

HIGHFIELD UPDATE Friday December 4th 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's been a busy week at Highfield and we are all starting to look forward to our Christmas holidays. On Monday and Tuesday the children enjoyed a fabulous theatre performance by the group "Alive and Kicking". It was wonderful to have live theatre in the school halls. Also this morning we enjoyed listening to our Year 6 orchestra who performed on Teams for the school and also for their families at home. Thank you to the PTA who organised the Christmas card sale in school which has raised over £700. The cards, mugs and tea Towels look great and will be coming home soon.



Governor News

You will have received by now information regarding a new parent governor vacancy at Highfield. Please give me a call if you want to find out a little more about the role and what it entails. We also need a new co opted governor who ideally should not be a parent. If you know anyone in the local community who has some time to give and would like to get involved in the governance of the school please ask them to contact me to discuss the role. Our current co opted governors include a local councillor, a retired head teacher and a retired Leeds City Council employee.

SATs News

At the start of the school year the DfE (Department for Education) asked schools to administer the phonics check to all Year 2 pupils before the end of term. This was the phonics check which they missed at the end of Year 1 due to the lockdown. They all did really well and I am very impressed with how quickly they have caught up on any missed teaching from the summer during lockdown. 90% met the threshold which is an excellent result. Parents will receive a letter with their child's mark next week. The Department for Education announced yesterday that it would be stopping the KS1 SATs in 2021 for all year 2 children. Year 6 children will still be tested in May 2021 in Reading and Maths. Year 1 children will still complete a phonics check in June 2021. At the moment we understand that all the primary tests will return to normal in 2022.



A big thank-you to Mr. James, Thomas and Isabelle's dad, who has donated this amazing hedgehog house (or as Mr. Walsh said "hotel") for the school Magic Garden area.

Swimming update

I am pleased to say that school swimming will be resuming across the city in January. This means our Year 4 children will be able to have a term of swimming lessons each before the summer. 4P will go swimming in the spring term and 4FW in the summer term. The council and leisure centres have put together very detailed risk assessments put measures in place to prevent the transmission of the virus.

COVID update

We are all, I am sure, delighted to hear the news about vaccinations this week. I know that as we journey through the spring of 2021 things will gradually start to return to normal. In school I will be regularly reviewing the DfE guidance as it changes. This week, for example, we have been issued new guidance on singing indoors with the children which is great news. We are all really keen that Marrick can go ahead for the Year 6 children in the summer (the dates are booked and deposit paid) and will begin planning the residential in detail once the DfE changes its guidance, hopefully, before Easter. I am also keen to open up the dining hall for school dinners as soon as it is safe to do so. I will not be rushed into making any changes until it is safe to do so. I believe our plans have worked well so far in keeping the school community safe and I am optimistic that by the summer term we will be enjoying our summer school events the way we usually do.

Please continue to follow all the rules and guidance and thank you for helping me to keep the Highfield children and staff safe.

Julie Colley