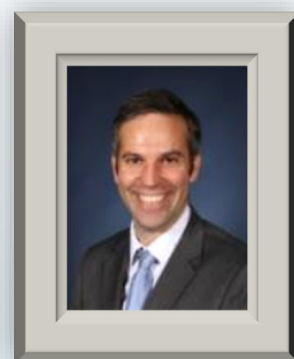


Highfield Primary School

NEWSLETTER December 2024



Message from Headteacher

As we end the term, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. The month of December has been filled with Christmas events. Last week our Reception children performed their Nativity plays and the Nursery children had their Christmas concert. It was such a joy to see the children's excitement and enthusiasm and I know they have loved performing in front of their siblings and parents/carers. I know all the children have also been enjoying their Christmas parties and have even had a visit from Santa (thank you Friends of Highfield).

At the end of last month we had the Christmas light switch on, organised by the Friends of Highfield. As well as the lights being switched on, our choir performed Christmas carols and there were various stalls selling food, drinks and gifts. I am sure everyone who attended will agree it was a thoroughly enjoyable event.

On the 13th December we had our Christmas jumper day and the children performed Christmas songs to each other. We were able to raise £474 for the Noah's ark charity who help seriously unwell children and their families.

Our school choir have also been out in the local community. On Sunday 8th December they performed at Winchmore hill Baptist church. Thank you to all the children and families who attended and Ms Willis for organising the event with the church.

Finally thank you for the support that you have given the school over the last year. We know that by working together we achieve the best for our children. We will see you again in the New Year!



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



Headteacher Awards this month:

Week Ending: 06.12.2024

3C: Tianyue

3P: Octavia

3J: Isabella

Week Ending: 13.12.2024

2S: Emir

2BD: Seda

2L: Aren

Attendance Class Awards this month:

Week Ending:

KS1: 2S 98%

KS2: 4NC 98%

Week Ending:

KS1: RF 100%

KS2: 6M 99%



Goodbye Mr MacKay

Mr Mackay will be leaving Highfield at the end of this term and we would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his time at Highfield. He has supported many different children over the years, working across the school. He has built positive relationships with pupils and their families and will be missed. We wish him all the best for the future.





Christmas Jumper Day

On Friday 13th December the children wore their festive jumpers to school to raise money for Noah's Ark Children's Hospice. They had fun making Christmas decorations and singing Christmas songs. Highfield raised £474.00 for Noah's Ark. Thank you for your support in raising money for this excellent charity.

This year's Christmas Jumper Day was made even more exciting with our brilliant Christmas concert. Nursery, Reception, KS1, and KS2 joined together to perform their festive songs.

The children sang beautifully, filling the hall with energy and holiday cheer. It was wonderful to see all year groups coming together to celebrate, showcasing their hard work and talent.

A big well done to everyone involved – what a great way to get into the festive spirit!

Nursery created salt dough tree decorations

Year 1 decorated wooden baubles

Year 4 decorated wooden ornaments and wore their jumpers in style

Year 5 created 3D Christmas trees with painted baubles

Year 6 created snow globes to hang on the tree.



5P Care Home Visit

On Thursday 19th December, 5P visited a local Care Home to spread some festive spirit with the elderly; this was part of our Community Action Plan. As a class, we collected some donations, made Christmas cards and sang a few carols to the residents. 5P and the residents thoroughly enjoyed the visit!

Year 4 Trip Natural History Museum

On Tuesday 3rd December, 4C visited the Natural History Museum. We explored the different areas of the museum for fun, including the dinosaurs and the mammals. Most importantly, we had the opportunity to take part in a workshop all about 'Volcanoes and Earthquakes.' The children were amazed at the different experiments showing the cause and effects of these natural disasters.



Year 5 GeoBus Workshops

In December, Year 5 took part in two interactive workshops delivered by GeoBus.

Workshop 1 - Planets

During this workshop, the children recapped their knowledge of the Solar System and learnt some great new facts about the Planets. They also had the opportunity to wear 3D glasses and analyse some images taken from space.

Workshop 2 - The Arctic and Climate Change

During this workshop, the children recapped their knowledge of the different climates and learnt some great new facts about the Arctic. They also had the opportunity to wear 3D glasses and analyse some images taken in the Arctic.



Boxing In Year 6

Year 6 have been taking part in exciting weekly boxing sessions with the amazing Coach Carl, who is part of the Ignite Foundation! These sessions have quickly become a highlight of their week, offering a fantastic opportunity for our pupils to develop new skills, build confidence, and stay active. Under Coach Carl's expert guidance, the children have been learning the basics of boxing, including proper footwork, coordination, and focus. More than just a physical workout, these sessions are helping Year 6 improve their discipline, teamwork, and determination—all valuable skills they can carry with them into the future. The energy in the room is contagious as the pupils work hard, cheer each other on, and show off their impressive progress.

A big thank you to Coach Carl for his hard work and encouragement each week and for Terry Mordecai for providing this fantastic opportunity. Keep up the great work Year 6—you're all champions in the making!

Loai- 'Over the weeks I have got better and better. I know how to jab, hook and uppercut'.

Berkin- 'I enjoy the boxing sessions because I get to spend time with my friends and am trained by a professional boxer'.



Netball match

On Tuesday 10th December Highfield Netball team took part in a friendly against Churchfield.

Highfield had two teams, the purple and blue team.

The Purple team won their first match 11-0 and drew their second match 3-3. The Blue team won both their matches winning 8-0 and 7-0. Well done to Sena, Harriet, Adam, Logan, Paloma, Ayla, Isla, Freddie, Anna Maria, Faris, Zara and Maliq!!



Nursery Christmas Concert

AM Nursery and PM Nursery both performed some Christmas songs to their families this week. The children were all amazing – they confidently sang to a very large audience that filled our Nursery classroom. At the end, the families were treated to some delicious mince pies and Christmas cupcakes that the children had made. We are very proud of all of the children for their first performance at Highfield Primary School.



Reception Church Trip

Reception were really lucky to visit Holy Trinity Church in Winchmore Hill on Thursday 5th December 2024. They had the opportunity to sit in the pews of the church and listened to a talk by Father Simon. He told them all about the Christian celebration of Christmas and what happens at this time of year. Reception then had the opportunity to sing some of their Nativity songs to Father Simon and they were lucky enough to hear Father Simon playing some Christmas carols on the church organ.



'Christmas Tales from The Shed'

On Monday 16th December Nursery, Reception, Dali and Berry watched a performance by the Chickenshed theatre company. The children enjoyed joining in with lots of dancing and singing. They learnt lots of actions and even learnt some British sign language. They met lots of characters. We even got to meet Santa and a lion and gave them cuddles and high fives! The performers were super impressed with Highfield School and thought that the children were brilliant!



Reception Nativity

Reception performed 3 amazing class Nativity's last week. The children were so excited to perform to their parents and carers and did so with such confidence it was great to see. The performance was brought to life by all of the children singing the many songs that they had learnt, even performing 'We wish you a merry Christmas' with Makaton! The children all looked fantastic in their costumes and worked very hard to learn their lines. A fantastic time was had by all! Well done Reception!

Class RB



Class RF



Class RJ




Year 2 Great Fire of London

Year 2 have been learning about the Great Fire of London as part of their learning in History. The children were set a homework task to make a Tudor house. We then recreated the streets of London in our own playground. We made sure the houses were placed closely together to create the narrow streets and then we set the houses on fire to create a hands-on learning experience. The children sang London's Burning as they watched how quickly the houses burned. "This is the best day ever!" Mosar "It quickly turned to ash." Baris



Curriculum Spotlight - Music

This term, children across the school have been immersed in the joy of creating and enjoying music. Through our topic *Get Up, Stand Up*, they have explored how music can be a powerful tool for self-expression and sharing what they believe in.

Choir	Year 4	ARTIS
<p>This term, the Year 1 and 2 choir met every Thursday lunchtime to enjoy vocal games and practice their songs. They worked hard to learn <i>Don't Stop</i> for an online Sing Together event with Enfield Music Services and later prepared Christmas songs for their performances.</p> <p>The choir sang beautifully at the annual Switching on of the Lights and brought joy to the community with a performance at Winchmore Hill Baptist Church. Performing at the church was a highlight for many, with Myah in 1W saying, "Singing on my own was lots of fun!"</p> <p>Well done to all the choir members for their fantastic efforts this term. Next term, it's the turn of Years 5 and 6 - we're excited to hear them sing!</p>	<p>This term, Year 4 students have been busy learning to play the recorder. They've been mastering how to hold the instrument, play notes, and sing together with their specialist music teacher.</p> <p>As a special highlight, the class performed for their parents and carers this month, showcasing everything they've learned. It was a fantastic opportunity to share their progress and musical achievements!</p> 	<p>This term, we have been fortunate to have ARTIS working with us as music specialists. They have been teaching music to Years 2 and 5, engaging the children in singing songs, vocal warm-ups, and creating music using a variety of sounds and instruments. The sessions have been both educational and fun, allowing the students to explore their musical creativity.</p> <p>Maggie in 2L shared that her favourite activity was playing the glockenspiels, while Marina in 2BD enjoyed the vocal warm-ups. Year 5 students also expressed their enthusiasm, with Laila in 5C particularly enjoying the rhythm clapping activities and listening to rock music. The opportunity to learn and play instruments like the glockenspiels has been a highlight for many.</p>

December Curriculum Spotlight

Geography

Year 1

Year 1 have enjoyed learning about maps and how to give directions using a compass. Year 1 explored a range of maps and then, as part of their field work, had the opportunity to create their own map of our school grounds including designing relevant symbols and a key.



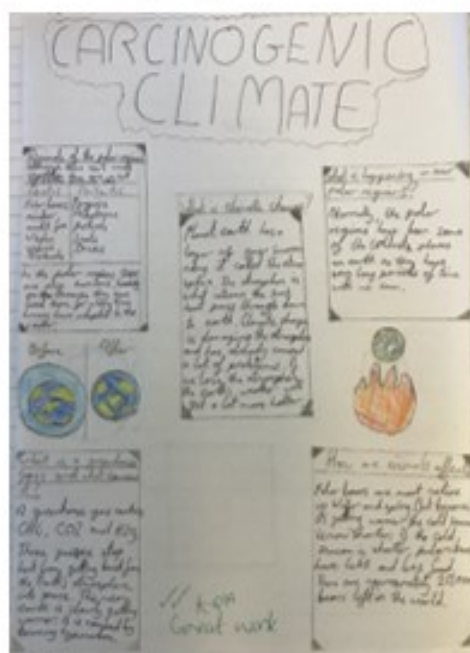
Year 5

Year 5 have been busy carrying out their field work for this year. They thought of their investigation question and then went to the New River to collect data at different points along the river. They have then reviewed this data when they have got back to school and drawn conclusions from it.



Year 6

Year 6 have been learning about polar regions this term and understanding how people live in polar climates. They have learnt about the life of Ernest Shackleton and carried out research about the life of the Nenets. Finally, they have been investigating the effects of our climate in Antarctica.





In year 3 and 4 we have been competing in a Phase 'Battle of the Bands' tournament.

Well done to the following children who were the top scorers in their respective classes.

Year 3		
3C	Sophia	1,088
	Elizabeth	1,045
	Melodi	1,006
3J	Idris	4,957
	Rafe	4,912
	Isabella	4,029
3P	Max	7,376
	Sophie	1,326
	Skylar	1,210

Year 4		
4C	Khalif	4,939
	Lily	4,299
	Matilda	1,530
4GF	Grejsi	5,529
	Willow	875
	Zoe	434
4NC	Oscar	16,274
	Gael	13,345
	Yusuf	7,134

Well done to all the children who contributed to their class score. We were so impressed with how many correct answers you got.

The children achieved a phenomenal total of **169,394** across the whole Phase!

Keep up the great work!

1 st	3J	58,862
2 nd	4NC	57,233
3 rd	4C	19,511
4 th	3P	17,033
5 th	4GF	8,460
6 th	3C	8,295

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.

December 2024	
ATTENDANCE	
Form	%
RB	91.3%
RF	90.7%
RJ	85.7%
1B	95.8%
1L	93.6%
1W	95.3%
2BD	95.2%
2L	94.7%
2S	93.0%
3C	96.3%
3J	96.0%
3P	95.3%
4C	97.3%
4GF	92.7%
4NC	95.3%
5A	96.7%
5C	93.4%
5P	96.0%
6G	95.2%
6M	97.7%
6MB	93.8%
Total	94.29%

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.**

	January 2025
Monday 6th January	First day back at school
Friday 17th January	Multiplications workshop for Year 3 & 4 parents/carers
	Year 5 Swimming starts
Tuesday 21st January	Speak out, Stay safe NSPCC workshop in the hall for Year 2, 5 and 6
Friday 24th January	Class 3P Assembly
Friday 31st January	Class 3C Assembly

