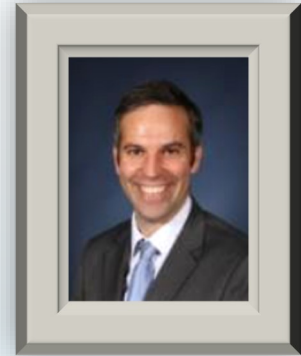




# Highfield Primary School

## NEWSLETTER January 2024



### Message from Headteacher

Dear Parents/Carers,

I would like to wish you all a belated happy new year. This term our theme is 'Express yourself'. The children have already taken part in creative Arts week where they look part in various activities including biscuit making, art workshops, poetry dance, bubble making and much more.

Our termly value is creativity and children have been discussing what it means and how this links to our termly theme. We want to encourage the children to think creatively and as part of that will be having creative writing week next week.

We have also had our first class assemblies this term. 3J and 3L were very proud to show us what they had learnt so far this year. 3L focused on our theme express yourself and showed us all the various way that they had shown their talents, while 3J showed us what they had learnt, including rock formations, Ancient Egypt and how they had made their hand puppets. They even show cased their talents! Well done 3J!

David Wilson  
Headteacher



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

## **Headteacher Awards this month:**

### **Week Ending: 19.01.24**

1M: Siyana

1W: Seda

1B: Mosar



### **Week Ending: 26.01.24**

RF: Emilia

RL: Pepper

RJ: Milan

### **Week Ending: 02.02.24**

6P: Aleeha

6A: Ruzgar

6C: Akin

## **Attendance Class Awards this month:**

### **Week Ending: 12.01.24**

EYFS/KS1: 1M/2BD 99%

KS2: 3J/4GF/5C 97%

### **Week Ending: 19.01.24**

EYFS/KS1: 1M 98%

KS2: 4GF 99%

### **Week Ending: 26.01.24**

EYFS/KS1: RF 98%

KS2: 4GF and 5M 99%

### **Week Ending: 02.02.24**

EYFS/KS1: 1B 99%

KS2: 6A 99%



### **Year 1 visit Woodcroft**

1W and 1M enjoyed visiting Woodcroft this half term. Wrapped up in warm layers and waterproofs they experienced the wild space in the winter; looking at the beehives, minibeasts and the different trees, plants and herbs. For 1W the frozen pond was an insight into how the minibeasts and water insects survive the cold and frost but 1M managed to pond dip and found lots of different creatures including a newt! The trips to Woodcroft help further the children's understanding of plants and seasonal changes and are an asset to our learning in science.



### **Year 6 TfL Workshop**

On Monday 22nd January, Year 6 were part of a workshop with a TfL representative. During the workshop, the Year 6 children learned about which modes of transport are included in TfL, how to use public transport safely and responsibly and how to safely plan journeys. They learned about 'safe strangers' and what to do if they encountered any issues on public transport. The children also learned about ZIP cards and the responsibility that comes with using one.



### **3J Class Assembly**

On Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January, it was 3J's class assembly. The children talked about their learning and the amazing things they had done during their time so far in Year 3. The audience listened attentively as the children spoke enthusiastically about the History topic they had studied, 'The Ancient Egyptians' and their Science topic on the study of rocks. The children also enjoyed sharing the different ways they like to express themselves which linked to this term's topic of 'Express yourself' and the value of creativity. The children also went on to wow their audience with their beautiful singing. Miss Johnson was very proud of the children and how hard they had worked to make the assembly such an amazing success.

Well done 3J you were absolutely fantastic and all superstars!

## EXPRESS YOURSELF!

When you hear the words, 'Express Yourself!', you might naturally want to sing it with a little more passion and enthusiasm like Charles Whyte and The Watts 103<sup>rd</sup> Street Rhythm band performed it. The song's lyrics focus on the importance of being true to oneself and not being afraid to express one's thoughts and feelings. As a school, we decided, 'Express Yourself' was the perfect choice for our whole School Spring topic.

You can use your words, your facial expressions, your body, your movements, actions, music, art, sport, poetry and personal style to express your authentic inner self.

Throughout this topic, we aim to promote healthy means of getting our children at Highfield to express themselves.

To kick start the new topic, we began the term with creative arts week. Attached are a few photos of children expressing themselves and getting a little messy in the process!

*"Art wasn't supposed to look nice; it was supposed to make you feel something" Rainbow Rowell*





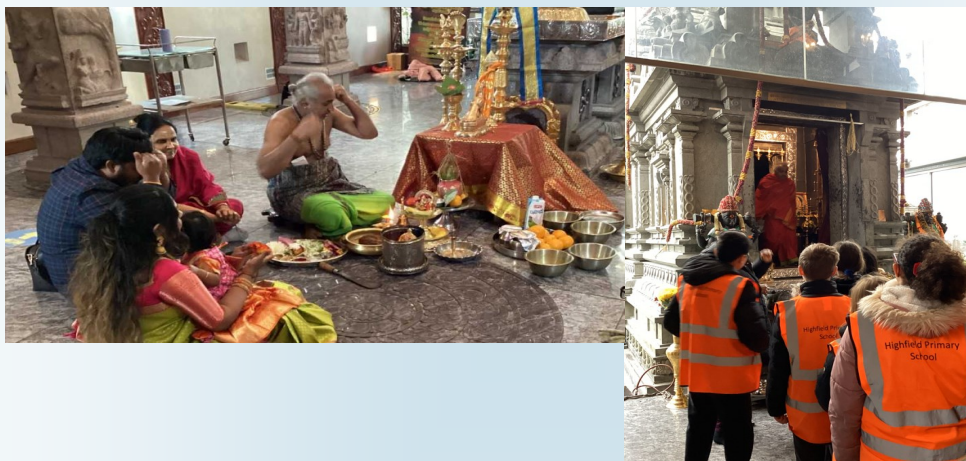
## **Year 6 Mandir Trips**

### **6P**

In January, Year 6 visited the Enfield Nagapooshani Ambaal Temple in Edmonton across 3 weeks. We were shown around the Mandir by a volunteer who gave the children a tour and spoke to them about the various deities found in the temple. Following the tour, the temple's priest conducted a blessing for our school and we were given the opportunity to ask questions. Once that was over, the children chose a deity that they were interested in and had some time to sketch the deity or parts of the temple.

### **6A**

As part of their learning in R.E, 6P visited the Nagapooshani Mandir to learn more about Hinduism. We learned all about the gods of money, knowledge and health on our guided tour. 6P enjoyed sketching the beautiful interior of the temple and observed a puja worship ritual. Before we left, the children were gifted a blessing from the priest - we think it worked because the buses were on time and the sun was shining for us that day! Well done to everyone in 6P for representing Highfield so well!



## **Year 2 Visit Winchmore Hill Baptist Church**

This half term year 2 have been learning about the importance of baptism in the Christian faith. They've spent time learning about what happens and the symbolism of different items involved. We visited Winchmore Hill Baptist Church in order to learn more, Pastor Ebenezer was able to answer lots of questions, such as 'Do you get baptised every year?' and 'Does being baptised make you a Christian?'. The children got to sit in the pews and go up the where they do baptisms in a cross shaped pool, at this church they do full body submersions for their baptisms and the children got to watch them re-enact what would happen.

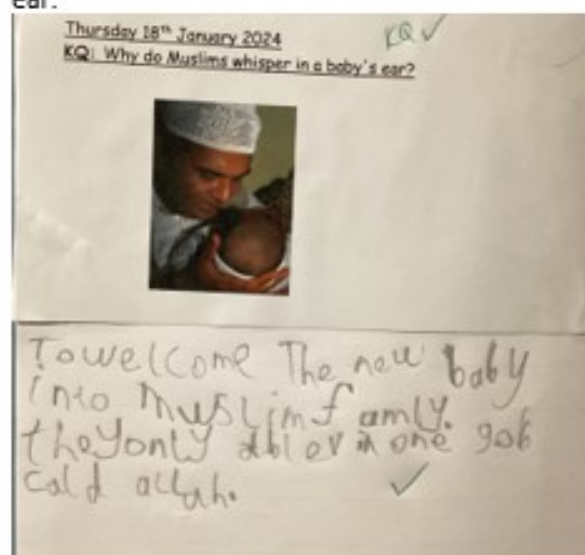


## January Curriculum Spotlight

### Religious Education

#### Year 1 - Islam

In Year 1, children have been learning about how babies are welcomed into a family. Mrs. Omar visited the year 1 classes and discussed the religious traditions and ceremonies carried out at birth and once a baby arrives home. One example is whispering a prayer into the baby's ear.



#### Year 3 - Judaism

3L had a great time dressing up to read the Torah to their peers. Children enjoyed this role and were eager to take part. It was also fantastic to have a hands-on experience of what it would be like to read the Torah in a Synagogue.



#### Year 6 - Hinduism

Year 6 have had the opportunity to visit the Enfield Nagapooshani Ambaal Temple in Edmonton this month. Children were shown around the Mandir and were taught about the different deities and what each one represents. They were also given time to draw a god/goddess of their choice and describe their representation.





## January Curriculum Spotlight

### Science

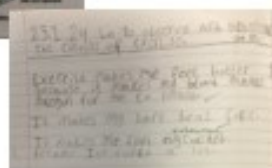
#### Year 1 - Seasons

Year 1 have been learning about the different seasons. Within this topic, the children have shared what they already know about plants and how they change throughout the different seasons.



#### Year 2 – A Healthy Diet

Year 2 have been exploring different foods that can help you to have a healthy diet. The children have also investigated the impact of exercise on the human body.



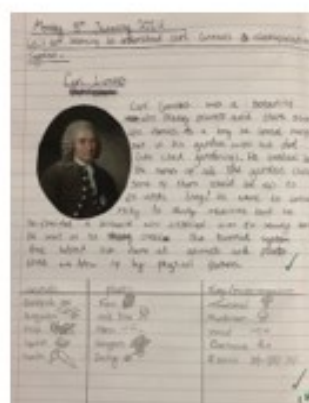
#### Year 3 - Rocks

Children in Year 3 have begun to explore different types of rocks and have been comparing and grouping them based on their physical properties.



#### Year 6 – All Living Things

Year 6 have been learning about how living things can be classified into broad groups according to common observable characteristics.





# Creative Arts Week 2024

This year the children returned to school for Spring Term and enjoyed a week where they got to express themselves creatively through music, art and PE. As part of our Express Yourself topic, the children took part in different activities, enjoyed workshops and shared what they had created. Year 2 enjoyed a dance workshop where they used everyday objects to come up with different movements.

Year 1 made streamers and then used them to dance and feel the different beats of the music. Year 5 even had a ukulele lesson delivered by one of their peers! We had so much going on and would like to thank all of the parents who helped out and the children for embracing creative arts week so well!

Reid (Year 1) - "We made streamers and were copying the dance moves."

Yasmine (Year 3) - "We expressed ourselves using abstract art and using different lines."

Emily (Year 4) - "It was so good, I drew pandas and pineapples!"

Brodie (Year 5) "We played instruments to make the sound of the rainforest."





## Noah's Ark

This official 'thank you' letter was sent to the school from the charity 'Noah's Ark' for raising money on our Christmas Jumper day.

Making the most of every day

The Ark, Byng Road, Barnet EN5 4NP

020 8449 8877 • [noahsarkhospice.org.uk](http://noahsarkhospice.org.uk)  
Registered Charity No. 1081156



Highfield Road  
Enfield  
N21 3HE  
United Kingdom

16 January 2024

Dear all at Highfield Primary School,

On behalf of all of us here at Noah's Ark, I am writing to say thank you so much for raising an incredible sum of £765.50 - we are very grateful for your support.

As you may know Noah's Ark Children's Hospice cares for babies, children and young people who are seriously unwell, and their families. We help them to enjoy life as children and teenagers, rather than as patients; and as parents and siblings, not just as carers.

We know that every moment together is precious to our families and we want to make sure these moments count.

Thanks to your generosity, we can create amazing moments for our families such as:

- At Noah's Ark, a four-year-old child was able to play every week in the soft play area and sensory room, which she has not been able to do in the community because of her immunosuppression. She has now met another immunosuppressed child and they have arranged to play at The Ark together. Her mum said her little girl can't wait to come and see **"her best and only friend."**
- Our Family Link team connected with a local bike company to request bicycles for eight children. They successfully received their first bikes, and this has enabled one child to become an independent traveller, going to and from school by himself.
- A one-year-old child, who has spent her life in hospital, had her first ever swim in the hydrotherapy pool and laughed throughout.

Thank you so much once again for helping to support families like these, we couldn't do it without you!

### **School Dinners Menu – The Pantry**

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope this letter finds you well. We are writing to inform you about some exciting improvements to the school dinners at Highfield School. As part of our commitment to provide healthy and nutritious meals for our students, we have worked with The Pantry to make changes to our menu based on feedback from both pupils and parents. The new menu will be starting after half term.

There has been a conscious effort to reduce the amount of processed food on the menu. We understand the importance of offering fresh, whole ingredients that not only taste great but also contribute to the overall well-being of our students. The Pantry are now also offering at least one hot dessert a week. We have spoken to The Pantry to ensure they understand the dietary requirements of all of the Highfield school community. Ingredients to products need to be clear so parents and children can make informed decisions. We have been reassured that this will now be the case.

To give you a firsthand experience of the changes that have been implemented, The Pantry would like to invite you to taster sessions at the upcoming parents' evening later this term. This will provide an opportunity for you to sample some of the dishes from The Pantry's Menu and speak to their staff.

We believe that these changes will have a positive impact on the overall dining experience at Highfield School. By listening to the voices of our pupils and parents, we hope to create an environment where healthy eating is both enjoyable and sustainable.

The vast majority of our pupils have school dinners, and we hope these changes will persuade more to do so.

Thank you for your attention, and we hope you are able to come to the taster sessions.

David Wilson  
Headteacher

## **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.

<b>Jan 2024</b>	
<b>ATTENDANCE</b>	
<b>Form</b>	<b>%</b>
1B	96.7%
1M	94.3%
1W	92.7%
2BD	95.5%
2M	95.2%
2S	95.7%
3J	95.7%
3L	96.1%
3P	93.3%
4AC	94.8%
4C	95.3%
4GF	98.5%
5C	96.9%
5M	94.9%
5P	91.5%
6A	93.2%
6C	94.1%
6P	92.5%
RF	95.0%
RJ	91.9%
RL	94.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>94.6%</b>

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.

<b>TIME ABSENT FROM SCHOOL</b>	<b>ATTENDANCE</b>
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.

<b><u>Lateness = Lost Learning</u></b> <b>(figures below are calculated over a school year)</b>	
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.**



<b>February 2024</b>	<b>UPCOMING EVENTS AT HIGHFIELD</b>
Friday 2nd February	Class 3L Assembly
	Maths Workshop for EYFS parents 2.30pm
	FOH Movie Night in the hall afterschool
Monday 5th February	Bikeability Week
	Year 3 Fossil Workshop in the hall
Friday 9th February	Class 3P Assembly
Monday 12th - Friday 16th February	Half Term
Monday 19th February	School re-opens
Wednesday 21st February	Year 5 Midsummer Night's Dream Workshop in the hall
Tuesday 27th February	Class 2BD Woodcroft Visit