

HIGHFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER -

April 2018

Message from the Headteacher...

Welcome back! We hope you had a wonderful Easter break. We look forward to an exciting summer term, with our new topic encouraging us to make the most of the longer days and warmer weather.

The topic this term is '**Fit for Life.**' The children will have the opportunity to explore how to measure and improve their physical fitness through enjoyable exercise and a healthy diet. Each year group will take part in a health and fitness week: completing a personal exercise and food diary, taking part in daily exercise routines, designing healthy meals and making healthy snacks. They will look at strategies to look after our mental health and challenge stereotypes about what it means to be fit and healthy. We will also be challenging our teachers to take the opportunity to teach more of their lessons outside the classroom this term.

Our value this term is, '**Determination.**'

"Never give in! Never give in! Never, never, never, never - in nothing great or small, large or petty. Never give in except to convictions of honour and good sense." - Winston Churchill

"You've got to get up every morning with determination if you're going to go to bed with satisfaction." - George Lorimer

"You have to learn the rules of the game. And then you have to play better than anyone else." - Albert Einstein

"Although the world is full of suffering, it is also full of overcoming of it." - Helen Keller

"Strength does not come from physical capacity. It comes from an indomitable will." - Mahatma Gandhi

It is wonderful to see how determined our children are to always do their very best!

Best wishes

Maria Kemal



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This term's value is determination





Language of the term – Polish

At Highfield we enjoy celebrating the many languages that are spoken by our children and families. Because of this we have a language of the term. (You may have seen the display in the reception area).

In the summer term the chosen language is Polish and the children will be doing various activities to find out information; such as where it is spoken, the history of the language and some simple words and phrases. We would also like to encourage any child who speaks Polish to talk to their class so we can learn from someone who has first hand experience of the language.



Staff Updates

A big welcome to three new members of staff joining us this term. Imogen Grey will be joining our office team on a part time basis at the beginning of May. We would also like to welcome two new teaching assistants to the school. Mrs Mel Sengul has started working in Year 2 and Year 3 and Ms Katie Forward will start work in Y1 from Tuesday 8th May.



On Thursday 19th April, we had our first Place2Be coffee morning. It was an opportunity for parents to meet Becca, our new school counsellor. Becca is in school every Wednesday and Thursday, she works with children mainly in Key Stage Two providing some much needed emotional support to children. As well as providing one to one and small group sessions, Becca also loves working with children in class. She will be working with the year six team to provide some advice to children in year six regarding managing the SATs, stress management and feeling positive. If you would like any further information regarding Place2Be please get in contact via the school office.

Parent/Carer Consultations

Thank you to all the parents/carers who attended the consultations with their child's class teacher last month. We really value our partnership with our parents/carers and were pleased that over 93% were able to attend the meetings.



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Netball Club

Netball Club have been training hard each week to compete in the Netball league matches this year. They have worked extremely hard and developed as team players in both training and matches. Despite some wins and losses, Highfield Netball team are always determined to do their very best and Miss McGrath is very proud of them!

Woodcroft

On Friday 20th April, 1S visited Woodcroft Wildspace! The volunteers took us around the wildlife area and taught us about plants, insects and pond life. We looked and smelled a range of plants and herbs, including sage and rosemary. "You could rub the rosemary on your fingers to make it smell nice!" said Tzoana. We also used trowels to dig a pile of wood chippings and even lifted a log to see what was underneath. "We found worms, spiders, ants, centipedes and woodlice hiding!" said Inaya. Finally, we used nets to go pond dipping! We caught a number of creatures (although some were hiding due to the hot weather!) including pond snails and water boatmen. "I caught a huge newt!" said Zak. The children were so well behaved and loved their hands-on learning about wildlife!



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Y4 Anglo Saxon Day

On Wednesday 26th March, Highfield's school hall was transformed into the Saxon village of Hærfencæster. There were potters and weavers; blacksmiths and candle-makers; scribes, story-tellers, and soothsayers. By fire-light, we learnt these crafts and were treated for our ailments by the wise-woman. The air smelled of charcoal, onions and garlic, and we could hear the rhythmic beat of warriors in training. Periodically, our peaceful village life was interrupted by news of Viking attacks. Our King was driven into hiding and many questioned his strength and integrity; but before all hope was lost, he managed to amass a large army and drove the Danes back to East Anglia. Hail King Arthur! Long live the King!



Kwame Alexander – Rebound launch

On the 27th March the poet Kwame Alexander launched his new book 'Rebound' at city hall. Last summer Lewis (in 6D) was selected to perform his poem 'Do Over' at the Clippa poetry awards and asked if he could perform this poem at the book launch. We were very proud that Lewis, once again, was able to perform this poem at a prestigious event.



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Fun Farm Fundraiser!

On Monday 30th April we will be having a non-school uniform day to help raise funds for our school farm. The generous contributions made will be used to purchase bedding, vet care and food, and with money to spare we also aim to purchase some new wonderful animals to join our farm. Thank you so much for your supporting this worthy cause and helping to maintain our farm, it is highly appreciated!



HEADTEACHER'S AWARDS

Week Ending 20 April 2018

Faris NPM — For Being a superstar! Faris always tries his very best and is now doing fantastic reading and writing. Amazing!

Zakariya 1P— For staying focused in his learning!

Rebecca 5S—For always working hard and being a fantastic role model to the class.



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MAKE EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNT

At Highfield Primary - Attendance & Punctuality

Regular attendance and punctuality at school is very important for your child's wellbeing. Children who miss school are missing out on essential social interaction which can affect their ability to make friends. The facts show that if your child doesn't attend school regularly, they are less likely to do as well as other children.

At Highfield we are committed to working together with parents to increase the attendance and punctuality of all our pupils.

Although being absent cannot always be helped as we all do become ill from time to time, please note at Highfield School we expect all our children to aim for 100% attendance each half term and to be on time every day, every week! Take a look at the table below to show you exactly what your child could be missing over the year.

April 2018	
ATTENDANCE	
CLASS	%
1J	94.13
1P	94.91
1S	96.01
2B	95.67
2D	95.97
2L	94.94
3C	96.38
3I	94
3M	95.32
4D	95.74
4M	94.82
4MC	95.28
5B	96.15
5S	95.79
6D	95.73
6L	95.54
6P	94.6
RF	96.37
RJ	96.26
RT	97.15
TOTAL	95.65

TIME ABSENT FROM SCHOOL	ATTENDANCE
0	100% attendance
10 DAYS	95% attendance
19 DAYS	90% attendance
28 DAYS	85% attendance
More than half a term	80% attendance
9 + weeks	75% attendance

EVERY MINUTE COUNTS

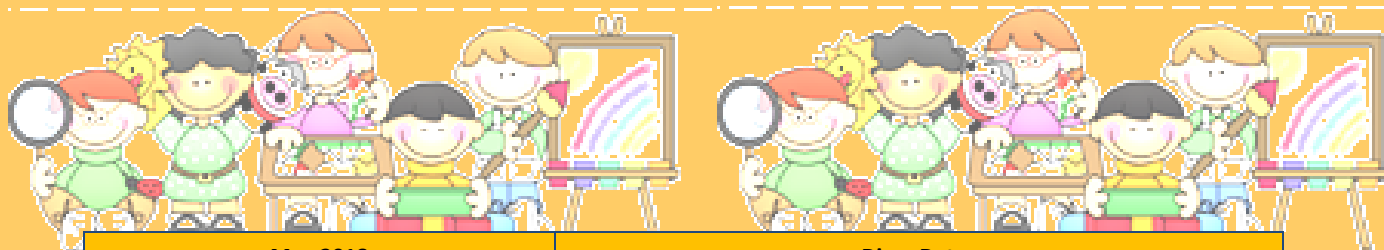
As well as being absent a lot from school effecting your child's development being **LATE** also has a big effect, please look at the table below.

<u>Lateness = Lost Learning</u> (figures below are calculated over a school year)	
5 mins late each day	3 days lost
10 mins late each day	6.5 days lost
15 mins late each day	10 days lost
20 mins late each day	13 days lost
30 mins late each day	19 days lost



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May 2018	Diary Dates
01/05/2018	Class Photographs
02/05/2018	ESOL Classes
04/05/2018	Y1 to Woodcroft
04/05/2018	1S Class Assembly
07/05/2018	BANK HOLIDAY—School Closed
09/05/2018	ESOL Classes
11/05/2018	1J Class Assembly
16/05/2018	ESOL Classes
17/05/2018	Royal Lunch in celebration of the Royal wedding
23/05/2018	ESOL Classes
25/05/2018	INSET DAY—School Closed
28/05/2018	HALF-TERM WEEK —School Closed

DRIVING SAFELY & PARKING AROUND THE SCHOOL

Thank you to the majority of parent/carers who are taking road safety outside our school very seriously.

It is so important that everyone does this to avoid putting our children in danger. It is in the interest of all our children that everyone drives carefully.

We have also noticed a few drivers who have been parking on the yellow zig-zag lines to drop off some children. Not only is this dangerous but it is also against the law.

Parent/carers must be mindful of where they can or cannot park – Please do not park across residents' driveways.

Could we please ask parent/carers NOT to use the car park entrance of the school as a place to turn their vehicles around. Children and parents are walking across it. We need to keep everyone safe.

DETERMINATION

*is doing what
needs to be done
even when you don't
feel like doing it.*



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