

Highfield Primary School October 2018 Newsletter



Dear Parents and Carers

I hope your children have been settling well into their new classes and enjoying their new year group's curriculum.

You will be able to come into school to see your child at work in their new classroom on Thursday 11th October at 9.15 a.m. This is also an opportunity to have a look at our new library which is upstairs in between the Year 5 classes. You will be able to meet with your child's class teacher and view your child's school books at parents' evenings on 24th and 25th October. The online booking system opens on the 6th October.

Last week our Year 4 children had a wonderful time on their residential visit to Robin Hood's Bay. Many thanks to all the staff involved in ensuring the trip was a success. I have received lots of thank you notes from parents who clearly appreciate the dedication of the staff who partake in such residential experiences with the children.

Our new Reception children have all settled in really well in their classes and are enjoying their first term at Highfield. Reception parents are invited to a phonic reading presentation in the school hall on Tuesday 16th October at 4.30 p.m.

On Monday October 8th we will be collecting food tins and packets as part of our harvest celebrations. The Moortown food bank which supports needy members of our local community will be collecting the donations that morning. Our Harvest Assembly will be led by our Year 2 children on Wednesday 10th October at 3 p.m. Year 2 parents are welcome to watch the children's presentation.

Staffing and Governor News

Our first governing body meeting was held on September 25th and Ashutosh Paul was re-elected as Chair. This will be Ash's third year leading the Highfield governing body and I am delighted he has decided to continue in such an important role. Margaret Maiden was re-elected as Vice Chair. Lisa Henry is chairing the Teaching, Learning and Pupil Support Committee and Steve Binns is chairing the Resources Committee. The governors have their own section on the school website. You can see who they all are on the "Who's Who?" section and read their latest blogs and newsletters too. I am also hopeful that we will be able to elect two new parent governors to join the governing body. The deadline for nominations is the 12th October.

Helen Calvert our new, Learning Mentor, has settled into life at Highfield really well. She is already offering additional mentoring support to children in school and has met with several families. Jane Denton our school business manager has decided to retire in January 2019. Jane was my first recruitment when I joined Highfield. She has worked tirelessly since then to ensure the school has been able to develop and grow despite an ever tightening budget. Jane played a key role in the expansion programme and all the building works that resulted in our number growing from 300 students in 2009 to 450 now. We are recruiting a new Business Manager who will join the team in January 2019.

The Friends organised a tea and coffee morning last Friday for our new Reception parents. It was lovely to meet you all and find out a little more about you and your children. I am hoping to hear from The Friends that they have managed to recruit some new faces to join the PTA. The AGM is on Monday 8th October in the school meeting room at 7.30 p.m. and everyone is welcome.

In July we asked you to fill in a questionnaire to tell us your views on our PE and sports curriculum. Mr Brassil and Mrs Barratt have collated the results which were very positive. It is clear that Highfield parents value our PE provision in school and sporting opportunities given to children as they journey through the school.

Parental Sport and PE Questionnaire Results Total - 102 responses

How well do you feel that PE & physical activity impacts on children's behaviour, emotional well being & academic achievement?

Overwhelming response 98 % stated that they felt it had a big impact on all the above.

Of the responses the following benefits were mentioned:

33 % felt it improved mental health

17 % felt it improved behaviour & concentration levels

14 % felt it improved teamwork

9 % felt it helped lead to a healthy lifestyle later in life

7 % felt it improved self esteem

7 % felt it improved social skills

7 % felt it gave those children who were less academic a chance to feel success and achieve

2) Can you give examples of how school promotes physical activity, sport & health/well being.

58 % could name 3 or more ways in which school promotes physical activity.

40 % could name 4 or more ways in which school promotes physical activity.

22 % could name 5 or more ways in which school promotes physical activity.

Examples given included: fit week, sports day, running track, after school clubs/teams, inter school competitions, external coaches in PE lessons, bike ability, walking bus, outdoor play, active playtimes, use of outdoor space, fun run, celebrating sporting successes in assemblies.

3) Do you value the decision that Highfield have made to offer pupils two hours of PE per week? Overwhelming support for 2 hr PE provision

97% support the decision

2% didn't know we offered it

1 % would like to see more

4)How do you feel about the range of extra curricular sporting opportunities at Highfield?

51 % felt that a wide variety of clubs was offered

12 % wanted more clubs offered to younger Reception & KS1 children

9 % wanted more clubs to be made available

18 % said they didn't know what clubs were available

5 % did not respond

5) How well informed do you feel about the school's sporting experiences & achievements?

71% felt like they were very well informed about the school's sporting experiences and achievements, making references to the website, assemblies, match reports and the children themselves communicating information to their parents.

6) As a result of your child's experiences through PE have they taken part in any sport or club outside school?

53% of children have taken part in a sport/club outside of school as a direct result of PE or sporting experiences gained through school.

References made to cricket, football, cross country, gymnastics as well as children wanting to go running or do yoga with parents as a result of taking part in such activities in school.

Thank you for your responses. Please continue to check the school calendar on the website for dates and events this term.

Julie Colley