



Highfield Newsletter



Headteacher's Message

What a week. Year 1 and Year 3 enjoyed their Spring performances, Reception enjoyed a trip to Temple Newsam farm, Year 5 had a workshop with the Northern Ballet and the Friends of Highfield had a bun sale to raise funds for Miss Elson's London Marathon charity Macmillan Cancer Support. Fantastic, enriching experiences.

Our Chair of the school's Governing Body, Oliver Thorne, has written to the Highfield community to announce my appointment as the Headteacher of Highfield in this newsletter. I am extremely proud and grateful for this opportunity and would like to thank the children, parents and staff for their support and the governing body for placing their trust in me to lead our school. The process was, quite rightly, very challenging! But it highlighted just what a fantastic school community we are and the governors and visitors from the local authority were so complimentary about the behaviour of our pupils and the professionalism of our staff which made me very proud. Being Headteacher is a privileged position and it is my responsibility to repay that faith by ensuring the best possible outcomes for our children.

Have a great weekend and thank you for your support.

Mr Feeley

New Website Launch

Our new website aims to help you to engage with your child's school journey at Highfield. We want to inform, organise and also celebrate our wonderful school and your fabulous children. You will find lots of useful information and we will start to use the "Latest news" section on the website to provide up to date information and photos about trips, enjoyable activities in class and celebration children! The website is live but still "under development" so there will be more content added over the coming weeks.

March Parents' Evening Organisation

Next week our parent-teacher consultations will take place. If you are attending in person this will take place in main school hall providing you with the opportunity to visit your child's classroom and see their learning environment either before or after you have met the class teacher. Please arrive in time for the start of your appointment as we will be keeping to the time table.

To ensure confidentiality, it is important that you only look at your own child's books which will be in their classroom place. Please respect this.

Year 1 and Year 3 Tread the Boards!

This week, Year 1 performed 'Springtime' and Year 3 put on their Spring performance of Joseph. Year 1 sang and danced in the production about the environmental changes that Spring brings. Year 3 were equally amazing! 'Joseph' had acting, dancing, gymnastics, ukuleles and singing, lots and lots of singing! Every single child tried their absolute hardest and put on a fantastic show.

A big thank you to all of the children who have worked so hard and to all their families who have helped them learn their words and came to support them.



Panto thanks

The Friends of Highfield were raising funds once again at our annual pantomime last weekend. They raised nearly £800 profit! A big thanks to Jacinta on the face painting and Sravanthi on the henna for their commitment – they worked so hard to help!

Netball Dominance Continues

A great win for Highfield versus Immaculate Heart 12-2 in the opening league match of the year. Lots to work on before our next fixture on Monday night away at Shadwell, which is usually a very competitive fixture!!



En-garde!

Adrian in Year 4 attended the Yorkshire Youth Championship last Sunday, 19th March 2023 and he got 1st runner up in the event U10 Boy's Foil. What a great achievement.



A Message from Miss Elson

I would like to say a huge thank you to the whole of the Highfield community for all your support for the last few months whilst I have been training for the London Marathon. I always knew that I was very lucky to work here, but the support and encouragement from everyone has been incredible. I have currently raised £2,026 for Macmillan and that is down to the generosity and kindness shown by family, friends and both current and past members of the Highfield community. I am currently up to 19 miles in my training, with a 21 mile run to do the day after we break up for the Easter holidays! A huge thank you to the incredible PTA who organised a bake sale for me, as well as the non-uniform day next Friday. Finally, thank you to 5E. They have been fabulous. So many of you have sponsored me and suggested some brilliant songs for my playlist, asked me how my training has been going, baked cakes and helped me up the stairs when my legs have been very, very tired!! You're amazing! There is less than a month to go now until the marathon and I am very determined to cross the finish line and bring the medal to school the following day (although I may need the use of the lift to get me to my classroom!).

On Friday 31st March, children are invited to wear sportswear to school instead of uniform to support Miss Elson.



A Generous Donation

Earlier this year, Isabel in Year 3 got a haircut. Afterwards, she donated her hair to the Little Princess Trust. The Little Princess Trust works with children and young people who are experiencing the devastating effects of hair loss. The Trust aims to create high quality, real-hair wigs to help these children and young people. Thank you Isabel for your thoughtfulness.



Dates for your Diary!

- **Mon 27th Mar:** - Year 3 trip
- Netball Shadwell (a)
- **Tues 28th Mar:** - Year 5 trip
- Football Vs Moortown
- **Weds 29th & Thurs 30th Mar:**
- Parent consultations
- **Fri 31st:** Sportswear

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.



A Message from our Chair of Governors

Dear Friends,

They say good news travels fast- in which case many of you will already know that Mr Feeley has been appointed the permanent head teacher of our school.

Mr Feeley came to Highfield in 2016 and so most of us (me included) won't have known the school without him. What you may not know is that he *turned down* a head teacher's post at another school to stay at Highfield. In some ways he's had the longest interview in history.

The governing body were very clear that there had to be a rigorous selection process, however much we like and admire Mr Feeley. That process concluded with a selection day on Tuesday in which Mr Feeley objectively outperformed another very capable candidate. I was delighted to offer him the job and even more pleased when he accepted.

I know that he can count on the support of the children, even if the School Council asked some pretty tough questions in his interview with them. It has been brilliant to see how supportive the staff are. I am also confident that he will have the support of parents and the wider community. Please know that if there is an issue that you want to discuss with him you shouldn't hesitate to speak to him.

Yours sincerely,

Oliver Thorne
Chair of the Governing Body.