



# Highfield Newsletter



## Headteacher's Message

I love seeing **our children** smart, taking **pride** in their presentation and **proud** to wear the **Highfield** uniform. But there are many other reasons why it is important and I'm taking the opportunity in this week's newsletter to say why. Wearing school uniform supports the development of a whole school **ethos** and creates a **positive approach to learning**. It plays a key role in promoting **pride** and **self-confidence** whilst creating a sense of **shared purpose** and **belonging**; all factors which contribute to children's wellbeing. Uniform assures both the teacher and the parents that the children are wearing clothes that are smart, sensible and practical hence removing potential problems that fashion and competition could bring. I am grateful for the effort that you, the parents and carers, make to keep our children looking smart! I know this isn't always easy but it is appreciated.

Have a great weekend and thank you for your support.

Mr Feeley

## News & Updates

3T Take us back to the Victorian era

In 3T's fabulous sharing assembly this week the children shared their learning about life for a child in the Victorian era. The singing was brilliant and the work of a superb standard. The children in 3T actually wrote the assembly themselves using the knowledge they had gained. The actions to the songs were also their own idea!

Thank you 3T.

Celebration Assembly

**Congratulations** and a huge well done to the children in Reception and Key Stage 1 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 we are celebrating this week are:

RGW: Aaron, Ashwin, Lilyanne, Sushrut

RH: Amber, Benjamin, Joshua, Rose

1B: Lana, Maggie, Reuben, Sienna

1L: Jac, Daniel, Noah, Daniel

2H: Adam, Eesa, Nina, Selena

2F: Alice, Hamza, Selina, Thea

## Celebrating the Lunar New Year



A big thank you to Mrs Chan who came in to teach the children all about the Lunar New Year. This year is the Year of the Rabbit! She brought some decorations and money pockets to show the children and told us all about how people celebrate the new year in Hong Kong and in the UK. Year 4 found it really informative and asked lots of interesting questions about the celebrations and Chinese culture.



Children in Reception have also spent this week learning about the Lunar New Year. They listened to the story of the Great Race and learnt about the different ways the new year is celebrated. Children have completed maths work, written work and craft work to celebrate this festival as well as creating their own dragon dance in PE.

## Swimming Superstars!



Three of our children competed in the City of Leeds swimming gala at the weekend and did terrifically well against some stiff competition! Swimming requires incredible commitment and hard work and these three have certainly shown that! A huge well done for these achievements:

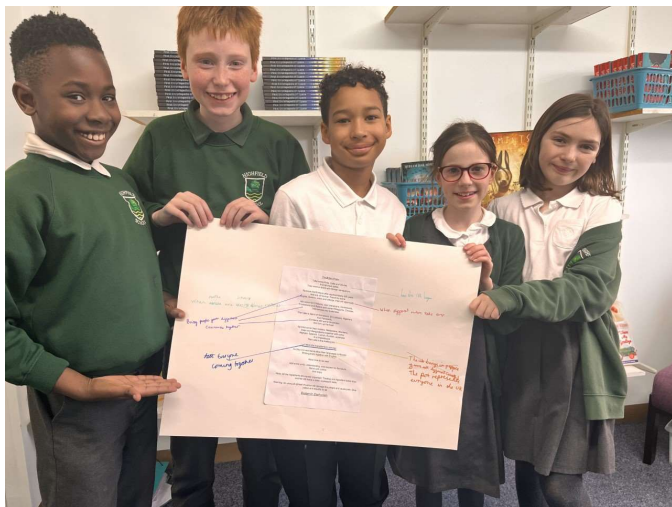
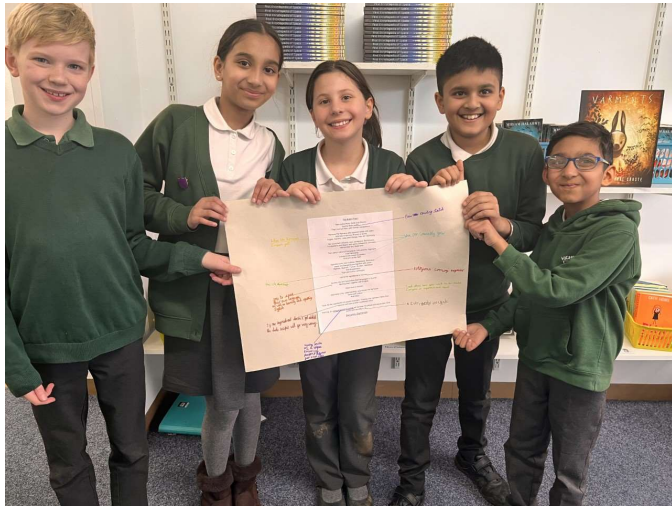
- Esther - 100m Individual Medley (12 year age group) - Bronze for Scott Hall
- Alex - 100m Individual Medley (11 year age group) - Bronze for Scott Hall
- Evie - 100m Individual Medley (11 year age group) - Silver for City of Leeds and 50m Butterfly (11 year age group) - Bronze for City of Leeds

## Century Learning

The school has invested in Century Learning for all KS2 pupils. CENTURY is an online learning tool platform which identifies every pupil's strengths, gaps in knowledge and misconceptions. Our pupils can log in and complete work that has been suggested for them by the programme which analyses their requirements. Each KS2 child has been given a login but if they lose or forget it, their class teacher will provide another copy. See: <https://www.century.tech/explore-century/parents/>



Celebrating the work of Benjamin Zephaniah  
 Year 5 have been learning about his life, culture and poetry this week and have analysed his poem 'The British Poem' which is about inclusivity, unity, understanding and respect. The whole group were incredible and really enjoyed the learning. They're going to write their own version of the poem about our own classes in Year 5 next week.



Reminders:

- Please no sweets or chocolate in school, including school lunch boxes. We are a healthy school.
- Don't forget quiz night! A brilliant evening run by our amazing PTA.

### Dates for your Diary!

- **Tues 31 Jan:** Y6 football Vs Middleton St Mary's (a)
- **Wed 01 Feb:** Potential closure of classes due to strike action
- **Wed 01 Feb:** 4FN Sharing Assembly (parents Welcome 3pm Hall) **\*STRIKE permitting**
- **Thurs 02 Feb:** Cross Country Final Temple Newsam
- **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.

### Proposed Strike Action Update for Parents

RE: The NEU (National Education Union) planned strike dates on: 1st February 2023, 28th February 2023, 15th March 2023 and 16th March 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 Wednesday 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. As things stand, every child's class is open. I will be here and opening school as normal.

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