

HIGHFIELD UPDATE Friday 30th April



As you can see from the photos above we have had a lovely week at Highfield and it makes such a difference when the weather is nice and we can use all of our outdoor areas. You may have noticed that the trim trail area has been cordoned off. This is because some of the equipment is now getting quite old and following a safety inspection we have decided to replace it all. The new trim trail area will be amazing and the ground material will enable us to use it all year round. It will be a real enhancement to our active play space for the children. We are planning for the works to be carried out in the summer holidays.

In our staffing news we have one of our longest serving members of staff retiring in July. Mrs. Wheldale has been a nursery nurse at Highfield for over 24 years and must have supported thousands of children. For the last few years she has delivered speech and language programs and ensured that children with health needs have plans in place. Jane is such a professional and caring member of the team and we will miss her. Mrs. Calvert, our learning mentor, will be taking over Mrs. Wheldale's medical role and her speech and language work will also be delivered by another member of the staff team. We also are pleased to announce that Mrs. Flynn will be going on maternity leave in the summer and we wish her well. Last week I interviewed for two new teachers to join our staff team from September. Miss O'Malley and Miss Overduin were the two successful candidates. They are both currently training with the Red Kite SCITT and know Highfield well. Miss O'Malley is currently a student teacher in 4P and Miss Overduin was a student teacher in 3T in the autumn term. Highfield will also be recruiting three new teaching assistants to join us from September to support children with special educational needs. The staffing structure is so far looking really strong for September and as soon as the recruitment process is completed I will share it with you so that you know which class your child will be moving into in the new academic year.

It has been great to spend so much time over the last two weeks doing my "normal" job such as setting the school budget, planning the Marrick residential and interviewing new staff. Our COVID safety measures of course continue and I am awaiting updated guidance which I think may come to schools around the 17th May when we enter the third stage on the road map. For now we won't change any of our safety measures because they are working.

Please continue supporting us by following the rules and guidance and help us continue to keep Highfield children, parents and staff safe.

We can do this!

Julie Colley