



# Highfield Newsletter



## Headteacher's Message

**Welcome** back to all the children, parents, carers and members of the Highfield community. It has been a terrific first week back with so many events happening, including tennis coaching from the team at Shadwell tennis club and drama through a visit from Konflux theatre.

I am sure many of you have been following the news regarding Ofsted, a subject I obviously follow closely. Auditing and seeking external verification is a common practice for many professions. Whilst listening to a radio interview, a comment was made regarding schools which have not been inspected for a long period of time. For this reason I thought it was important to communicate with you about how we seek external scrutiny and monitoring in the intervening periods between inspections. This school year we have had specialist teams from the local authority, external headteachers, multi-academy trust headteachers and high school subject leaders visit and audit our work. I actively seek this, not just for verification, but they provide important learning opportunities for all our staff to improve their practice. Only this week we invited the Leeds Safeguarding team in to audit every area of school as part of our continual self-evaluation. Later this term we have employed a health and safety team to audit the buildings and processes.

The safeguarding audit highlighted our curriculum work as being 'exemplary' which is testament to the hard work and dedication our staff have shown in this area. The Highfield curriculum is centred on the personal development of our children. It is designed to give opportunities to experience life in all its diversity and to acquire the personal skills and knowledge which equip them for now and the future. Fostering children's personal, social and emotional development promotes their wellbeing and underpins academic achievement. It is why these areas are woven through our curriculum and not just isolated in specific subject areas.

Thank you for your support and Eid Mubarak to all who are celebrating.

**Mr Feeley**

### Celebration Assembly

**Congratulations** and a huge well done to the children in Reception and Key Stage One 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:

RH – Rohan, Lewi, Lucas, Ranveer

RGW – Hamid, Alejandro, Shaam, Lucy

1B – Anya, JJ, Sienna, Louis

1LW – Mabel, Lucas, Holly, Alana

2F – Ameya, Emma, Noah, Rahul

2H – Sha, Charlotte, Raphael

### Strike Action Update

Unfortunately, there hasn't been any positive movement between the NEU and the Government regarding the impending strike action. As things stand, the proposed strike action on Thursday 27th April and Tuesday 2nd May will go ahead. The school statement is published on the final page of this newsletter.

**Safeguarding.** For child protection concerns you can contact any of our Designated Child Protection Officers: Mr Feeley, Mrs McVeigh, Mrs Bowker 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.

### Highfield Signposting



Welcome to the Highfield Signposting section of the newsletter. Here you will find information which you may find useful to support your children. The 'Henry' website has some excellent advice for supporting children from age 0 to 12 and the 'eric' website is a charity offering advice for intimate care needs.



<https://www.henry.org.uk>

A website offering free online or phone support for parents, with links for tips and guidance to support parents with eating, being active, sleep and more.

[www.eric.org.uk](http://www.eric.org.uk)



The Children's Bowel & Bladder Charity

Free helpline: 0808 169 9949

Mon to Thur, 10am - 2pm

Advice and support with bladder and bowel incontinence and constipation

### Cross Country Superstars!

An absolutely huge congratulations to Will and Poppy who represented Highfield so well competing in the West Yorkshire Cross Country finals yesterday. William finished 15<sup>th</sup> and Poppy 45<sup>th</sup> out of the whole of West Yorkshire! This is a very, very impressive achievement from our talented two Highfielders! A big thanks also to parents who were their team managers for the day.



### Swimming to success

Well done to Adrian in Year 4 who achieved the position of 1<sup>st</sup> runner up in the U10's 50m breaststroke at the City of Leeds Spring Development meet. A fine effort!



### Parents Evening Feedback Survey

Thank you to everyone who took the time to feedback following our parents evening. Your views are important to us and help inform future practice and events.

### Dates for your Diary!

- **Mon 24<sup>th</sup> April:** Year 6 football (H)
- **Wed 26<sup>th</sup> April:** NHS Nurses to see Rec
- **Thurs 27<sup>th</sup> April:** NEU Strike Day  
Year 6 Netball (a)
- **Fri 28<sup>th</sup> April:** KS2 Celebration Assembly

### Proposed Strike Action update for parents

RE: The NEU (National Education Union) planned strike dates on: Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2023 and Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2023.

Dear Parents and Carers,

In preparation for the strike day, I would like to state my planned course of action to keep you fully informed. The strike action is a result of a national pay dispute between the NEU and the Government. It is a matter for the NEU and the Government to resolve independently of the school.

The procedure at Highfield will be as follows:

On Thursday morning, at the earliest opportunity, I will send out a Parentmail to all parents advising them of whether or not their child's class is open or closed. If I can send out the details earlier, I will do so. As things stand, every child's class is open.

Whilst we will do all that we can to minimise disruption, we would advise you to begin considering alternative childcare arrangements, where needed, for the above dates should your child's class be closed. I realise that is not the ideal situation, however the purpose of strike action is to cause disruption in order to highlight their cause hence why I am not entitled to know the intentions of NEU members.

I will keep you updated with developments and the arrangements for the planned strike days as soon as I am able to do so. As soon as I know, you will know. I can assure you of that.

As always, thank you for your continued support.

Many thanks,

Mr Feeley