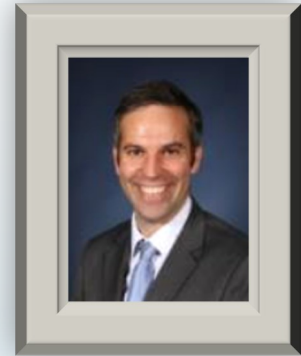




Highfield Primary School

NEWSLETTER November 2023



Message from Headteacher

Dear Families,

It's starting to feel a lot like Christmas at Highfield. On Friday we had our Christmas light switch on. A big thank to Caroline and all the friends for once again organising this event, and to the school choir for performing so brilliantly and getting us in the Christmas mood. It was great to see so many of you there.

This month has been another busy one at Highfield. Children have been going on various local visits, one of which was our Year 6 going over the road to Winchmore Secondary school to see their performance of Aladdin. I know the children thoroughly enjoyed it and it was great to see many of our former pupils performing. We have also had visits to the London Aquarium and The Natural History museum.

Year 6 took part in a history workshop where they learnt about the role of spies during the 2nd World war and were able to take part in 'spying challenges.'

We have also taking part in various sporting competitions including gymnastics, football and netball. The children who represented the school can be very proud of how they competed and their sportsmanship.

Finally, this week we reopened our nature garden. 2S visited it for their Science lesson where they looked at the colourful leaves that had fallen from a range of deciduous trees. They took photographs of their observations and then used the pic-collage app to create their own Autumn posters. We are very pleased to be able to further extend the opportunities that the children have for hands on learning within the school.



Our three core values are Respect, Co-Operation and Kindness
This term's value is Compassion

Headteacher Awards this month:

Week Ending: 10.11.23

RF: Mustafa

RJ: James

RL: Ely

Week Ending: 17.11.23

6P: Phoebe

6C: Hayal

6A: Tamara

Week Ending: 24.11.23

5P: Marcus

5C: Evie

5M: Sena

Week Ending: 30.11.23

4AC: Sophie

4GF: Marnie

4C: Zlati

Attendance Class Awards this month:

Week Ending: 10.11.23

EYFS/KS1: 2S 99%

KS2: 6P 99%

Week Ending: 17.11.23

EYFS/KS1: 2S 99%

KS2: 6A 99%

Week Ending: 24.11.23

EYFS/KS1: 2BD 99%

KS2: 4C 99%

Week Ending: 24.11.23

EYFS/KS1: 1M 100%

KS2: 3L 100%



5P Class Assembly

On Friday 3rd November, 5P performed their class assembly to parents, carers and children. The assembly showcased the children's outstanding knowledge of forces and how they work, which was part of their Science unit in the Autumn term. Demonstrations were shown to prove how the forces worked, along with detailed explanations given by the children. Everyone worked incredibly hard to learn a range of songs and actions, as well as their lines. Well done to 5P!



Year 5 Mosque Visit

On Thursday 16th November, Year 5 visited the Palmers Green Mosque as part of our R.E. topic of Islam. We were blown away by the beautiful Islamic calligraphy in the Mosque as we first walked in. We were welcomed into the Mosque by Tariq who spoke to us about the day-to-day life in the Mosque and how the Muslim community use the mosque for prayers. He showed us the key features of the Mosque and displayed photos of different Mosques around the world. He also explained to us the importance of stewardship and how Muslims and all people should care and look after the Earth.

"I really liked going on a school trip my place of worship. I also enjoyed reciting al-Fatihah [first prayer of the Qu'ran] to the whole of Year 5 at the Mosque. I thought it was really kind of Tariq to hand out sweets to us as we left"-Sami 5C.



4C's Aspirations & Dreams Assembly – 17.11.23

As part of our whole school topic, 'Little People Big Dreams,' and during Aspirations Week, 4C explored the lives of inspirational figures and learned about the significance of self-belief. We thoroughly enjoyed preparing and presenting our class assembly on the theme of aspirations and dreams. In reflecting on Aspirations Week, 4C enthusiastically shared their experiences and discussed how the activities inspired them in considering their future careers and aspirations. They shared their ambitions for the future and discussed strategies for turning their dreams into reality. 4C took pride in showcasing their 'When I Grow Up' posters and delighted in performing two wonderful songs during the assembly.

"I think our assembly was awesome! I loved practising and learning the songs, especially 'A Million Dreams!'" said Mira

"I loved our assembly because the songs were peaceful, and I liked seeing everyone dressed up as what they want to be when they are older!" said Tariq

What an amazing assembly it was! Well done 4C!



4GF's assembly

This term, 4GF impressed us with their fantastic assembly on 'Little People, Big Dreams.' The children performed a poem which they wrote themselves and shared their aspirations for the future. They taught us all about inspirational figures in history through the quiz show 'The Chase' and performed the songs 'Proud' and 'We are the world.' Well done 4GF and thank you to the parents for their continued support.

"I really enjoyed the songs and learning sign language to one of the songs." Mert

"I liked that we got to share our aspirations." Zaara

Class 4AC Assembly

On Friday 24th November 4AC enjoyed their Roman assembly where they decided that Highfield Primary School should be ruled by Romans. As part of their assembly, the audience were introduced to significant figures during the Roman era. They ended their assembly with a wonderful performance of a Roman song. Well done 4AC!

Aspirations Week (Monday 16th October-Friday 20th October)

This term we organised Aspirations Week (w/b 16th October 2023). This was a great opportunity for children to develop an understanding of the link between what they learn in school and the wider world of work. This week allowed children to broaden their awareness of the range of jobs available to them in the future, breaking down stereotypes and challenging bias.

We were incredibly grateful that some very kind parents generously volunteered to come into the school, where they shared insights about their careers through delivering a workshop or an assembly during the week.

On Friday 20th October, children came into school dressed up as what they aspire to be when they grow up.



REMINDER for applying for a primary school place:

If your child was born between 1 September 2019 and 31 August 2020, you will need to apply for a primary school place by 15 January 2024. Your child will start reception class in September 2024.

The [online eAdmissions system](#) is open for applications. The latest date for your application to be treated as an on-time application is 15 January 2024. Any applications made after this date are treated as late applications.

Year 6 History/Drama Workshop

On Wednesday 22nd November, Year 6 took part in a World War 2 themed drama workshop. The children engaged in a variety of activities about the Secret Listeners in Trent Park. They started by doing a 'Spying Challenge' where they had to pretend to be walkers and watchers, discreetly following their chosen targets. Then, they moved on to a 'Headphone Challenge' where they tried to accurately pass on a secret message in their groups. They also created freeze frames of different roles of the Secret Listeners and researched in detail.



Year 5 trip to the London Aquarium

On Tuesday 7th November, Year 5 visited the London Aquarium. It was a beautiful sunny day and we managed to do a bit of sightseeing before entering the sea life centre! Inside the Aquarium we explored the creatures that live in our seas, rivers and oceans. We walked through Pacific Ocean tunnels, tropical rainforests, and experienced a shark reef encounter. Two huge green turtles swam gracefully amongst the smaller creatures in another enormous tank. We were fascinated by the deep sea 'alien' world of jellyfish and we loved the CGI polar bear and her cub. This trip helped to consolidate our learning about ecosystems, environmental changes, evolution and marine conservation. What an amazing trip!



Year 4 trip to the Natural History Museum

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!



History Curriculum Spotlight

The whole school devoted a history lesson this month to commemorating Remembrance. The school learned about the history of Armistice Day and the reason we wear poppies.



Berry Class made their own poppies!



Reception classes also made poppies and learned about the meaning of courage.

Year 2 watched a Remembrance assembly and learned about the history of Armistice Day. They created Remembrance posters inspired by the war poem "In Flanders Field."



Year 3 wrote circle poems using vocabulary associated with Remembrance.



Year 5 and Year 6 took part in a live nationwide Remembrance assembly by the National Literacy Trust. Provoking deeper thought on why we commemorate wars, loss and conflicts.

Year 5 analysed and annotated the poem "For the Fallen" by Laurence Binyon.



Year 1 watched a Poppy animation and discussed how the changes in colour symbolised the changes in mood and emotion. They made poppies from playdough and cardboard and made doves to symbolise peace.



Year 4 also made some wonderful creations as part of Remembrance Day activities, including a Lego poppy!



Year 6 analysed the poems "In Flanders Fields" and "Forget Us Not" discussing the symbolism within the poems.



Eco Council

This month Eco Council children have cleared up flower beds at the front of the school and the Gaudi Garden. They have planted daffodils and crocuses ready for spring time. The children are very proud of their work and looking forward to seeing the new flowers in bloom in spring. The children have taken part in assessing the school grounds and more work has been planned for the areas around the playground. Energy monitors have been busy switching off the whiteboards when not in use and switching off the lights in the classrooms during lunch times. They have also done litter picking and recycling.

Nike, our school caretaker, has been of great help during these activities and everyone is so grateful.



Class 2S

2S went to observe and record what plants grow in our wildlife area in the autumn. The children enjoyed spotting evergreen trees and plants. They saw lots of colorful leaves that had fallen from a range of deciduous trees.

They took photographs of their observations and then used the pic-collage app to create their own Autumn posters.



Year 5 Design & Technology/STEM Workshop

On Tuesday 28th November, 5P and 5M took part in a workshop led by Little Investigators. The children learnt about what a landmark is, as well as learning about the job of an architect and what it involves. We then took a walk around our local area and sketched different landmarks, and we discussed how these landmarks made us feel. Back in class, the children completed a map from memory of our route and the things they came across. In the following weeks, we will take part in the second session of the workshop where we will be constructing landmarks! All Year 5 children will be completing both parts of the workshop over the next few days.



Aladdin At Winchmore

On Tuesday 28th November, Year 6 were invited to watch the matinee performance of, 'Aladdin' at Winchmore Secondary School. Many past Highfield pupils took to the stage to showcase their fantastic singing, dancing and acting skills, in the highly anticipated winter show.

This was a great opportunity to support our local secondary school and for Year 6 to be inspired before their own end of year school production in the summer term.



Book Fair

The Book Fair was at Highfield again this month.

We made a total of £3,489.00 from the latest book fair at Highfield thanks to all the children and parent/carers. We received commission which is £2,048.00 of which the school bought books for Year 5.

As always thank you to Mrs Oskis and Mrs Neal for their hard work during book fair week.



Sports events

Football

On Monday 6th November one of the Highfield girls football team took part in a friendly tournament at Raglan. They played in 5 games showing great teamwork and enthusiasm which led Paloma to score a lovely goal.

Well done Paloma, Isla, Molly, Klia, Demi, Lovelle, Emilia and Beren!!



On Wednesday 8th the Girls football team took part in the annual football tournament at Power league. Despite this being their first game of the season they soon got rid of their nerves and worked well as a team.

Good teamwork Izabela, Bella, Kamea, Sena, Isla, Christine, Harriet and Nadine



On Monday 13th November the boys second Highfield team went to Raglan to take part in a friendly competition. They played some difficult games while battling the cold as well as their opponents and they worked great as a team showing good sportsmanship. We had some clean sheets for goalkeeper Humphrey and a lovely hattrick from Sebastian and a goal by Abdi. Well done to Joseph, Adam, Tyler, Seb, Humphrey, Zach, Abdi and Charlie!!!!



Netball

On Monday 20th November Highfield hosted a Netball tournament. We were joined by Hazelwood, Raglan, Eversley, Brimsdown and Eastfield schools. The girls played a number of games winning 5-0 and 6-0, thanks to our amazing goal shooter and goal attack Harriet and Christine. It was a great team effort and well done girls for playing in your first tournament. Well done to Eden, Christine, Megi, Klia, Ayshe, Hira, Harriet, Minnie, Izzy and Harriet !!!!.



Gymnastics

On Wednesday 29th and Thursday 30th November, six of our school gymnasts were invited to an open team gymnastics festival at Southbury Leisure centre (Year 5) and Raglan school (Year 6). Each gymnast performed their routine and vault twice in front of a range of judges. Each individual score contributed to the final result. Well done to Molly, Alexander, Sophia, Armin, Harriet, Shaena and Isla for showcasing their amazing gymnastics skills from Balancing and Rolling to Jumping and tumbling- you were fantastic!

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.

Nov 2023	
ATTENDANCE	
Form	%
1B	95.2%
1M	95.2%
1W	94.4%
2BD	96.6%
2M	95.5%
2S	97.6%
3J	94.1%
3L	97.6%
3P	93.7%
4AC	96.2%
4C	96.3%
4GF	96.1%
5C	96.7%
5M	96.7%
5P	95.9%
6A	97.1%
6C	96.0%
6P	97.6%
RF	95.9%
RJ	91.2%
RL	92.8%
Total	95.6%

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.**

December 2023	UPCOMING EVENTS AT HIGHFIELD
Friday 8th December	Christmas jumper day and concert
Wednesday 13th December	RL Nativity
Thursday 14th December	RF Nativity
Friday 15th December	RJ Nativity
Wednesday 20th December	Last day of term, early finish 1.30pm
Thursday 21st December - Friday 5th January 2024	Christmas Holidays
Monday 8th January	First day back to school

