

Dear Parents,

As we come towards the end of a winter term which has been full of brilliant work I am really pleased at how many of the activities, that I know we as parents really value, have been able to go ahead. As so often, the highlight has been a trip to Robin Hood's Bay and we are hopeful that the trip to Marrick for Year 6 will go ahead later in the year.

Competitive sport is back underway with football matches having been played and netball fixtures planned for after Christmas. We have been able to have assemblies and concerts including the lovely orchestra and choir concert last week.

The really important news is that the wonderful Mrs Woodward is leaving Highfield at Christmas. She has made a brilliant contribution to the school as a teacher, a deputy head, an assistant head, assessment lead and science subject leader. She has been at Highfield for 22 years and is planning to move to North Yorkshire for some new adventures. There will be a special assembly outdoors on 8<sup>th</sup> December at 3pm. All parents whose children have been taught by Mrs Woodward are welcome to attend. She leaves with the thanks of all the governors.

Mrs Woodward will have been really proud of our recent two day self evaluation with the Red Kite Alliance. Please have a look at what they thought of our school on the website (in the "about our school" section).

I would also like to thank the Friends of Highfield for a great quiz and an innovative virtual fair. It's also brilliant to see some new faces in with the usual suspects. A particular well done to our reception parents.

We are also pleased to add Fatima Bhula to the governing body. It's a testament to the school that parents of former pupils are keen to ensure that another generation of children get the same schooling their children had.

Finally, before wishing you a merry Christmas I would like to highlight that many of our staff have worked through their holidays at various stages in the pandemic and are entitled to days off in lieu. We are focusing on well being for children and staff as one of our priorities and in light of this I have asked Mrs Colley to take the time she is owed which she will do at the end of term. Mr Feeley will be acting headteacher for the week commencing the 13<sup>th</sup> December and Mrs McVeigh will be acting deputy head.

Can I thank Highfield's teaching and non-teaching staff for all their hard work.

I hope you all have a good Christmas and New Year and that 2022 is kind to us all.

Oliver Thorne

Chair of Governors.