



Highfield Primary School

Newsletter Feb 2013



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Stephen Lawrence
EDUCATION STANDARD



Dear Parents and Carers,

We have survived a variety of weather conditions and sickness bugs this half term and at the same time kept our attendance figure at our 96% target.

Travel Survey and parking around school

60% of the survey forms sent out were completed and returned – thank you to everyone who did so. A brief summary of the results are: families who live with a mile of school 72%; between 1-2 miles 20% and over 2 miles 8%.

63% of pupils walk/cycle or scoot to school with 35% travelling by car/car share and 2% using the bus. Our target is to achieve 70% of children walking to school each day.

There were a lot of responses about other options of travel which can be promoted, with the walking bus, school walking week and bike weeks, attracting the most interest. Many comments were made about the speed of cars on the main roads, the pedestrian crossings available and the car parking problems around the school, all of which have been included in the Travel Plan which is submitted to Leeds City Council. There were many suggestions on how we could improve travel to school, some of which have already been explored, and all of which have been incorporated into the Travel Plan survey results. Our mini police officers patrolled the streets around school last month and issued six “Highfield” tickets to parents parking illegally. These included leaving passengers in cars with the engine running and no driver, blocking driveways and obstructing the pavements. The mini police will be back again next term.



MP Fabian Hamilton visited the Year 5 and 6 School Council for a discussion about local issues in our area. You can read more about his visit in our children's newspaper "The Highfielder"

School Dinner Payments: If you asked to make payments for school dinners on line you should have received an access number. This facility will start after half term. Dinner money payments next half term will be £46.80 for all year groups.

Curriculum News: Years 5 and 6 children have been enjoying a new maths programme called “Mathletics”. Year 6 children achieved a position of 42nd in the world and Laurie O'Brien in Year 5 achieved a ranking of 7th in the world! Children access the programme via the school website under the Pupil's Area.

Healthy Schools: We have applied for “Healthy School” status again this year. All the children in school have taken part in a survey and have also suggested ways in which we can keep ourselves even healthier. Watch out for the installation of drinking fountains on the school playground this summer. To try and promote more school sporting clubs, we are working with Ben Heritage from Yorkshire Cricket, who is currently delivering cricket coaching to the Year 5 children and will be starting an after school cricket club in the summer term. Netball and football clubs will be starting again after half term.

The Friends have bought us a new portable music system for indoor and outdoor use. This really helps us when we want to play music outside and particularly when we want to run our lunchtime “Wake up Shake Up” dance activity. We are currently raising funds to buy some new stage lighting for the school hall. The Quiz Night on Friday was great fun. I would like to thank all “The Friends” who helped on the night and Mr. Ashurst, our superb Quiz Master. Tickets will be on sale soon for the pantomime weekend 22nd and 23rd March.

Communication: Please keep checking the **school website** for dates and information. The school diary is updated regularly and you can check when your child has a class assembly by looking on the Notice Board Page. Don't forget to sign up to Parent Mail. This is the fastest and cheapest way of communicating with parents. Our staff will always make themselves available to talk to you if you have a question to ask or a problem to discuss. If you have a concern regarding your child and any other child in school please discuss this with your class teacher rather than approaching other children on the playground.

Volunteers needed every Tuesday afternoon to tidy library and reading room areas around school (Please contact me for details)



DATES UNTIL EASTER

15th February School Training Day – School closed to children

26th Sex and Relationship Education - meeting for Years 5 and 6 parents 6 p.m.

27th Leeds University Science Day in school for Year 3 children

March 4th 5B Malham Cove visit

5th 5F Malham Cove visit

5th Full Governing Body meeting

7th Thwaite Mills visit for Year 1 children (half day visit)

7th World Book Day (children will receive a £1 book token)

11th FRIENDS meeting 7.30 p.m.

12th Year 4 classes to Murton Park "Roman Day"

14th Year 6 classes visit to The Barbara Hepworth Gallery in Wakefield

15th Red Nose Day - pyjamas and/or crazy hair and/or free dress £1

20th Parents Evening (letter to follow)

21st Parents Evening

22nd and 23rd Pantomime weekend - Friday evening and Saturday afternoon (Friends event)

25th Bun Day Monday (Year 3 turn to bring cakes)

27th Year 1 Springtime Concert 9.20 a.m.

28th Year 3 Victorian Concert 9.20 a.m.

28th Easter Assembly and Egg Competition 2.30 p.m. (sorry no room in hall for parents) School beaks up for Easter Holiday

School is closed on Friday 29th March

And finally, I would like to share with you all this letter received from the headmaster of King Jesus School and Orphanage in Ghana.

King Jesus school/orphanage

P.O.box 66

Tepa-Ashanti

The Headmistress

Highfield School

Leeds

Dear Mrs. Colley

Letter of appreciation

You all are a shining star of hope in a vast landscape of illusion and pain, and there you all stand, strong in your love conviction, a mass army of light workers teaching us and all who cross your path; the joy and happiness you have in you.

"No words could capture the emotions that brought the surprise in the lives of hundreds of;; children in the school during the Christmas and after. The orphans and the pupils feel like you have reminded them of hope and how to live, and for that we'll always be grateful for this is an imprint in the heart of all the children. None of them has ever had a parcel and a Christmas like this and this was a Christmas we will not forget. From all the assistance in books and uniforms etc shows you are dependable and someone who always fills in when others can't. we thank you for such a great friendship like this.

We want to also thank all the teachers and staff of Highfield School, Thank you for trying to figure out every day how to manage the needs of so many children in Highfield School and for loving the ones who are hard to love because they make your days so difficult. Most of all, thank you for everything you have done and will continue to do to create a better future. There is no other profession that so directly shapes the world of tomorrow. Thank you so much

All the children are most impressed with the love ,warmth and kindness that your students exhibited towards children in King Jesus school in the letters and boxes

Your sincerely

Enoch Nimoh Mensah

2nd director

King Jesus school/orphanage