



Highfield



Primary School



Newsletter

February 2015

Julie Colley Headteacher



## Term Time Absences

Most children at Highfield have excellent attendance which, of course, is key if they are to make great progress in their learning. Our overall school attendance figure is also very good and is currently 97%. As you are all aware, headteachers may only authorise absences in term time if there are exceptional circumstances. The National Association for Headteachers defines exceptional circumstances as being "Rare, significant, unavoidable and short." The Alwoodley schools continue to work together sharing an attendance policy and I appreciate your support, es-

pecially with regard to not taking your children out of school for holidays in term time.

To support you in booking holidays and making plans I have set our training days for the 2015 –16 academic year. They are:

**Monday 2nd November 2015**

**Friday 13th February 2016**

**Monday 25th July 2016**

**Tuesday 26th July 2016**

**Wednesday 27th July 2016**

**The Year 6 Netball Team are looking very smart in their new kits and have taken part in their first tournament of the year at Allerton High**



## Staffing and governor news

Our next full governing body meeting will be held on March 3rd.

Congratulations to Mrs. Homan who is expecting her second child in the summer and will be commencing her maternity leave at Easter. I am pleased to say that Mrs. Hollick, who is a fully qualified teacher currently working in the Year 6 team with Ms Woodward, Mr. Potter and Mrs.

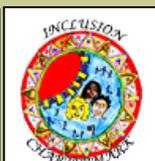
Homan, will be covering Mrs. Homan's teaching commitment on Wednesday afternoons, Thursdays and Fridays. Mrs. Hollick already knows the Year 6 curriculum and children very well.

Three of our long serving members of staff are retiring this year. Mrs. Duce who has worked in school for twenty five years is retiring at

Easter and Mrs. Walsh who has worked at Highfield for twenty eight years and Mrs Slupeck who has worked at Highfield for twenty one years both leave us in the summer. These ladies are part of the very fabric of Highfield and we will be very sad to say goodbye to them.



January fun in the snow



## Office Reminders

The governors have agreed to keep the Shadwell and Belvedere entrances open when it is very snowy and icy as closing them could cause more danger by forcing all parents, children and vehicles to use the Sandringham Green entrance. Sandringham Green itself can become very icy and is not always gritted by the council. The Shadwell and Belvedere paths are to be used by parents at their own discretion as school can only realistically clear and grit paths from the playground gates to the school building and all its entrances.

**Stephen Lawrence**  
EDUCATION STANDARD

## Curriculum: a word about RE and school trips

### RE

Highfield prides itself on the work it does teaching children about other people's religions. We believe that the more people understand about each other the better society will be. In Key Stage 2 children visit local churches including St Johns and Moor-town Baptist Church. They also have opportunities to visit a Hindu Temple, a Sikh Gurdwara, a Synagogue and a Mosque. I feel proud that our young people will leave Highfield with useful knowledge about the main religions in our society and their similarities and differences.

### The Friends

We are looking forward to the Quiz Night this Friday and I am secretly hoping the teachers will beat the parents this year!

Date for the diary:

This year's Pantomime "Old King Cole and the Gingerbread Boy" has been arranged for the weekend of 20th and 21st March (letter from the PTA to follow)



### Educational Visits

I would like to thank you for your continued support of our educational trip programme. The trips the children go on really do add to our outstanding curriculum and our staff and governors are committed to ensuring they remain part of it.



### Highfield Star Gazers

Miss Ryder is running a Star Gazing workshop for children and parents in Year 5 this Thursday from 4.45 until 6 p.m. We are hoping for a clear evening so that we can see some star constellation in the Highfield sky. Miss Ryder is a keen star gazer and we hope this may become an annual event in school.



## “Highfield is .....

This half term we have had a competition for all the classes to write a poem about Highfield. The winning three poems will be made into school mugs which we will be selling at the Summer Fair. Local artist and designer David Cole produces these mugs and you may remember he visited the Year 4 children in November after they used his idea and wrote their own Robin Hood’s Bay poems.



We are collecting  
Sainsbury’s vouchers for  
school PE equipment  
Please put your vouchers  
in the box outside the  
school hall

## Parking and safety around school

Dear Parent / Guardian,

It has become apparent that some people are parking inconsiderately on school zig-zags, yellow lines, causing obstructions and blocking driveways.

I would ask those dropping or picking children up from school to park their vehicles in a safe and appropriate manner. Please park responsibly for the safety of your own children and others.

Local PCSOs will be increasing patrols and taking action where necessary. Fixed Penalty Tickets may be issued to those who continue to park irresponsibly and illegally.

Thank you for your support.

Sgt. Ian Micklethwaite



# 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](http://www.highfield-primary.co.uk)

## Dates for your diary (don't forget to check the website for all class sharing assemblies)

### Spring second half term

Monday 23rd Feb—school opens

Monday 2nd March 5B visit to Malham Cove

Tuesday 3rd March 5R visit to Malham Cove

Tuesday 3rd March - Governing Body meeting

Thursday 5th March World Book Day— story writing competition to be held in school

Wednesday March 11th—Year 6 visit to Hepworth Gallery

Friday 13th March—Red Nose Day (Free dress - wear something red and have crazy hair for £1)

Tuesday 24th March - Year 4 Viking Day visit to Murton Park

Wednesday 25th March and Thursday 26th March—Parents evenings

Tuesday 31st March—Year 1 Spring Time concert

Wednesday 1st April—Year 3 concert "Joseph"

Thursday 2nd April—Easter Assembly 2.30 p.m. School closes for the Easter Holidays