



Highfield Primary School

NEWSLETTER September 2022



Message from Headteacher



First of all, I would like to give a warm welcome to our new families. At Highfield we are a community and it is always lovely to welcome new members. This week I have had the pleasure in going into all the classrooms and seeing how excited the children are to be here. They have quickly settled into their new classes and have thoroughly enjoyed being back at school with their friends and new teachers.

Our theme for the term is 'Unity in the community' and the children have been discussing the different communities that they are part of and how we are all part of the Highfield community. This year, as well as our local trips we are also ensuring children get the opportunity to go on trips further afield and this week both Year 4 and Year 6 visited the Natural History Museum. Year 4's focus was Volcanoes (their current Geography topic) while Year 6 were looking at Evolution and Inheritance.

Today we also have our first class assembly this Year. I am really looking forward to seeing it and it will be lovely to once again invite parents into the school.

Good luck 5C!



**Our three core values are Respect, Co-Operation and Kindness.
This term's value is Being Supportive**

Headteacher Awards this month:

Week Ending : 23/09/2022

6P—Ivo

6A—Daisy

6C—Senada



Week Ending : 30/09/2022

5M—Leigharna

5C—Orgita

5NC—Seyma

Attendance Class Awards this month:

Week Ending : 09/09/22

EYFS/KS1: 2M—99%

KS2: 3J & 5C—98%



Week Ending : 16/09/22

EYFS/KS1: RF—100%

KS2: 6P—99%

Week Ending : 23/09/22

EYFS/KS1: RJ—100%

KS2: 5C—100%

Week Ending : 30/09/22

EYFS/KS1: 2M - 100%

KS2: 3J - 99%

Children's Charter

2BD – Oscar

3J – Aria

4AC – Hafsa

5C – Ayshe

6A – Satya

2M – Leo

3L – Faye

4C – Aidan

5M – Sophia

6C – Sloane

2RM – Eva

3P – Mustafa

4GF – Isabella and Charlie

5NC – Oliver

6P – Mete

Well done to our new School Council children, for a successful inaugural meeting. The group have voted for their chair and vice; Congratulations to Satya 6A (Chair) and Isabella 4GF (Vice).

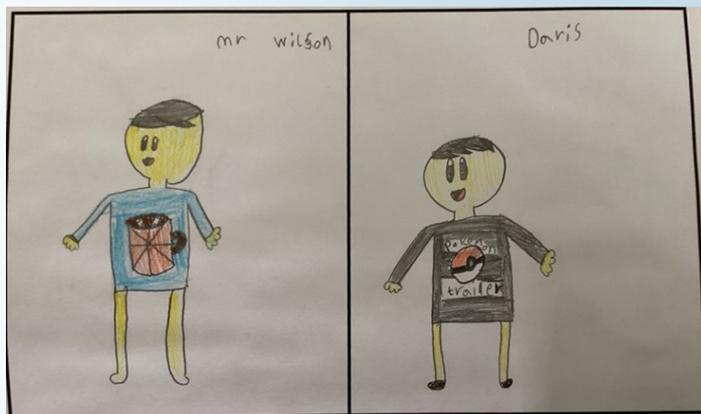
The School Council also voted for the KS1 and KS2 best Children's Charter.

Congratulations to:

6P – Sabriya



2M - Daris



Young Interpreters for this academic year:

Senada 6C

Khyber 6C

Ahmet 6C

Nikol 6C

Sloane 6C

Buddy, Mini Mentor, Anti bullying ambassador, School leaders 22/23

	Buddy		Mini Mentor		Anti-bullying Ambassador
6P		6P	Nate	6P	Scarlett
6C	Argiros	6C	Nikol	6C	Dexter/Anil
6A	Nikol	6A	Eliana	6A	Daisy
5NC	Bentli-Rai	5NC	Alexandra	5NC	Jay
5M	Elif	5M	Isabelle	5M	Yasin
5C	Valentino	5C	William	5C	Raphaelle Elsie (reserve)
4AC	Eddie	4AC	Musab	4AC	Harriet
4GF	Liat	4GF	Lucas	4GF	Jonathan
4C	Leo	4C	Holly	4C	Eymen
3P	Imran	3P	Laila	3P	Matilda
3L		3L		3L	
3J		3J		3J	

Eco Council

Our Eco Councillors for the year are:

Name	Class
Olivia	6P
Sarah	6P
Alice	6C
Sloane	6C
Sarah	5C
Sebastian	5C
Leighana	5M
Kaan	5M
Isla	5NC
Seyma	5NC
Stella	4AC
Rafeal	4AC
Lawrence	4GF
Paloma	4GF
Nadia	4C
Zac	4C
Lara	3P
Amari	3P
Elisa	3L
Rafi	3L
Molly	3J
Charlie	3J

Environmental Officers

Our Environmental Prefects for the year are:

Name	Class
Khyber	6C
Ahmet	6C
Anisa	6P
Isabel	6A
Anne-Charlotte	5M
Orgita	5C
Humphrey	5NC
Connor	4AC
Emeri	4C
Evie	4GF
Laurie	3P
Emily	3J
Mario	3L

Year 6 Trip to The Natural History Museum

On Thursday 29th September, all of Year 6 visited the Natural History Museum as part of our Science unit of learning on Evolution and Inheritance. We took part in a Dino Dig Workshop led by the Education Team at the Museum. During the workshop, the children had the opportunity to explore and investigate replica dinosaur fossils and developed skills that are used by palaeontologists. In addition to this, we explored the Green Zone exhibition which included a range of artefacts, including: Creepy Crawlies, Fossil Marine Reptiles and Minerals.



Thank you to the parent volunteers who came on the trip with us.
Year 6 Team

Year 4 Natural History Museum Trip

This month Year 4 went on an exciting trip to the Natural History Museum as part of our Geography topic, Volcanoes. There were lots of highlights of the trip, especially the hands-on volcanoes workshop. Children investigated geological forces from deep within the Earth using interactive demonstrations. They found out the importance and challenge of natural disaster prediction. It was lots of fun!



Science Quality mark Award

We are very proud to announce the school have achieved the **Primary Science Quality Mark Gilt**. This award is given to schools to celebrate their commitment to excellence in science teaching and learning. Our assessor had the following comments about our Science provision.

'Deeper engagement and refinement in the quality planning, delivery and evaluation of science lessons and opportunities provided by staff, further leading to an increase in quality of learning and enrichment for the children and families.'

'A super submission on which everyone should be heartily congratulated. There is much to celebrate and everyone at Highfield should feel rightly proud.'

I would like to particularly congratulate Ms Panchal, our Science Lead, and Ms Parsons, who supported her, for ensuring the school has a high-quality Science curriculum that is taught to an excellent standard, so that children develop the skills and knowledge they need and to have a really enjoyable, hands on learning experience.

Mr Wilson



Curriculum Spotlight

English

Reception

In Reception we have been practising writing our names. We have also been learning about the story Rainbow Fish and how he became a kind friend. We are enjoying story times and beginning to discuss what happened and what we think might happen next.

"I like when we listen to stories." - Grace



Year 1

Year 1 have enjoyed reading for pleasure sessions during guided reading. We also went into the story hut and acted out the story of 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt.' "It was great fun to act out the story." Liza

Year 2

Year 2 have been learning about poetry; how to write a poem and how to perform a poem. They looked at the works of performance poets such as Benjamin Zephaniah and Michael Rosen. The children then focused on the work of William Blake, analysing his poems; "The Tyger" and "The Lamb". They went on to write a class poem and their own poem based on "The Tyger".



Year 3

In Year 3, we have been studying the book 'Jack's Fantastic Voyage'. We have been learning to use verbs, nouns and adjectives accurately to label different settings in the story. We have also been using these ideas to write sentences whilst including prepositions to help us add more detail to our work. "I have really enjoyed reading the story of 'Jack's Fantastic Voyage' and describing the settings." - Rayyan



Year 4

In Year 4, we have been looking at the story 'La Mariposa' where a child called Fransisco from Mexico starts a new school without knowing the language. We have written an informal letter to a friend imagining that we are Fransisco.

Year 5

In Year 5 we have been reading 'There's a Boy in the Girls' Bathroom'. The story is set in the USA and it deals with issues such as bullying, friendships and school life. It is also incredibly funny. We have written a formal letter from the class teacher, Mrs Ebbel, to Bradley Chalkers' mum and we will be writing an informal letter from Jeff, 'the new kid' to the counsellor, Carla Davis.

Year 6

Year 6 have been researching the impact Palm Oil production has on the wider world. Our unit of learning is based on Iceland's Palm Oil advert which was launched a few years ago. The children will be writing a non-chronological report to educate people on the harmful effects of Palm Oil and what we can do to help promote sustainable Palm Oil production.

Berry Class

In Berry class we were looking at the story 'Only one you'. The children designed their own fish and were learning to use adjectives to describe them. We also looked at the environment that the fish live in and the different types of creatures that live under the sea. The story is based on the fish having their own individual personalities like the children in our school.



Curriculum Spotlight

Maths

Reception

In Reception we have been starting to write the numbers we know and exploring different Maths activities in our indoor and outdoor environments. We have also been making shape pictures and patterns during choosing time. "I wrote the number 4. I'm 4!" - Raphi



Year 1

In year 1 we have been focusing on Place Value. The children have been successfully able to find one more and one less of a given number. The children have been learning to count forwards and backwards and comparing amounts using fewer, less than and more than.

Year 2

In Maths, year 2 have been exploring place value. They have learned to reproduce 2-digit numbers up to 50 using dienes and other manipulatives to represent tens and ones. Their understanding of numbers up to 100 has been enhanced by partitioning and counting on number lines.



Year 3

In Year 3, we have been exploring place value. The children have learned to represent 3-digit numbers in a variety of ways and have especially enjoyed using counters to secure their understanding of hundreds, tens and ones.

Year 4

In year 4, we have been focusing on the place value of numbers to 10,000. The children have been learning to order, compare and round numbers to 10,000.

Year 5

In Year 5 we have been focussing on the place value of numbers to a million. We have been ordering rounding and comparing these numbers. Our lessons include fluency, reasoning and problem solving and we have been learning how to explain our reasoning.

Year 6

In Maths, we have been focussing on Place Value and Negative Numbers. The children have also demonstrated their ability to compare and order numbers up to 10,000,000. Within lessons, we have been completing a range of activities including fluency, reasoning and problem-solving.

Berry Class



In Berry class we have been focusing on Place Value. The children have been successfully able to find one more and one less of a given number within 10. The children have been learning to count backwards from 10 and have enjoyed pretending to be rockets that 'blast off!'. 'I like counting numbers' - Simeon

Unity In The Community

We are excited to announce our autumn whole school topic “Unity in the Community”. Did you know that the original idea of 'community' derives from the two terms 'common' and 'unities', meaning people with a common purpose and common values create an environment where everyone feels welcome and live in unity. Throughout this term, children will be exploring the purpose of communities, different types of communities and will be shining light on the significant achievements of certain local, national and international united communities. We want our children to learn the importance of how unity is strength. According to Mattie Stepanek (a child poet and peace advocate) “when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved”.

Each year group has developed their own community action plan to give back to either our school or local community. Some classes have decided to sing or write letters to local elderly homes, donate to foodbanks, become eco-class warriors and create litter monitors.

Highfield is proud to have the school motto, “Together We Can Achieve More”. We strongly believe that together our children can make a difference, advocate for change and can use their voices to inspire other.

We look forward to sharing the wonderful work they produce!



Phonics and Early Reading Workshop for Parents/Carers of Reception Children

At Highfield we are passionate about teaching children to read. Research shows a clear correlation between reading ability and a child's future academic achievement, wellbeing and success in life.

We would like to invite our Reception parents and carers to a workshop on **Friday 14th October at 2:30** in the main hall.

We will explain how we teach reading in Reception, including using the Little Wandle systematic synthetic phonics programme, the importance of decoding using phonics, reading fluently and comprehension, and how you can best support your child.

Fencing Workshops

In the second week of term Years 1 to 6 were treated to fencing workshops run by Darren Hill. Darren presented archery workshops in September 2021 and he returned this year to inspire us with the skills and tactics of fencing. Each class learnt how to advance, retreat and parry. Every child was equipped with a mask, a vest and a sabre. The children quickly learnt poses, phrases and skills and had a fantastic time fencing with their friends.

Here are some responses to the day:

Sophie 1W "I liked putting the helmets on and looking through the holes."

Ethan 1B "We got a sword fight and we had to go advance, advance, advance and retreat, retreat, retreat."

Laurie 3P "I loved everything because it was something I have never done before."

Noah 6C "Now I understand the foundation, I can't wait to do fencing again on the residential!"



Safeguarding and Child Protection Updates

Do you recognise this character?

He looks cute and like a little cuddly monster!



HOWEVER!!

Please be aware and warned, he isn't what you or your children might think!

His name is, Huggy Wuggy! It sounds like a cuddly, loving and friendly teddy bear's name! **But** the monster is actually an evil villain in the 2021 horror PC game Poppy Playtime by MOB Games. Unfortunately, the blue stuffed bear is not a cute, cuddly or loving Care Bear. He is a giant, horrifying blue creature with bulging eyes, wide red lips, long limbs and when he opens his mouth, he has rows of razor sharp teeth. He squeezes so hard that it stops you breathing followed by eating you. The jingle in the game and game's soundtrack has the lyrics, 'He'll squeeze you 'til you pop'. This is very traumatising for children to witness even in a game. 'Poppy Playtime' is a game of survival set in an abandoned toy factory. Players must solve puzzles while Huggy Wuggy hunts them. He has inspired multiple YouTubers to create parodies of creepy songs, that, while not intended for children, are easy for children to find and watch online. "Huggy Wuggy" is one of the game's most popular – and visually disturbing – characters who actively follows you around as you try to complete the game. He appears in the dark unexpectedly, to try and catch you.

Where Are Children Getting Exposed to Huggy Wuggy?

Children may not have access to or play 'Poppy Playtime' however, they are still seeing videos of the monster-bear on YouTube and TikTok. Remember, YouTube has **parental control** options, but we fear the videos aren't getting filtered because "Huggy Wuggy" is a cute name.

Unfortunately, Huggy Wuggy isn't the first potentially harmful trend, and it won't be the last. Open and honest conversations with your child can help them navigate the digital space as well as ensuring you check your parental controls.

Here is a link to support you from the NSPCC- <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/parental-controls/> here is another from CEOP: <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/parental-controls/>

We are aware of many stores selling these characters including his peers from the game as keyrings, badges, teddies BUT they are not welcome at Highfield. Please do not allow them to come into school as many children find them disturbing and upsetting.



MAKE EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNT At Highfield Primary - Attendance & Punctuality

While the majority of pupils at Highfield do have good attendance and are only absent when absolutely necessary, we want to remind our families about the importance of attendance and punctuality.

September 2022	
ATTENDANCE	
Form	%
RF	97.93
RJ	98.85
RL	99.34
1B	95.51
1S	93.53
1W	92.25
2BD	97.1
2M	97.69
2RM	96.51
3J	97.9
3L	94.31
3P	94.1
4AC	96.24
4C	94.61
4GF	97.06
5C	97.06
5M	93.36
5NC	96.96
6A	94.3
6C	96.02
6P	95.54
Total	95.86

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. 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, 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.

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.**

October 2022	UPCOMING EVENTS AT HIGHFIELD
Friday 7th October	Class Assembly 5M
Friday 14th October	Class Assembly 5NC
	Year 4 Synagogue Visit
	Reception Phonics Meeting in hall
Monday 17th October	Climate change workshop for Years 5 & 6
Tuesday 18th October	4GF Woodcroft Visit
	Parent's Evening—4pm
Thursday 20th October	Parent's Evening—4pm
Friday 21st October	4C Woodcroft Visit
Monday 24th– Friday 28th October	Half Term

