

# Highfield Primary School February 2019 Newsletter



Dear Parents and Carers

The Friends are busy organising the Spring Term's fund raising events. These include our annual Quiz Night last Friday which was a great success. Many thanks to Mr. Ashurst who was our quiz master again and created a brilliant atmosphere in the school hall. I would like to thank the Friends for organising the evening .

Last Thursday I was invited to meet with Sean Hartford the National Director of Education at Ofsted. I was one of twenty head teachers selected from schools where our curriculum is considered exemplary. We were participating in the consultation for a new Ofsted framework which, if approved, will come into effect from September 2019. The invitation was recognition for the curriculum we have at Highfield and for the work we do to maintain a strong curriculum whilst at the same time achieving high standards academically. The new Ofsted inspection framework is prioritising the whole curriculum experience for the child and will be challenging schools where the curriculum is narrowed in order to pass tests.

There have been lots of extra curricular sporting events taking place this half term including netball matches, football rugby, cross country and badminton.

## CROSS COUNTRY SUCCESS

Wednesday 6th February saw our cross country runners take on the very best in the whole of Leeds at Temple Newsam. We're delighted to say that our Year six girls team and Peggy Graham in Year five have qualified for the West Yorkshire cross country event on Wednesday 6th March. Manu Turner-Fielder has also qualified as an individual. A special mention to Annie Coldwell who finished 5th out of 250 in her race, qualifying for the West Yorkshire finals for the third successive year. Well done to all of our runners for competing in this challenging event and representing Highfield so well.



## YEAR 5 IN THE MORAN CUP

Friday the 8th February saw our Year five team take on Scholes Primary away from home in the Moran Cup competition. Despite trailing two nil at half time, the team rallied and worked hard to come back and win 3-2! This was a terrific spirited performance which saw goals from Arav ( a header from a lovely corner taken by Elliott, and Dan ( a lovely shot that just trickled in the corner of the goal). Well done for a great team performance – we're all looking forward to the next round!

School will close for the half term holiday on Thursday 14th February. On Friday 15th February the teachers will be spending the training day reviewing individual children's progress and meeting with both me and Mr Feeley. As well as academic progress and attainment we will be reviewing your child's attendance. Highfield is a member of the Roundhay, Alwoodley and Moortown Cluster of schools who all share the same attendance policy. The policy has been recently reviewed and approved by the governing body. It is available for you to read on the

Children's attendance is presented as a percentage figure, but it is very helpful to equate this to the number of days off: Anything less than 90% attendance is classed as "Persistent Absenteeism" by the Department of Education. Our school attendance figure currently stands at 97.4 % which is very good. If your child's attendance falls below 90% during the school year I will contact you to arrange a meeting to discuss how you can ensure it improves.

<b>98% = fewer than four days absent in a school year</b>
<b>95% = fewer than ten days absent in one school year</b>
<b>90% = 4 weeks absent in one school year (equates to a ½ day each week)</b>
<b>85% = 5.5 weeks absent in one school year (approaching a whole half-term in the school year)</b>
<b>80% = 7.5 weeks absent in one school year (equates to one day each week or a whole half-term)</b>

You may have noticed we have replaced the school gates at The Sandringham Green entrance. The new gates can be locked and unlocked remotely by the school office. This means that they cannot be left or pegged open by visitors which was causing a problem. Parking around Sandringham Green and The Belvederes continues to be a problem, at best a nuisance for residents and parents and at worse a safety issue. Please watch out for our local community police officer whom I have asked to patrol more frequently around the neighbourhood at home time and in the mornings. I have heard reports recently of cars mounting the pavements near Mrs Chowdri's crossing. I never want to have to write to you about a child being injured around school so please drive and park safely and remember the no parking lines are there for a reason.

Our 60th Birthday Celebrations are well underway. Charis Hughs, a sculptor who works with steel, will be meeting the children on 11th March and visiting them in their classrooms to talk about the Highfield birthday sculpture. We are hoping to create a beautiful steel globe filled with motifs representing the children's Highfield experience. The sculpture will be unveiled on 24th May at our 60th birthday afternoon tea party. We will be asking for donations of cakes for the party. On the 24th May Baldish, our cook, will be making sandwiches for the children for their lunch, as part of the tea party afternoon.

Please continue to check the school website for dates and other information. General dates are published in the Calendar section. All assembly and concert dates for the year can be found in the Assembly section under Calendars. Year group newsletters with dates can be found in the Curriculum section under Year Group Information. This year the Easter weekend falls outside the Leeds Easter fortnight holiday (Leeds sets this holiday for the first two weeks in April every year). Our Easter Assembly where we judge the Easter Egg competition will therefore be held on Thursday April 18th. Easter weekend will be Friday 19th to Monday 22nd April. Parents evenings next half term are on Wednesday 27th and Thursday 28th March. The booking window opens on 4th March for 4FW (Mrs Fritz will be meeting parents with Mrs Woodward on the afternoon and evening of March 27th) and on 11th March for all other classes.

Julie Colley

