



Highfield Newsletter



Headteacher's Message

Monday was **Martin Luther King Jr Day** in America. In my assembly we celebrated his life and work and how it aligns with one of our own **British Values: liberty**. A Minister born in 1929 in Atlanta, USA, he stood for **freedom, fairness, injustice** and the **rights of minorities** through **peaceful** change. We listened to a recount of a young girl who was in the crowd for his "**I Have a Dream**" speech calling for the liberty of all Americans. I was so impressed by the responses the children gave and how intently they listened.

I'm sure you have heard in the media about the proposed strike action by the National Education Union (NEU). To keep you informed about the evolving situation and how I am preparing for it, I have put my current position later in this newsletter.

Have a great weekend and thank you for your support.

Mr Feeley

News & Updates

Celebration Assembly

Congratulations and a huge well done to the children in Key Stage 2 who were recognised for their fantastic effort and attitude this week by making it into the **celebration book**. We are all proud of you for setting such a high standard! The children who we are celebrating this week are:

3O: Daisy, Isa, Maari, Siddharth

3T: Hashim, Nerea, Rishith, Safaan

4FN: Alice, Azam, Karby, Myra

4O'M: Caitlin, Charlie, Izzi, William

5E: Jay, Simran, Sofia, Tanvi

5M: Balraj, Domynikas, Remaya, Tiyaag

6G: Amelia, Emily, Harry, Hoorad

6BH: Ben, Florence, Pranesh, Yasmin

Year 4 are an Inspiration!



Yesterday, as part of their RE work, Year 4 were treated to a day learning about inspirational people. Under the guidance of our special visitor, Sonja, they explored these heroes through drama and movement. At the end of the day, each group used drama to present information about their inspirational person to the rest of the year.

A Message from our Marathon Heroine!



This year I will be running the London Marathon, for Macmillan. I am by no means a runner, so this is going to be a huge personal challenge for me. I officially have 14 weeks of hard training left! I have put the link to my Just Giving page below and would really appreciate any sponsorship you can give. I have a target of £2,500 to raise for Macmillan, however if I am able to raise anything over that amount, I will be donating that to The British Heart

Foundation for my Uncle Clive, who sadly passed away on New Year's Day.

I really appreciate all the donations that you can make, and hopefully you will be able to follow my (slow and steady!) progress on the day.

Thank you, Miss Elson

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/amie-elson>

Our Place in the World

Geography is on our School Improvement Plan this year. To help our children understand our place in the world and improve their understanding of location, we have invested in a sequence of display maps. It starts with the world map, then in stages breaks it down all the way to our place in Moortown. Furthermore, it is an opportunity to share our rich heritage at school, finding all the places around in the world our families have links to. It is a fabulous resource to aid learning!



An Amazing Assembly from Year 1B!

1B gave us a wonderful insight into their learning on Wednesday. Number bonds to 10, local walks, writing about a green troll called Trevor and I still have the catchy '5 senses' song whirling around my head! The parental support was greatly appreciated.

Reminders:

- Please no sweets or chocolate in school, including school lunch boxes. We are a healthy school.
- Parents please be considerate of our residents when parking in a morning and do not block drives, park on the green or the yellow zigzags outside school. We are one community, including our local residents who support us.

Dates for your Diary!

- **Mon 23 Jan:** Year 1 local area walk
- **Wed 25 Jan:** 3T Sharing Assembly (parents Welcome 3pm Hall)
- **Wed 01 Feb:** 4FN Sharing Assembly (parents Welcome 3pm Hall) ***STRIKE permitting**
- **Fri 03 Feb:** Quiz Night
- **Fri 03 Feb:** Year 2 Railway Trip

Safeguarding. For child protection concerns you can contact any of our Designated Child Protection Officers: Mr Feeley, Mrs McVeigh and Mrs Calvert. There is some useful information on the LSCB website about online safety with some useful tips for parents: <http://www.leedslscb.org.uk/Parents-Carers-Wider-Family/Keeping-children-safe-online>. If you are worried that a child is at risk of harm please contact Leeds Children's Social Work Services on 0113 222 4403.

Safeguarding Update: 'The Game' on Roblox ⚠️

Recent reports have surfaced of a self-harm 'game' currently being shared through popular gaming platform, Roblox. The Safer Schools online safety team have identified that re-sharing on social media is currently the greatest risk this 'game' poses. The Safeguarding Update on their website discusses this game in more detail and how you can keep the young people in your care safe 🙌

<https://oursaferschools.co.uk/2023/>

Proposed Strike Action update for parents

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you may be aware The NEU (National Education Union) have balloted their members, who have voted in favour of strike action. The planned strike dates are: 1st February 2023, 28th February 2023, 15th March 2023 and 16th March 2023.

I have met with our Chair of Governors and the school NEU representative to discuss the implications and will maintain regular communication with them. I have undertaken a thorough risk assessment to evaluate and plan for potential changes, adhering closely to the recommendations set out in the 1974 Health and Safety at Work Act, as the safety and wellbeing of my staff and pupils will be the overriding factor in what I decide to do on these days.

Membership of a union is a protected characteristic and staff are not obliged to tell the school if they are a member of a union and/or if they intend to strike. This has important implications as classes may need to be closed on the strike day. If a class teacher who is a member of the NEU does strike their class will be closed and we will not be teaching or delivering the National Curriculum on these days. Striking staff cannot be asked to plan or provide work so school will not provide remote education or expect other teachers to undertake cover duties.

As it stands, the school will remain open on 1st February for all children. There may be the need during the day to make arrangements within school which are extraordinary, and I would ask for your patience and understanding. When I have a clearer picture of how the proposed strike action may affect the running of our school, on the dates stated above, I will inform parents.

Many thanks,

Mr Feeley