses' Day

May 15th - International Day of Families

May 15th - Endangered Species Day

May 18th - 22nd - Walk to School Week

May 20th - World Bee Day

May 21st - World Day for Cultural Diversity

May 28th - World Hunger Day





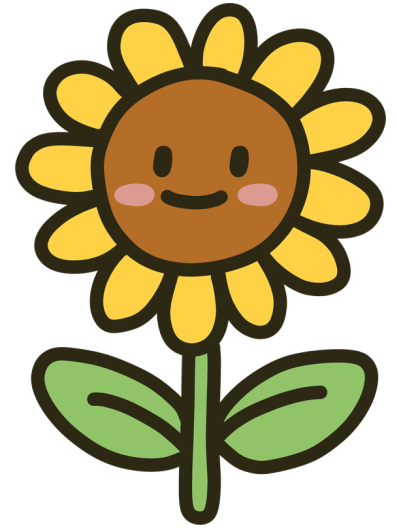
Eco Council Sunflower Challenge 2026

After the amazing success of the Sunflower Challenge in 2025 we are asking our families to join in again this year.

The height to beat in 2026 is 13ft!!

Your child will have been given some sunflower seeds and a letter explaining the activity.

We are asking if everyone can plant their seeds this Bank Holiday weekend and then take measurements of their Sunflower weekend of 5th and 6th September 2026 measuring from the base of the stem to the top of the stem.



Design & Technology Invention Competition

Design an invention that can help you or your family in everyday life.

Competition sheets will be handed to each class before we break up.

On the sheet, can you please:

- draw the invention clearly.
- label the parts on the invention.
- explain what it is for and how it would work.

Please hand in your designs only, but if you want a challenge, maybe you could make a cardboard prototype!

Open to all - EYFS, KSI and KS2

Deadline: Monday 1st June.

Sheets to be handed in to Miss Brazier (Year 2)

The best entries will be chosen for prizes.



Golden Book Awards

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

24th April

RP - Harrison
RH - Navseerat
ICS - Ariaiah
ISS - Arish
2B - Bailey
2D - Ibrahim F
3K - Aaryan
3C - Albie
4G - Chace
4M - Natasha
5R - Ismail
5A - Harrison H
6P - Ameera
6C - Reggie
PE - Esmé H (Y6)
French - Esmé P(Y4)

1st May

RP - Jacob L
RH - Ali
ICS - Piper
ISS - Aaron
2B - Freya
2D - Hope
3K - Frankie
3C - James
4G - Ivy H
4M - Matilda
5R - Layla
5A - Annie
6P - Esmé
6C - Jaden
PE - Lilly (Y3)
French - Ollie (YR)



Mrs Garratt's Tea Party



As there was no tea party on the last day of the spring term, we are joining two groups together for a mammoth tea party today! (Hope there's enough cakes!)

A huge well done to this weeks nominees...

24th April

ICS - Aakifa
ISS - Zita
3C - Mason B
4G - Eliza



Gone Green Awards

A huge congratulations to the following children who have all 'gone green' on Times Tables Rockstars since the previous newsletter

Amari -Rome
Aaryan I
Sebastian S

Kaiden P
Matilda P
Max L



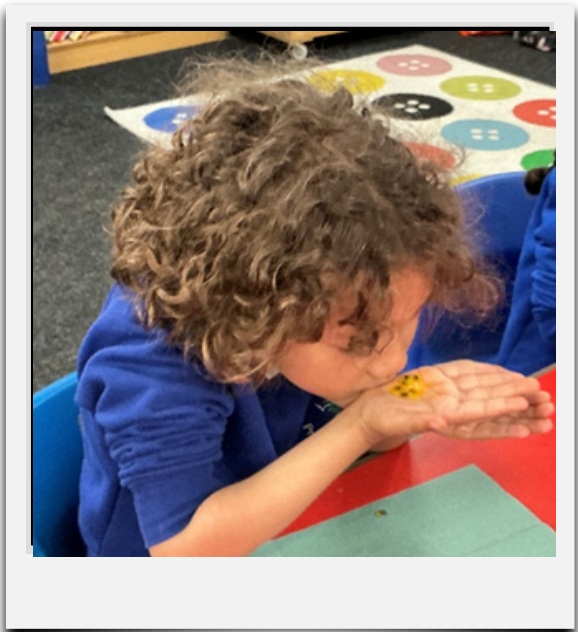
Amelia's Rose

Following the very sad passing of Amelia, our school community has been touched by a number of thoughtful and generous gestures in her memory. We are incredibly grateful to B&Q for gifting us a beautiful rose - called Amelia, which has now been planted in our Key Stage 2 garden area. Amelia's sister, Lilly, joined me and Mrs Adams to plant the rose, and she is now lovingly helping to look after it. It is a truly special tribute that will continue to grow and bloom.

We have also been deeply moved by the kindness of a local resident, Margaret, who has donated a camellia plant along with a gold plaque bearing Amelia's name. These heartfelt gifts provide a peaceful and meaningful way for us to remember Amelia within our school grounds.

As a school, we are taking time to carefully consider a more permanent way to honour Amelia's memory, such as a stained glass window. We will continue to keep our community updated as these plans develop, and we thank everyone for their ongoing support, kindness and compassion during this time.





Year 1 & 2's Newsletter

Year One have enjoyed tasting the different fruits from the story of Handa's Surprise. The children thought of adjectives to describe what they looked like, felt like and tasted like. In Art we have continued to look at the work of Arcimboldo and have learnt what the words compare and contrast mean. The children then looked at two of his paintings to compare and contrast them. In History we have been looking at the explorer Christopher Columbus and the voyages that he made. Year two have had a busy two weeks. In RE we have learnt more about the Islamic faith, the children learnt the words to the Shahadah and listened to a story about the prophet Muhammad (PBUH). In Science we have started our learning on materials and their properties. The children have explored objects that are made out of cardboard and flexible plastic. We had lots of fun carrying out experiments with these materials. In English we have started a new book, The Lighthouse Keepers Rescue

Reception Newsletter

This week Reception started their additional daily toothbrushing. The children have taken to this new part of our routine really well. They met Dentacorn and Dentadragon, our toothbrushing Mascots.

As part of our 'On The Move' topic we have been learning about Rockets through non-fiction books.

Please remember to sign up for one of our stay and play slots. They will be held at 2:15pm on the 12th May and 14th May.

Reminder - Our PE days are now Monday and Thursday.



Year 3 & 4's Newsletter

In Year Three, we have been busy with lots of exciting learning. In English, the children have been writing their own Greek myths, showing great creativity. In Maths, we have been exploring money and practising real-life skills like adding amounts and giving change. In Music, the class enjoyed a workshop using technology to create and experiment with sounds. The children have shown great enthusiasm and engagement in all activities.

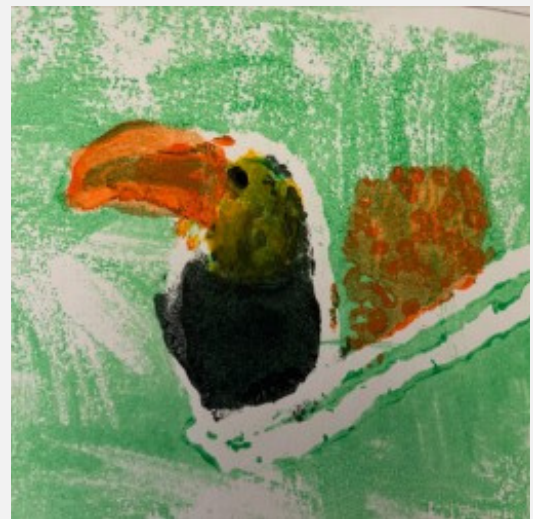
In Year 4, we have had an exciting few weeks of learning. In DT, the children took part in a workshop all about James Dyson, where they explored prototypes and how designs are developed. In Art, we have been printing with tiles and experimenting with layering to create different effects. In Geography, we have started learning about rainforests and their climates.



Year 5 & 6's Newsletter

In Year 5, we have been learning a great deal about the Anglo-Saxons. We have learned about where they came from and the areas of the country that they settled in. We have also looked into the daily lives of the Anglo-Saxons and looked at the roles of men, women and children. Most enjoyably, we learned about Anglo-Saxon crime and punishment. The children were amazed to learn that in Anglo-Saxon times murder was punishable by a fine but if you plotted against the King you would be put to death!

In Y6 in English, we have written our explanations about the flying machines we invented. The children really enjoyed thinking about how their plane would be operated. We have now begun to write a story based on the same short video. In Geography, we have been learning about the states that make up the United States of America and we will be continuing to create fact files over the coming weeks.



Freddie's Art

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



On Saturday 18th April 2026 Alfie attended his model railway club's 40th anniversary open day. Whilst there he helped to display and operate the clubs layouts and locomotives. He spoke to visitors that attended and also helped to pack up and tidy up at the end of the open day. Alfie had a great time.

#myaspiration

A massive well done also goes to Arthur who was awarded the 'Chief Scout's Acorn Award' which is the highest level badge you can achieve as a Squirrel Scout. Not all Squirrel Scouts achieve this award so it's quite the achievement and understandably Arthur was exceptionally proud of himself

#myaspiration



Highfields Hall of Fame



Ria

Ria recently took part in a rugby competition, she scored a try and her team, Old Halesowenians Under 9's Pirates, came in first place - she was very proud of her accomplishments and is loving playing rugby!
#myaspiration

