



Highfield Primary School Nov 2013

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Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to our November newsletter in which I like to keep everyone updated as to recent school news and development.

Staffing News

Congratulations to Mrs Liz Bowker and her husband Phil on the birth of their baby boy Henry.

Mrs Clarkson who teaches in year 3 on a Friday will be leaving us at Christmas due to family commitments. 3BC will be taught by Mrs Jane Fforde on Fridays from January until the summer. Mrs Fforde is well known to Highfield and has taught in Year One and Year 6 in the past.

Mrs Storey, one of our teaching assistants, is also leaving us at Christmas. She will remain an active parent and member of The Friends. We wish her well in her new career.

Mrs McVeigh is absent from school at the moment. We wish her a speedy recovery and a full return to good health.

School Curriculum

As you know, the Highfield curriculum is enhanced by the number of trips we take the children on as well as the many workshops and visitors we invite into school. We do not ask you for a contribution towards workshops in school but do rely on your support in contributing to school trips. I also understand that these are pressing times for family budgets. The governors wish to join me in thanking you for your on-going support of our outstanding school curriculum. Without your voluntary financial contributions towards our school visit programme these trips would not be able to go ahead.



Highfield parents and children never fail to impress me with their generosity to those who are not as fortunate. We raised over £500 for children in need a couple of weeks ago as well as sending over 150 shoe boxes to our link

school, The King Jesus Orphanage in Ghana. The School Council decided to support The World Wildlife Fund and have used their Bun Day Monday money to sponsor an endangered animal in each class.

Achievements

Year 4 wowed us all with their super Robin Hood's Bay Concert last week. Their singing and dancing and poetry performances were excellent and greatly received by parents and children alike – Well done!

Five of our pupils have been selected to work as Leeds Young Reporters, reporting on Leeds events such as the turning on of the Christmas Lights and the Rugby World Cup. They are: Dominic White, Rhianna Stebbings, Sophie Poole, James Hills and Jaya McCory. (More news about their work in the next Highfielder)

Highfield has been awarded the Bronze award for its travel plan. Mr Walsh and Mrs Denton will be taking the safety rangers, Laurie O'Brien, Monica Houghton and Deya Panesar to receive the award at The Town Hall in December. As a reward we have been given a new scooter rack and a pantomime performance for the children at school in December.

Highfield has been taking part in lots of sporting competitions this term. These include a netball tournament, a cross country event, several football matches and tournaments and an aqua swimming tournament. We are soon to add a Sporting section to the school website where you can read all about our work to enhance sports and PE in school.

The Friends

Many of you enjoyed the Rock'n'roll Bingo evening earlier this month as well as supporting our raffle. The children enjoyed the Pumpkin Disco and The Friends are now busy planning Christmas parties as well as ensuring we have a special visitor with presents for the children! In times of budget cuts the moneys raised by The Friends becomes more and more essential in supporting and enhancing our facilities for the children. The playground works are due to be completed by Christmas. The children are enjoying the new draughts area and we are looking forward to the new play benches, ball wall and play stage arriving very soon.

Christmas Dates for your diary

December

3rd Year 4 visit to Moortown Baptist Church "Rewind to Christmas workshop"

6th School orchestra and choir Christmas concert 2.30 p.m.

9th Year 3 children to Rossett High School to see "Scrooge"

10th Christmas Dinner for children who have school dinners

11th Year 2 Christmas concert 9.20 a.m.

11th Reception Christmas concert 10.30 a.m.

12th Year 5 Christmas concert 9.20 a.m.

13th Reception and Key Stage 1 Christmas party afternoon – free dress

16th Presents for Parents day (in the studio)

16th Bun Day Monday (Year 5 cake donations)

17th Years 3 and 4 Christmas cinema afternoon – free dress

18th Key Stage 2 Carol service at St John's Church 2 p.m. (parents welcome)

18th Road Safety Christmas Panto for whole school

19th Reception and Key Stage 1 Carol service at St John's church 2 p.m. (parents welcome)

19th Year 6 West Yorkshire Play House evening

20th Years 5 and 6 Christmas cinema afternoon – free dress

School closes for the Christmas holidays and reopens on Monday 6th January

Best wishes

Julie Colley