

# Highfield Newsletter

## July 2016

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Dear Parents /Carers,

As we approach the end of another school year I can reflect on yet another wonderful year with so many positive events and achievements. These are far too numerous to mention them all and I am sure every child and adult will have their own special memory. One of mine has to be standing on the playground last Saturday and watching the hundreds of Highfielders (grown ups and children) all enjoying being part of our Summer Fair. It was a wonderful day, brilliantly organised by The Friends, and the sun shone too! We took over £6000 and it looks like our profit for school will be £5000. This money will pay for all the IT works in the new school hall as well as the new smart boards which are being installed in some of the classrooms.

### School Hall update

The hall extension project is well underway and the expected completion date is now 30<sup>th</sup> September. You will all be able to see our new hall when you visit school for our open Morning on October 11<sup>th</sup>. We are also having the whole of the ground floor corridors and classrooms painted over the summer holidays. The school will look very fresh and inviting when school opens on September 6<sup>th</sup>.

### Governors' Learning Walk

On Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> July, the governors visited all the classrooms in school and looked at some of the maths and English work the children have done this year. They were looking in particular at the new expected standard for each year group.

Comments included:

"I was amazed by the high level of Maths and English expected from the children across the school."

"I really like the use of check lists helping the children identify what they need to include in their writing."

"The teaching staff are obviously doing a good job."



*The Sporting Year at Highfield by Mr Brassil*

What a year it has been for sport at Highfield!! We have participated in a huge amount of sporting activities this year including:

- Quick Sticks Hockey Festival
- Year 4 and Year 5 Cricket Tournaments– we reached the finals in both of these!
- Girls Football Tournament at Allerton Primary
- Wetherby High Football Tournament
- The Football Olympics– we finished third!
- Year 4 Swimming Gala
- 2 Brownlee Triathlon Events
- The 2016 Olympic Event
- We took part in the North of Leeds Football League– news on our finishing position to follow!

· ***GOING FOR GOLD!!***

- Our commitment to competition across school and into the community means we have now been awarded the Active School Games Gold Mark!

## Lost Property

There is a huge pile of lost property outside the school lift. Please ask your child to have a look if they have lost any items of clothing this term. All the lost property will be sent to charity if it is not claimed by Friday.

## Staffing and Governor News

After three very successful years, Nancy Lester has stepped down from her position as Chair of Highfield's governing body. I am pleased to say she will be continuing to serve as a co-opted member. Nancy has been an excellent chair. She is incredibly passionate about Highfield and has supported me in so many areas including the hall extension, the bulge cohort, staffing and appointments, budget setting, introducing ukulele class teaching and expanding our sporting provision. Ashutosh Paul who has a daughter Nirmala in Year 1 has been elected as our new Chairperson. Ash has been a member of our governing body for the last year and has already been very actively involved in areas such as budget setting and the recruitment of Mr Feeley.

Mr Feeley, Mr Gath and Miss Das all had a very positive induction day in school on Monday. All the children have now seen their new classrooms and met their new teachers.

We are saying goodbye to four very popular members of staff this year. Mrs Taylor, Mr Beresford, Miss Ryder and Miss Steggles. Miss Ryder and Miss Steggles have only been with us a short time but we thank them for their energy and hard work. They have brought some super new ideas into the school including all our science and space work. Mr Beresford trained with us five years ago and has been a super teacher and a very popular member of the team. I will miss his sense of humour and wish him well in his literary career. Mrs Taylor has been a member of the team for many years. She has supported so many children in their learning. I will miss her wisdom and resilience and my Origami gift every Wednesday afternoon!

We have had some very sad news this week. Mrs Lewis's husband, who has been ill for some time, has sadly died. I have passed on all our love and thoughts to her and her family at this very sad time.

## And finally, goodbye to Year 6

This cohort is a very special group of children. We all started our journey at Highfield on the same day seven years ago. I remember standing on the playground feeling nervous, with my new starter badge pinned to my dress. I remember meeting you all and telling your parents that in seven years I would be saying goodbye to you at the leavers' assembly! I have seen you grow and watched you learn. I am very proud of you and I know you will continue to be brilliant students in all your different high schools. I also know you will never forget Highfield and we look forward to hearing about all your successes in years to come.

Have a wonderful summer holiday everyone

Julie Colley

