



Highfield Primary School Newsletter October 2014

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope your children have been settling well into their new classes and enjoying their new lessons.

Curriculum

Our new curriculum plans are now available for you to read on the school website. We are also developing subject areas on the website with links to subject policies and plans. Don't forget – you are invited to come into school to see your child at work in their new classroom on Thursday October 16th at 9.10 a.m.

Last week our Year 4 children had a wonderful time on their residential at Robin Hood's Bay. Many thanks to all the staff involved in ensuring the trip was a success. One of the shopkeepers in Robin Hood's Bay wrote to me to commend the children and teachers;

"The dedication and care, once again, displayed by the teachers is to be thoroughly commended. As ever the children are a sheer delight with impeccable manners and pleasantness."



Most of our Year Six children took part in Bikeability training last week. The instructors commended the children for their excellent behaviour during the course.

Our new Reception children have all settled in really well and are enjoying their first term at Highfield. They had a lovely autumn walk around the school grounds earlier on in the week and have been sorting and counting all their finds! An updated menu for the autumn term (starting after half term) is now available for you to view on the school website.



Our extracurricular clubs have all now started and every child who requested a club has been allocated one. Please advise the school office if your child is not going to be attending their club as we keep registers and expect children to attend their clubs if they are present in school. Sometimes clubs have to be cancelled when staff are absent. We will notify you using Parentmail and/or text if this happens.

Celebrations



We have been awarded the Makaton Friendly Award. Makaton is a form of sign language which is used by some of our children in school. We are all learning some Makaton signs and can even sing songs in assembly using Makaton.

I am also very proud to announce that Highfield has been selected by parliament to design a flag to represent the East North East constituency of Leeds. The flag will be used as part of two historic anniversaries taking place next year, namely the 800th year of the sealing of the Magna Carta and the 750th anniversary of the Simon de Montford Parliament, which was when elected representatives came together in parliament for the first time. We will be designing lots of flags after half term and one of the flag designs will be sent to London. Our school was chosen in recognition for the excellent school council work we have been doing, particularly our World Wildlife Fund project last year.

Staffing and Governor News

We held our first governing body meeting two weeks ago and Nancy Lester was re-elected as Chair with Margaret Maiden being re-elected as Vice Chair. This year the governing body has to



reconstitute which will hopefully enable us to co-opt/elect some new governors over the coming weeks. The governing body will be producing their first newsletter of the year very soon with lots more information about their roles and work in school.

I am very happy to announce that Mrs Janet Lewis will be teaching Mrs Wragg's class whilst she is on her maternity leave. Mrs Lewis is well known to us at Highfield and did a marvellous job teaching in year 4 when Mrs Homan was on her maternity leave. Mrs Lewis will be joining us in January.

Harvest Festival will take place on Wednesday October 15th. Any donations of tinned food will be taken to the Moortown food bank which supports needy members of our local community. Reverend Sharon Kaye from St John's Church will be talking to the children about Harvest on Monday morning.

Reminders You may have noticed a school banner on the main fence reminding parents to park and drive safely when dropping off and picking up their children. Sandringham Green has very little parking and my advice to parents is not to attempt trying to find a parking space but to park and then walk children safely to school. Please do not block drives as people need to get to work as well as gain access to their homes.

Please remember that if you are sending cash into school, it must be in a named envelope. Also cheques for trips should be payable to Highfield Primary School.

School Council. Our new school council have had their second meeting of the term and have decided to support Leeds Children's Hospital this year. Half our Bun Day money will go to the hospital and half will be spent by The School Council on extra equipment for the playground. Our first Bun Day Monday is on Monday October 20th. Year 6 children will be asked to bring in the buns which will be sold for 50p. If your child has an allergy please provide them with their own bun on that day.

Bloggers

Our bloggers this year are Sam Rudd, Finlay Chambers and Kshitij Kapote. They will be updating the school blog on the website every other Friday. Why not log on and have a look at what they have to say?

The Friends Our AGM was very well attended on Monday evening and it was great to hear that a good number of new parents have joined the committee. This year our chair is Kate Coldwell, our secretary is Dan Tatham and our secretary is Mel Stonnard. The Friends have agreed to raise money this year for new curtains or blinds for the school hall and classrooms as well as an additional bicycle/scooter shelter. You can read all about the Friends and see their latest newsletter on their section of the school website. The iPads bought for us by the Friends last year are now in school and being used by the children in all sorts of lessons. In these photos you can see the children using them for research in their literacy lesson.



Open Morning for 2015 parents Please tell friends or relatives who have children starting school next September that our open morning will be Thursday 20th November. Just drop in any time between 9.30 – 11.30 a.m.