



## *The Highfielder*

### **RED (Respect, Equality & Diversity) Exhibition**



In May, Highfield held its first ever RED (Respect, Equality & Diversity) Exhibition. Organised by the school council, the exhibition celebrated the richness of curriculum and our community with the wider community: parents, Governors, local organisations and local dignitaries.

The afternoon started with a sea of colour in our assembly hall, with children wearing traditional costumes, organisation uniforms and colours belonging to the flags of their heritage. The children were obviously very proud, with a number of them standing up to show off their outfits and talk about their heritage.



Following the assembly, the hall was set up with individual stands for each year group which showcased posters with examples of the wonderful work that we cover within our curriculum and details of how it links so closely to the RED ethos. Each stand was manned by the School Councillors, who did a fantastic job talking to the visitors who all seemed very impressed with the way the children could describe what we do. We received many comments on how polite, knowledgeable and enthusiastic they were.

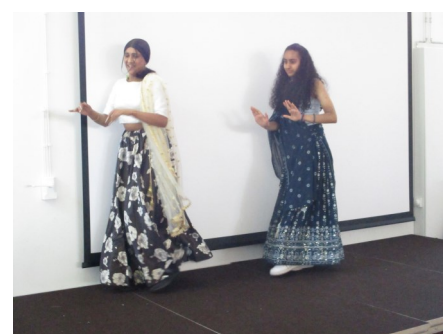


In addition, there were group performances which went down a storm. From the choir singing our specially composed RED song, accompanied by Year 3 playing their ukeleles; Year 1 singing and signing in BSL and Year 5 reading their poems inspired by Benjamin Zephaniah.

The afternoon closed with individual performances including Bollywood, Bhangra and traditional Indian dancing, plus a traditional Iranian folk song played on the piano, a saxophonist, an Islamic song and a song from Iraq. All the children were extremely brave to perform for such a large group of people but were obviously very proud to do so. We wanted to shine a spotlight onto this aspect of our school. We certainly achieved this as the afternoon was universally enjoyed.



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## Hoodwinked—The Year 6 Production

By Gurjot

On the 19th of July, Year 6 will be performing the swashbuckling production of Hoodwinked! As Robin Hood fights to defend the poor from the greedy sheriff, Maid Marian awaits him whilst the Sheriff takes over Kings Richard's Kingdom. 'This show has me on the edge of my seat! I'd give it five stars!'



Year 6 will be performing a dress rehearsal to the rest of the school on Wednesday afternoon, and in the evening they will give their final performance in front of parents. We are sure there won't be a dry eye in the house, as this will be the last ever performance the current Year 6 children do at Highfield, before the head off to pastures new. Surely one not to miss!

## Annual Teddy Bears Picnic

By Alex



On Friday the 30th of June, Highfield held its annual Teddy Bears Picnic! Each child was allowed to bring in a teddy from home (they were all very cute) and play with them at break and lunch; this was a real treat and something very different to our normal school day. Unfortunately the weather



that day wasn't great, so rather than sitting on the field, as planned, at picnic time everyone ate in the hall. We didn't let this dampen our spirits and it still felt special, especially for the Year 6 and Reception children who were allowed to sit together in their buddy pairings. An extra treat was an ice-cream from Sid the ice-cream man. These were kindly paid for by The Friends of Highfield PTA. We would like to say a big thank you to the Friends as it was very generous treat for us all!



## School Council News

By Alex

On Wednesday 28th June the 2022/23 the School Council held it's last meeting. During the meeting they celebrated all the wonderful things they have achieved this year: RED Exhibition (organised and represented the year groups); RED song competition – new school song; Took part in Headteacher and new class teacher interviews; Raised hundreds of pounds for Martin House (Highfield Ultra Marathon) and Children in Need (Craft Pudsey Bear Competition); Football back at playtimes



and new timetable; First Aid Stations on the playground; After school art clubs (KS1/KS2); Reception/Year 6 Buddies; outdoor equipment etc; plus lots more! It was agreed that they done a great job and Mrs Homan thanked them for all their hard work. Don't forget if you want to be a School Councillor next year, you can put yourself forward and help to make a difference.

## Highfield Raises Money for Martin House

By Alex

This year the School Council decided that they would like to raise money for Martin House which is a children's hospice in Leeds. So, during Fit Week, every child ran a lap of the running track and collected sponsorship for doing so. It was called the Highfield Ultra Marathon because Mr Brassil worked out that if every child took part, as a school, we would have run a total of 38.8miles!

The event was officially opened by Robert Etherington, development coach at LUFC and the Reception children started the marathon, each running a lap and passing a baton to one another. By 3 o'clock all the classes had completed their laps—a huge achievement for everyone!

A couple of weeks later, Duncan, from Martin House, came to a Monday's assembly to talk to the children about the amazing work Martin House do and to thank us for the money raised during the sponsored Highfield Ultra Marathon. The Year 4 councillors presented him with a cheque for £576!



## Highfield Musical Extravaganza!

By Amelia



Highfield is well known for it's commitment to the 'arts' and it's wonderful concerts and productions. On Friday 30th June, following the Teddy Bears Picnic, the Highfield orchestra hosted another musical extravaganza for parents, Reception children and KS1. Organised by Mr Gath, our talented music lead, we heard songs from our wonderful choir (run by Mrs Vine and Miss Danby) music from the

school orchestra and group performances from some Key Stage 2 children who have music lessons with our peripatetic music teachers. Reception and Key Stage 1 loved watching and hearing the different instruments. Well done to everyone who performed and thanks to the parents who came to support.



## Tropical World and Roundhay Park Scientific Fun!

By Gurjot



Year 3 had a wonderful time at Tropical world and Roundhay Park this term. This was linked to all the wonderful work did during their science topic 'Lifecycles: What are butterflies?' The trip gave them the a hands on opportunity to classify and observe minibeasts (not just butterflies) in their natural environment and to also measure and compare UK based plants and tropical plants. Everyone had a great time and they were very lucky to have such a sunny day.



## New Buddy Scheme

By Aaron

This term, Year 6 paired up with the Reception children. This was a consequence of an idea put forward by the School Council, who thought it would be nice to ask the Year 6's help the Reception children get ready for moving up into Year 1. It started with the Year 6 children sending them a letter, introducing themselves to their new friend. Next, the Reception children invited their buddies to go and play with them down in the annexe: they played board games and did puzzles together and everyone really enjoyed meeting their new playmate. Soon after the first visit, the buddies met up outside with the Year 6 children showing their friend the ball court, running track and how to play safely on the trim trail. For many of the Reception children, it was their first time going around the field and they really enjoyed it. The buddies also sat together during the Teddy Bears Picnic and there was a Buddy Race during the Year 6 sports morning which was lots of fun. It has proved to be a great scheme and it is planned to continue next year with a new set of Reception children and the new Year 6.



## Year 1 Super Scarborough Trip

By Amelia

On Thursday 13th July, the Year 1's went on the famous Scarborough trip. The hour and a half coach journey, no doubt had everyone feeling hot and sticky but luckily, they were able to cool down in the cold refreshing sea. The children enjoyed many fun activities such as building sandcastles and sand sculptures, walking on the promenade to get their ice creams or ice lollies and having lunch on the beach (thankfully no one dropped their **sandwiches!**) Lots of special memories were made and it was a great way to end their time in Year 1!





## Football Success

By Aaron

On Thursday the 4th of May, our fantastic football team competed against Immaculate Heart Primary in the semi-final of the Falkingham Cup. The team played some wonderful passing football and, as usual for Highfield, gave it 100% effort throughout. Sadly, they conceded a late goal and didn't make it to the final.. We are really proud of our team regardless of the result. Well done everyone.



## Year 6 Residential to Marrick

By Aaron

Year 6 had an amazing time at Marrick Priory in June. All the children participated in the thrilling activities including, the notorious Leap of Faith, canoeing, low and high ropes, archery, orienteering and lovely night-time walk in the North Yorkshire hills.



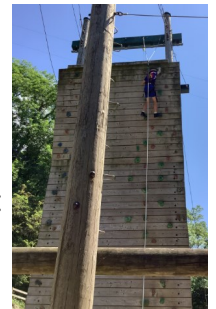
Everyone enjoyed staying in the Priory (which is over 850 years old!) stating it was very comfortable. The food was very tasty and everyone was very grateful for the fantastic evening meals after long day of keeping active. There was pizza and chips and they even cooked a full roast chicken



dinner with Yorkshire puddings—yummy! When the class wasn't doing any activities they were given some free time in the common room where they could chat, read books, played pool, wrote in their diaries and play with games.



On the last day, everyone packed up their own lunches and then the class walked to the local village, Reeth. There they enjoyed a picnic and a delicious ice-cream. A fantastic end to a great few days away. It was certainly memorable and a great way to celebrate the end of Year 6 at Highfield.



## Year 5 visits Harrogate Grammar School for a Robotics Challenge.

By Gurjot

Recently, some Year 5 children were taken to a computing workshop (Robotics Challenge) by Miss Harrower (our computing lead) at Harrogate Grammar School. It was an educational, yet exciting day because they were given the opportunity to use BBC Micro-bits to code a car with a series of algorithms. They also had to put their computing skills to the test by trying to open a box of sweets. The children really enjoyed using the Micro-bits and Miss Harrower was so impressed that she is going to be introducing them to the Year 4 curriculum next year—Watch this space!



## Year 2 Skipping to Success!

By Alex



In June some of our Year 2 children took part in the annual Skipping Festival, led by The Skipping School team. The team visited the children in school to teach them new skills and techniques. They then had the opportunity to represent our school at the Skipping Festival at Trinity University. The children all did so well and did Highfield proud. Well done!



## Aerobics with Year 4

By Amelia

It has become a Highfield tradition for Year 4 to lead a whole school aerobics assembly during our fabulous Fit Week. This year's session lived up to its fantastic reputation with Year 4 leading a fantastic routine, with the whole school (including parents) getting involved. Well done Year 4 you were outstanding!



## Recommended Summer Reads

By Gurjot

With the summer holidays coming up, you may want some good books to enjoy in your spare time—maybe while you are lay on the beach or sunning yourself in the garden. So here is my list of recommended reads for each year group.

**Year 6:** Nimona, My Brother is a Superhero, The Hobbit and Looshkin.

**Year 5:** The boy's book (how to be the best at everything), The Land of Roar and A Series of Unfortunate Events (a bad beginning).

**Year 4:** Kensuke's Kingdom, In the Rainforest and Bunny VS. Monkey.

**Year 3:** Charlie and the chocolate factory, Harry Potter Books.

**Year 2:** Horrid Henry Gets Rich Quick, Horrid Henry and the Football Friend and Horrid Henry Meets the Queen.

**Year 1:** Biff, Chip and Kipper (The Magic Key), Biff Chip Kipper (Dolphin Rescue) and Biff, Chip and Kipper (Poor Floppy).

**Reception:** Where's Wally and Elmer and The Rainbow Elephant.



**Where are they now?** An interview with ex-Highfield student, Elijah Walsh, who is a semi-professional basketball player in the USA.



**When did you study at Highfield? Who was the Headteacher?** I started in reception around 15 to 16 years ago, when Mr Tindle was the Headteacher. When he retired, Mrs Colley took his place.

**Can you tell us about your experience at our school?** I had a fun experience at Highfield. Having my dad (Mr Walsh the Superintendent) at school made it pretty easy, especially when I forgot money for fruity Friday or Monday bun day. I tried to get involved in a lot of the activities which made my experience more exciting

**What was your favourite subject? Why?** P.E because I loved playing sports.

**Are there any teachers that you have any fond memories about? If so who and what is/are the memory/ies?** It's hard to single out one teacher. I think every single teacher I had, there are many memories that I could talk about. Miss Elson and Mrs Homan were fun teachers as Year 3 and Year 4 were my favourite years. Mrs Garbutt was my first ever teacher. I used to be scared of Mrs Pickles but she gave me smarties if I got a good score on my spellings.

**Can you share any specific memories or moments that stand out from your time at our school (trips etc)?** I can't remember exactly what the tournament was, but we were on TV during a penalty shoot out. I think we lost the game but the fact that we were playing and there were huge cameras setup was really cool.

**How did our school's extracurricular activities and programs impact your overall experience?** I played netball in school and I feel that was something that really helped me with basketball.

**How did our school prepare you for your current or future career?** Highfield was a great school which allowed me to make new friends and really helped with my social skills. As a kid I wasn't super outgoing, but as I made my way through school I became more confident. It was easy at Highfield because no one judges you, they only encourage you. Today I am more self-assured which helps with networking with different people from the world of basketball but also with professors and deans.

**Was there a defining moment during your time at this school when you realised what you wanted to do with your life?** I feel I was always on a track to play basketball in university, but I didn't really know how I was going to do that. I never really had a moment where I decided what I was going to do, as I'm still unsure completely. I just have a better idea of what I want to do at the moment.

**How has our school's education and values influenced your personal growth?** Keeping high expectations was something that helped me grow. I remember times I wanted to hand in work and just get it done, but teachers would hold me accountable and make me produce work of a good standard. This rubbed off on me, so now I like to keep myself at a decent standard with school work but also with basketball.

**Did you make lasting friendships/are you still in contact with old school friends?** There are a few people I talk to here and there, it's difficult as I live on the other side of the world now. I do try to keep up with people if something pops up on social media and I might drop a message and just say, 'Hey how's things?'

