



HIGHFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

"Together we can achieve more"

Newsletter - December 2018



Dear Parent/Carers

I would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a New Year that will be filled with good health, happiness and laughter!

Your continued partnership with the staff and support for the children of Highfield is most greatly appreciated.

"Together we can achieve more"

Best wishes

Maria Kemal



Our three core values are Respect, Co-Operation and Kindness.

This term's value is Empathy





CLOTHES AND ITEM LABELLING

We are asking parents/carers to ensure that you put your child's name on all school uniforms and items such as, jumpers, cardigans, coats, PE kits, plimsolls, lunchboxes, book and PE bags, etc. with permanent ink markers. This will enable us to identify misplaced belongings and reduce the numbers left in lost property. Thank you for your cooperation.



Punctuality

There has been a significant rise in the number of children arriving to school late. We appreciate that sometimes things don't always go to plan in the morning, but it is really important that children come to school on time. Lateness is very disruptive for the whole class as well as the school office. Your co-operation is very much appreciated. Thank you.

Head teacher's Award

Week ending 7th December 2018:

Natalia RJ: For being a kind and caring member of RJ. She is always following our behaviour expectations and tries hard with all she does.

Maiwand 2D: For consistently trying his best in all areas of his learning and for being a great role model in 2D.

Azad 3CA: For always trying his best and putting effort into his work.



Week ending 14th December 2018:

Ayla RH: For doing well in reading, writing and maths and is also a wonderful friend to others.

Minnie 1P: For her positivity and kindness and always having a beautiful big smile at school!

Carmen 5D: For her kindness and patience. During the class's swimming lesson Carmen helped her class mate overcome her fear of the water. 'It was a wonderful thing to see'. Ms Daniels.

CENTURY INTELLIGENT LEARNING

Congratulation to **Melisa** and **Martyna** who have been awarded with a wonderful trophy from CENTURY technology for their outstanding effort in completing the highest number of study sessions in the class! We are very proud of you!



Boccia Tournament

On Monday 17th December, Highfield took part in a Boccia tournament at Keys Meadows school. Our team of 5, Arda, Maria, Elias, Luke and Amber displayed their newfound skills at the game which is similar to Bowls. We played well against Durants and Keys Meadows, winning some games and losing others. The team showed great focus and they were wonderfully behaved. Well done to Highfield's Boccia Team.



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Year One's Church Visit

On Tuesday 11th December, Year One walked to Winchmore Hill Baptist Church. The children were so wonderfully behaved in the church and listened carefully to the minister as he explained the Christmas Story in detail using figurines. The children learnt about how the church welcomes people at Christmas time and were given the opportunity to ask some of their inquisitive questions about the Christmas Story. We were also lucky enough to be shown the baptistry and were explained what it is used for and why people may wish to be baptised. We thoroughly enjoyed our visit which has consolidated our learning in our RE topic, 'The Nativity Story' and now we have a better understanding of why Christmas is celebrated by Christians.

Dahen - "I enjoyed lighting the candles at the front of the church."

Andreas- "The Bible had lots of pages in it, it's a very important book."

Lenny - "I liked the big hole - for baptising"

Kaan - "Looking at the Bible was my favourite part; the priest reads from it"

Megi - "I liked seeing what different things were inside the church."

Jackson - "My favourite part of the Christmas story was when the Three Wise Men gave their gifts to Jesus."



Year 5 Mosque Visit

In the first week of December, Year 5 visited the Mevlana Rumi Mosque in Edmonton. It's a beautiful red-brick building in Fore Street and we were made to feel very welcome. We were shown the prayer hall with its tulip patterned carpet and were taught about the Mihrab which points in the direction of Mecca. Afterwards, we were talked through the steps of Wudu, the ceremonial washing that prepares Muslims for prayer, and a few lucky children were chosen to climb the Minbar. It was a wonderful opportunity to learn about the Islamic faith and we would like to thank everybody at the Mosque for their generosity.



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Highfield School Choir

Our amazing Choir have been extremely busy during the run up to Christmas!

On Friday 30th November, they led a carol sing-along outside the main school office. There was a huge crowd, who had gathered to watch the Christmas tree lights be switched on, and they all enjoyed hearing the Choir sing, and joined in too.

On Friday 7th December, the Choir visited the North London Hospice and sang a selection of carols to the patients. The Choir sang beautifully and brought a smile all of the patients' faces – what a lovely Friday afternoon!

On Sunday 16th December, the Choir had their annual visit to Winchmore Baptist Church where they sang carols and took part in the special family service. Each year the children look forward to their visit and the congregation always enjoys listening to their brilliant singing!

The Choir also performed in Highfield's Christmas assembly. The school was so impressed with their singing and how well they projected. Well done!



Happy Hanukkah

Last week one of our parents from RH came in to speak to the whole of our Reception classes about Hanukkah. He told the children all about the festival and how it is celebrated. The children got to see the menorah being lit and even learnt a song! We would like to thank Mr Freedman for coming in and sharing his knowledge with us! *Happy Hannukah to all our families!*



Happy Hanukkah



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Year 3 Egyptian Day

We started Egyptian day by taking part in a cat walk show to showcase our wonderful outfits. Then we had a carousel of activities in each class. With Miss Ikoloh we made necklaces using glitter, mini shapes, card and lollipop sticks. With Miss Levison we made Egyptian food including yoghurt, celery, pitta and honey cakes. With Miss Celik we learnt Egyptian dance moves and then devised our own dance routines in groups. We had such a wonderful day and thoroughly enjoyed being ancient Egyptians for the day.



5B's Class Assembly

On Friday 7th December 5B got the Christmas season off to a rousing start with their class assembly. The children stepped back in time to explore the history of Christmas, looking at traditions from Britain and around the world.

Many of our Christmas customs have been adopted from other countries. Did you know that the first recorded Christmas tree was in Latvia? Or that the tradition of kissing under the mistletoe comes from Norse mythology?



5B entertained everyone by singing two Christmas songs and Santa Claus even made an appearance, spreading some festive spirit around the hall!

Whisper Me Happy Ever After

On Monday 3rd December 2018 Years 5 and 6 watched a performance led by Face Front Theatre. The theme of the performance was Domestic Violence in the household from a child's perspective. The main purpose of this was to support children and help them develop strategies to seek help. It was a powerful and eye opening performance.



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FRIENDS OF HIGHFIELD NEWS

This year, the Friends of Highfield supported The Absolute Radio Christmas Appeal and requested for children to bring in presents which we donated to children living in poverty.

Parents and carers, we were overwhelmed by your generosity and we can't thank you enough. It took 3 trips to the local drop off point to deliver all the gifts.

With your help we have certainly highlighted the importance of giving and you have enabled us to put a smile on the faces of hundreds of children who would have otherwise not received a gift this Christmas.

The Friends of Highfield created our very own Winter Wonderland this month by setting up Santa's Grotto. Every child had an opportunity to receive a festive beaker purchased by funds raised by the PTA. The children were very excited to meet Father Christmas and his elves. They admired the Christmas lights and decorations, the incredible lifelike fireplace made by the Chair of the PTA Kirsty Tindle and while waiting in line they wrote notes to Father Christmas. It was lovely to read their messages that spoke about the importance of having friends and family around at Christmas time.

Thank you very much to the parents and carers who volunteered their time to set up and pack away the Grotto and we can not forget those that spent the day dressed up as Santa and his helpful elves. Hours of wrapping by numerous parents and carers insured that every child left with a spring in their step while clutching at their gift.

Thank you to everyone who made this magical event possible once again this year!

Thank you to Knights Residential in Edmonton who sponsored the 'Christmas Light Switch On' this month, where we raised a total of £316. The choir attracted the crowds with their angelic voices and numerous Parents and Carers kindly offered their time to organise and serve the many treats on offer. We were so overwhelmed by the turn out, that Mrs Kemal has agreed that we will discuss running this event in the playground in the future to offer more space.

The staff are in the process of devising a list of items they would like the PTA to purchase for the school. This gives us even more of an incentive to organise future fundraising events, so please join our PTA meetings to make this possible.



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FRIENDS OF HIGHFIELD NEWS

There are lots of events to look forward to next year:

Our next Bag2School drop off will be in March. Parents and Carers will be asked to fill a bag with unwanted clothing. The donations are weighed and Highfield will receive a monetary donation. More details will be available under the Friends of Highfield tab on the school website closer to the time.

The Friends of Highfield will also be organising an Easter egg hunt on Thursday 4th April and our annual summer fete on Saturday 29th June. Planning for the fete will begin in January soon after we are back from the Christmas break, so please look out for school texts and emails with information as to how you can get involved. This event takes months to organise so your involvement early on in the planning stages will be very useful. It's your hard work and time that made last year's fete a great success and enabled us to raise over £9000 and with your support we can make the fete of 2019 another fantastic day out for all and raise much needed funds for our children.

Under 4000 retailers will donate a percentage of the amount you spend to the Friends of Highfield, to say thank you for shopping online. These include big name retailers like John Lewis, Amazon, eBay, Asda, ASOS and Sainsbury's. All of the funding the Friends of Highfield receive is spent on the school to purchase much needed resources and equipment for your children. So far, 45 Parents and Carers have signed up and have raised a total of £81.23 in over a month.

It takes a minute to sign up for free:

- Go to www.easyfundraising.org.uk/?referral-campaign=true
- Search for **Friends of Highfield Primary – Winchmore Hill** and click 'Support this cause'. 3. **Create an account** and then complete your shop online via the website. Your donation will automatically go to Friends of Highfield who will spend every penny on Highfield Primary School.
- **Set up the donation reminder** so that every time you go to an eligible website you click one button to activate the donation.

For more information about your school PTA or to offer your support please e-mail friendsofhighfield@hotmail.com Visit Facebook and Instagram 'The Friends of Highfield'. Further information can also be found when visiting www.highfieldprimary.co.uk. Go to the 'Parents and Carers' and 'Friends of Highfield' tab.

A date for your diary- our next PTA meeting will be in the school canteen on Monday 14th January at 9am followed by a meeting at 8pm in The Orange Tree on Highfield Road. We look forward to seeing you there to begin planning the summer fete and other fundraising events.



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2018 Christmas Card Competition

Congratulations to Khaleel in 1J, who produced a fantastic design to win this year's Christmas card competition.



Our Reception Classes during the festive season

Last week was a very busy week in Reception.

Each class produced their own fantastic Nativity play. The children learnt about the Christmas story and worked hard to learn their lines and the songs. They all looked wonderful in their costumes and everyone who came to watch were very complimentary about their performances.

'We practised so hard for our Mummies and Daddies!' - Rafael

At the end of the week Reception visited the Dugdale centre to watch a lovely Christmas Panto which consolidated their learning about Christmas. The children were beautifully behaved causing other commuters to comment on their outstanding behaviour.

'I liked the bit where the reindeers danced' – Charlie N

'I liked it when Santa hugged me' - Sami

We are all very proud of the children and would like to thank everyone who came to watch the performances and supported on our trip.



Christmas Jumper Day!

Highfield wore their festive jumpers on Friday 14th December to raise money for 'Save the Children'. We raised a fantastic total of £405.34. Thank you for all your generous contributions, particularly during this time of the year when it is important to consider people who are suffering around us.



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Year 3 igospel Concert.

Parents, families, pupils and staff were on their feet at the end of the Year 3 igospel concert! They stood to applaud the amazing performance put on by the Year 3 classes, but also sang and danced along to the uplifting gospel music. The children have been practising for many months and put on a polished performance on Monday 17th December 2018. They performed old favourites, such as Jump and Colours, but also learnt new songs like the World's Greatest and This Little Light of Mine. The igospel musicians helped all 3 classes gain confidence in their singing; they learnt the words for all the songs, as well as actions. To the delight of everybody, some children performed solos! Well done Year 3!



Maths Masterclass with Year 5

Over the last half term, some Year 5 children have been attending a Maths masterclass session with a maths specialist teacher after school. They have been challenged with fractions, decimals, percentages, problem solving, reasoning and explaining. The children have thoroughly enjoyed these sessions.

Kristina said, "The maths was hard but the activities were lots of fun. My Maths has really improved." Cassidy commented, "It was brilliant and fun! I can do things I wasn't able to do!"

On the last session, the children's parents were invited to see and take part in the lesson. The children showed off their new skills and all the parents were very impressed with what their child could now calculate and work out. The Maths Masterclass has been a definite success!

Year 4 Recorder Concert

After a term of recorder lessons with Joel from Enfield Music Services, Year 4 performed to children and parents on the morning of Thursday 20th December. The children played a selection of pieces they had learned throughout the term using their musical understanding. They were able to read notation and follow a conductor during their concert. Well done Year 4!



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December 2018

ATTENDANCE

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.

Form	%
RF	97.5
RH	98.84
RJ	98.46
1J	95.98
1M	95.38
1P	96.23
2B	93.74
2D	95.82
2S	96.65
3CA	96.48
3I	96.4
3L	95.34
4A	96.8
4M	96.4
4MC	95.38
5B	96.84
5D	95.84
5M	95.96
6B	96.71
6P	97.22
TOTAL	96.46

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



Every day your child is absent from school affects their education! You will notice from the figures above, that the odd day off really does mount up. Please be aware that Highfield School **WILL NOT AUTHORISE any **HOLIDAYS** during term time, this is done in the interest of your child's education.**



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January 2019	Diary Dates
Wednesday 9th January	ESOL in the canteen
Friday 11th January	Year 1 Victorian day
Wednesday 16th January	4A Pizza Express Visit
	ESOL in the canteen
Wednesday 23rd January	ESOL in the canteen
Friday 25th January	Class Assembly 3I
Wednesday 30th January	ESOL in the canteen



DRIVING SAFELY & PARKING AROUND THE SCHOOL

It is absolutely vital that parents/carers DO NOT park over our neighbours' driveways or directly in front of the school gates. We appreciate that parking is limited, but the relationship we have with local residents is really important to the success of our school and for the safety of our children. Thank you for your cooperation.



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