

Highfield Primary School January 2016 Newsletter



Dear Parents and Carers

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

We have bought some new additional reading scheme books and the children in Reception and Key Stage 1 will soon be bringing them home to practice their reading. Encouraging your child to enjoy reading is one of the most important ways you can support your child's love of learning. This is not always easy in a world filled with technology but I believe as parents we have to be responsible and firm when it comes to limiting the time our children spend on their "screens".

We are pleased to see Mrs Homan back in school following her maternity leave. She looked very happy when I visited her maths set last week and she told me the children had been absolutely marvellous. Year 6 SATs week begins on 9th May this year and so it is essential that all the children attend school every day and make every lesson count if they are to achieve their best in the exams. Attendance in school is very good and currently just over 97%. I am pleased that so many of you do not take your child out of school in term time and support our attendance policy. Children who have no serious medical issues and whose attendance remains persistently below 90% are classed as persistent absentees and may face legal proceedings. Mrs Bailey our learning mentor has written to all the parents whose children fall into this category.

On 18th January the advert for our new Deputy Head Teacher will be posted in the Times Educational Supplement and the Leeds e-teach website. Interviews will be held in March and the successful candidate will commence their position in September.

The new hall extension work is moving ahead well and this week some ground surveys are taking place at the back of the school hall. The building work will begin in May and will run through the summer holidays ready for us to use in September when school opens. There will be considerable building works taking place in The May half term holidays and summer holidays. Due to the location of the building work site and the school club building, and amount of vehicles accessing the school during these holiday periods, the governors have decided it will not be safe to accommodate the "Best Childcare" holiday club during these two holidays. I know Pete Best has informed his parents and is trying to find an alternative venue for his holiday provision in May and August.

The Great British Bird Watch takes place this month and The School Council are keen for us to be involved. This half term we will be helping the RSPB in its annual bird count. The children will be identifying, counting and submitting their data to the RSPB before half term, If you have any bird feed which **does not contain nuts** and would like to donate it to school we would be very grateful.

We have set our training days for next academic year 2016-2017. They are: Monday 5th September 2016, Tuesday 3rd January 2017, Monday 24th July 2017, Tuesday 25th July 2017 and Wednesday 26th July 2017.

This years four remaining training days are: Friday 12th February 2016, Monday 25th July 2016, Tuesday 26th July 2016 and Wednesday 27th July 2016. Please continue to check the school diary on the website for all our dates and events.

Julie Colley



Keeping our children safe is very important at Highfield and this term the Road Safety team from Leeds City Council will be delivering lessons to children from Reception to Year 6. Last Wednesday one of the team, Anne, delivered an excellent road safety assembly to the whole school. The children listened very well. We were shocked to hear that over thirty children every day are involved in traffic accidents in the UK. The children were reminded of good road safety rules and how to be safe when using scooters or pelican crossings. Anne explained how even with pelican crossings we have to be responsible for our own safety by thinking, looking and listening before deciding to cross the road. Anne reminded the children that it is illegal to ride scooters on the roads. She also commented on some of the poor adult driving and parking in the area, such as blocking pavements, parking on the Sandringham Green grass and parking across the yellow school zig zag lines.

I receive e-mails from angry residents regularly (one this morning in fact) about this matter and I am once again politely asking parents to park safely and considerately in the school local area.