



Highfield Primary School



Newsletter

January 2015

Julie Colley Headteacher



Happy New Year

I hope you have all enjoyed a lovely Christmas holiday and enjoyed spending time with your family and friends.

I would like to start the new year off by sharing some of the very positive comments written by our School Improvement Partner Derek Sleightholme. The local authority appoints a consultant to visit schools each year to scrutinise standards. Our adviser Mr Sleightholme is a practising Ofsted inspector.

He spent an afternoon in school at the end of last term analysing our data and monitoring systems. Governors as well as senior teachers attended this meeting.

The local authority have judged our school to be in their outstanding category. Here are a couple of quotes from the report:

“This is a high performing school. No pupil makes less than good progress and for many the rate of improvement over time is out-

standing”.

“There is strong and reliable evidence from a range of data and monitoring sources to justify that Highfield continues to be an outstanding school.”

The governing body all receive a full copy of the report. Our aim of course is to continue our hard work and commitment to all our pupils achieving their full potential.

Staffing and governor news

Our next full governing body meeting will be held on March 3rd. The governing body will be sending out a newsletter soon.

Mrs. McVeigh our assistant head teacher and SENCo is

awaiting a hospital operation and will be absent from school this term. Mrs. Jacqui Straker will be covering her teaching commitment in 2BM on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Mrs Straker is an excellent teacher who has

worked at Highfield in the past, and in fact, did her teacher training with us. Mrs. Straker knows the school and staff very well and will provide the children with an excellent quality of teaching.



Office Reminders

- Before and after school please only use the main entrance door to come into school. If you need to make an appointment to see a member of staff please go to the office

E-safety

Teaching children about e-safety is an important part of our school curriculum. We teach children how to stay safe from a young age. In Year one, for example, children learn how to keep their address private and they learn who can know private information. By Year six as many children will have mobile phones and they are taught how to use them safely.

We also strongly advise children and parents that the use of Facebook, Instagram and other social media are not meant to be used by children under the age of thirteen. This is a very good rule as primary school children do not have the maturity to use these sites. I strongly urge you to review whether your child should be using them.

The Friends

Last term The Friends organised our Christmas parties and Presents For Parents events. This hard work is really appreciated I know by parents and staff alike. The children all have a lovely time and we also raise around £1000 by selling presents for parents. (I hope you liked yours!) Many of you who have attended school assemblies and concerts last term will have seen our wonderful new blinds in the school hall which the money raised this year is paying for.

A message from our Chair of Governors

Remembering Jane White - a fantastic friend of Highfield who gave so much to the school.

I and the rest of the Governors were very sad to hear that Jane passed away on 11th December after a long fight against cancer.

Despite her illness Jane made a fantastic contribution to school life - leading and sup-

porting on many Friends events, actively being involved in the day to day school activities; and a familiar face in the play ground, always happy to chat and catch up.

Jane had two sons - Dominic who left last year and Oliver in Year Five. Both are super boys who, like their mum, contribute a lot to the school and are a real credit to their family.

Jane will leave a lasting mark on Highfield and will be sadly missed. However as a school we feel privileged for the contribution she has made and will always remember her energy, passion, determination and total commitment to her friends, family and Highfield.

Nancy Lester, Chair of Governors

Open Morning Feedback from visiting new parents

"The pupils doing the tours were brilliant"

"Very interesting work of a high standard"

"Lovely outdoor space"

*Great art work and lots of different topics"

"Our guides were very helpful, knowledgeable and clearly enjoyed their school. Their pride in the facilities and each other was evident"

"Children well behaved and paying attention to their teachers"

"Children are having their hands on computers from Reception"

"Children focused on their work"

"Excellent the best I've seen so far in four schools locally"

"Nice grounds well kept"

"Happy children"

"The children were a credit to the school"

"Great PTA and great events"

"Classrooms look fab"

"Lovely warm atmosphere"

"Interesting and varied range of subjects displayed on the walls"

"Tidy and well organized classes"

"Amazing outdoor space with lots to do"

"Variety of spaces for different learning"

"Children obviously love the school"

"Fantastic infrastructure and equipment"

"Absolutely love this school! Have seen several and this is by far the nicest"

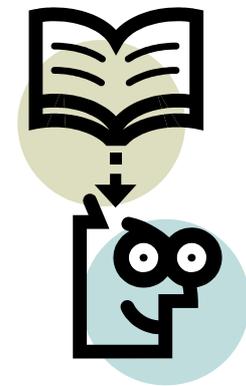
Assessing without levels

You may have heard that the government has removed National Curriculum levels as a means of assessing children's progress in schools. This year only children in Years 2 and 6 will receive level grades in their end of year assessments and school reports. At Highfield we are reviewing our assessment systems this year so that by September 2015 we will be assessing all the children in relation to the new National Curriculum end of key stage descriptors. Mrs. Woodward is leading this work and will be delivering staff training as well as governor training this term and next. Our aim is to produce a booklet for parents in May explaining the new system for assessing and

reporting attainment and progress. We will be sending this booklet out to all parents in May and this will help you understand what the different grades and statements mean on your child's summer school report. In March at our parents evenings teachers will use the following statements

- Well Below
- Below
- Within
- Secure
- Beyond

to help you understand how your child is performing in the new curriculum as measured against their year group expectations. The old levels will only



be used this year in Years 2 and 6 as these children will still be assessed according to the old National Curriculum levels in May.

Unlocking potential

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Mission Statement

Highfield Primary school lays the foundations for life by offering a rich enjoyable and fulfilling experience for all its pupils. It is characterized by a broad and balanced, creatively delivered curriculum facilitated by high standards in literacy, numeracy and computing. We aim to prepare our children to be citizens of the future – promoting wellbeing through safe, healthy lifestyles and nurturing respect of self and others. Social, emotional, spiritual and cultural development is a priority, ensuring all children feel valued. We are proud of our inclusive ethos.

We have a firm commitment to enable all our children to succeed as well rounded individuals. This is underpinned by strong relationships with parents and carers and the community enhanced by experiences beyond our immediate environment.

We offer every child the chance to achieve their full potential in a well supported atmosphere that inspires passion for learning and a firm foundation for life – a place where we want to be!

www.highfield-primary.co.uk

Dates for your diary (don't forget to check the website for all class assemblies and trip dates)

Spring first Half Term

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| January 5th | School opens |
| January 14th | 4E and 4H sharing assembly |
| January 21st | 6WH sharing assembly |
| January 28th | RBF sharing assembly |
| January 29th | School Choir singing at The Winter Festival |
| February 4th | 2F sharing assembly |
| February 6th | Quiz Night |
| February 10th | Marrick Year 6 parents meeting in the school hall 6 p.m. |
| February 11th | 6P sharing assembly |
| February 13th | training day |