

HIGHFIELD UPDATE Friday July 17th 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am going to start my last newsletter of the year with a goodbye and well done to my Seesaw learners.

Happy Friday, 250 Seesaw Learners!

Well, here it is, the end of another year. It has been a year like no other and I have loved seeing your dedication to learning with Seesaw. Each week, looking at all the things you've been up to has been a joy – you've worked so hard and achieved so much. I've missed seeing all of your faces each day and hearing you all say, "Good morning, Mrs Colley." We have adapted to a new way of learning and you have done incredibly. I cannot wait to see all of my Highfielders back in school in September, with some brand new faces in Reception.

This week, on Seesaw, there's been more great learning. Reception have read the story 'The Hungry Caterpillar' They collected lots of natural resources whilst on a minibeast hunt and made a collage of a caterpillar. They were amazing! Year 1 have been learning to tell the time this week. Time can be a really tricky area but they've done amazingly with 'o' clock and half-hour times. To finish off Year 2's work on castles, they have been learning how to make shields. They wrote their instructions and lots of children made some wonderful shields – they would definitely protect them in battle! In Year 3, there's been a celebration of their year. From TTRS, learning the ukulele and Armley Mills, to chilly Moortown walks, reading novels and using Scratch in computing. They have some fond memories of their year. Year 4 had a science and English task combined! They needed to craft something out of recyclable materials and they were so inventive! Afterwards, they wrote instructions about how to make their creation – I've got a busy summer planned re-creating some of them! Year 5 have been writing letters and, even at the end of the year, the writing has been of an incredibly high standard. Year 6 have been thinking about their memories of Highfield and there have been so many great memories, quite a few of them revolving around bumped heads and falls in the playground!

Special Mentions:

Reception. Jason Fasesin, Aadya Mummaneni and Samuel Fishburn for wonderful effort in their online learning

Year 1. Elodie Grayshon for brilliant maths. Madinah Al Azd for an excellent entry into the talent show

Year 2. All of the children in Year 2 for doing such a fantastic job. Your teachers have loved seeing the videos and hearing your voice messages. You've sent wonderful pictures and messages

Year 3. Ben Robinson, Pranesh Ashok, Jai Vaines and Aaron Wong – for keeping Miss Thackrah company on Seesaw from the very beginning. They have posted every day, without fail, and have gone above and beyond with their home learning. Henry Walton for fantastic piano playing this week – it's been the soundtrack to my week! Daniel Hardy for mastering the use of emojis on Seesaw to let us know EXACTLY how he has found the maths work! Debbie Fasesin, Isaac Ellison and Siyam Ratyal for really high quality maths work

Year 4. Lara Atkin for making a brilliant wind chime for the garden out of recycled cans.

Toby Sung for his amazing model hedgehog made from recyclable rubbish and conifer branches.

Grace Fishburn for a well researched and brilliantly presented biography of Sir David Attenborough

Year 5. Samuel Lucione for working incredibly hard in every subject and for always asking additional questions on topics to further his knowledge. Felix Paynter for taking part on the virtual school games very willingly and sending great photos. He's also done a superb, incredibly detailed mind map on health.

Year 6 – Lily Rhodes (and her sister, Scarlett) for producing amazing and wonderful presentations each week on home school virtual trips to different places around the world. Each week, I've looked forward to finding out which country they've visited.

Emily Cannon for working tremendously hard each week completing her work independently. Emily has found that the work on Seesaw has prepared her for High School. Emily has determination and tried tasks even if she has found them difficult.

Please know that I am incredibly proud of each and every one of you. You've gone above and beyond.

Goodbye to Year 6

This afternoon we say goodbye to our wonderful Year 6 children. They will certainly never forget their last year at primary school. I am incredibly proud of how they have all handled the pandemic, especially with how they have coped with missed events such as their residential, school production and bowling trip. However, one thing that hasn't been in short supply is friendship and laughter. To watch them all over the last few weeks playing together and having fun has been really lovely. In Highfield tradition, they will all be graduating under an enlarged and socially distanced arch (wrapped in bunting) on the school field this afternoon! They leave Highfield with their special leavers' hoodies, beautiful year books and, most importantly, fond and happy memories.

September Update

By now you should all have received your child's detailed year group newsletter. Keep it safe as it will help you to prepare for returning to school in September. The newsletters are all available in the Curriculum, Year Group Information on the school website section. In addition to the curriculum information in your year group newsletter, I am pleased to announce that our peripatetic music teachers will be returning to Highfield on Fridays from 11th September. They will be delivering tuition lessons from year 4 -6 using the large school halls where they will be able to safely social distance. At the moment, the council has informed schools that swimming lessons for year 4 children are unlikely to resume before October. We will keep year 4 parents informed in the autumn term. Concerts and sharing assemblies cannot resume and so we will be continuing to use Microsoft Teams to hold our in school assemblies. After school sporting and other extra-curricular clubs can also not resume until the DfE guidance changes. The children will be doing lots of physical exercise and PE in school but are not allowed to play contact sports yet. We will be taking the children outside in our wonderful outdoor environment (allotment, pond, magic garden, field, trim trail) as much as possible throughout the year so, as the weather turns cold, a warm outdoor coat and shoes will be essential. Children requiring individual speech and language therapy will resume lessons with Mrs. Wheldale under the guidance of the NHS speech therapy service. Children with special needs will receive the provision they need as well as support from the local authority if this currently applies.

I hope to see **every** child from year 1 – 6 arriving in school on **7th September**. I met with all our new Reception parents on Wednesday in a Zoom meeting. To think I had never heard of "Zoom" 5 months ago and now it can be used for parent meetings. We are really looking forward to welcoming our new children during the month of September. Watch out for a Zoom PTA Friends meeting at the end of September. We really need to get together to think about how some of our special events and fund raising activities can look next year and we would welcome lots of new ideas and faces. All our plans for school opening in September are safe, thorough and now fully in place. The school's updated risk assessment has been approved by the Chair of Governors and is posted on the school website. Highfield parents have

done brilliantly well as home educators over the last few months but now it is time for all the children to be back in school with their class teacher every day. None of us know what the autumn and winter will look like in terms of a second wave, but Highfield is ready to move forward. We are prepared, should we have to take a step backwards, if there was to be a local or national lockdown. I have kept all my plans from the lockdown in March, April and May and the partial school opening in June and July. Hopefully we won't have to use them again. Every day in school counts, so please send your child back to us on 7th September.

In the meantime, I hope you and your families stay safe and well over the summer holiday period. Please take time to relax with your children and enjoy the simple things in life. I will repeat what I said in one of my first letters to you back in March this year,

"Just remember that your priority at the moment is to keep your children safe and happy. Don't feel guilty.... Ask yourself, have I kept my child safe today? Is my child happy today and not scared? What will my child remember about "lockdown" in twenty years' time? What do I want my child to remember about "lock down" in twenty years' time?"

I know I'll remember:

Rainbows, rainbows and more rainbows

Colourful bubbles (red, blue, green, yellow, sapphire, gold, crimson, scarlet, indigo, violet, orange, purple, pink, silver, bronze and platinum)

Fabulous pictures on "Seesaw" of your home learning activities

Happy, smiling children

Absolutely amazing staff and incredibly supportive parents.

As the front page of our website says...

Highfield Primary... We are more than just a School

See you all on September 7th

Julie Colley