



The Highfielder

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Goodbye Mrs. McVeigh By Jasmine

It's been a wonderful 21 years with our dear Mrs McVeigh but sadly that time has come to an end and she is moving onto pastures new. Using her wealth of expertise, she is going to work in Bradford where she will be advising schools on how to support looked after children.

Some may not be aware, but Mrs McVeigh has been a part of our Highfield community for the last 21 years and every morning of those years, she has arrived with a broad smile, ready for a great day. Her contribution to the school has been amazing in her many roles: Class Teacher, Assistant Head and SENDCo.

We have been through so much with Mrs McVeigh. Her guidance and expertise with everything surrounding SEND has been invaluable for children, teachers and parents. Our wonderful Assistant Head also worked alongside and supported the recently retired, Mrs Colley, and our new Head teacher, Mr Feeley. In addition, throughout her many years, Mrs McVeigh has enjoyed being class teacher in Years 2 to 6, where she has helped many children to thrive and develop to their maximum potential.

Highfield staff, parents and every child in between, are all going to miss you Mrs McVeigh we hope to see you in the future and wish the best with your new job.



Christmas Plays & Concert

By Amy

Highfield have had a brilliant start to this festive season after watching several Christmas performances. The reception classes put on a traditional nativity, where they sang some classic Christmas tunes. Year 2's play, 'Taking off for Christmas', showed how different countries celebrate Christmas. We saw as they took off in an airplane and travelled around the globe making many stops and sharing some interesting facts. Year 5 put on an original Highfield favourite: 'The Jolly Christmas Postman'. Their 'postie' (Madeline) delivered parcels and presents to famous fictional characters, like Humpty Dumpty! Finally, the Highfield Orchestra and Choir performed beautifully to an audience of parents and carers getting everyone into the spirit of the season.



We are having lots of fun here at Highfield for this joyous season and we hope you are too! Merry Christmas.

Children in Need

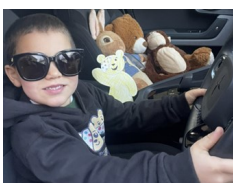
By Ella

For several years, Highfield has donated to the charity Children in Need. This year, we raised slightly over four hundred pounds thanks to all the pupils bringing in a pound donation. All the children had a chance to win the Creative and Ambitious Pudsey Bear Competition, but there was one winner for each class; all with incredibly imaginative ideas that were worthy of winning.



Winners: Jackson, George, Robyn, Ashriya, Holly, Lucy, Chloe, Nyla, Dashini, Jiwan, William, Elena, Arjun and Shay.

Thanks to our amazing School Council, who organized it all, we had a brilliant time!



Highfield Sports

By Amy

Highfield is an extremely active community, with many extra curriculum events. This year has been filled with opportunities for young children to pursue their love for sports.

Some unlucky games at the start of the year for our Highfield football team, but they quickly bounced back with a 5-4 win against Victoria Academy. Team captain, Rory said he was, 'Determined to win after their last unfortunate games.' It was neck to neck until Rory scored a Hatrick, setting the score to 5-4.

Running is a popular sport at Highfield mainly because we have our brilliant running track, that is why we were extremely grateful to be able to take part in the Leeds Schools Cross Country Running Festival. There were 120 runners in each event and all our participants demonstrated determination, strength and resilience.

This term Year 6 and Year 3 took part in the Leeds Well School Partnership dodgeball competition. Everyone who participated had a great time and at the end were given a wrist band reflecting an attribute that they had demonstrated in the event, such as determination and honesty.



Arts Week

By Ella

At Highfield we think it's very important to celebrate all forms of art (music, art, dance and drama). During Arts Week (the last week of October) visitors came in to teach the children a range of arts. We had a professional Indian dancer called Davinda from Punjabi Roots Academy, come in to teach Bhangra dancing. We learned all about where the dance routines originated from (Indian farming), and about the special clothes that are worn during performances; we talked to a well-known singer, Jamie, from the band Apollo Junction asking him about life in a band and how he got into the music industry. In addition, every child in the school helped to make two massive collages which are now displayed in the main hall. Linked to the RED Award, the collages were designed by a local artist Selin Candon and the images subtly showcased our school commitment to respect, equality, and diversity. It was a lot of fun working collaboratively with other year groups and participating in something together. Year 6 worked with the Reception children, Year 5 with the Year 1's, Year 4 with the Year 2's and Year 3 were split amongst all the groups. To top it all off, on Friday, we had a session with two carnival DJs celebrating Black History Month. Throughout the week, everyone got to take part in music, dance, drama and art activities; it was a lot of fun and a great experience for all.



RED (Respect Equality & Diversity) at Highfield

By Mrs Homan

There have been huge developments linked to Respect Equality and Diversity this term.

FIRST TO WIN A RED AWARD!! Firstly, in September we were proud to be the first school to ever achieve the RED Award presented to us by the RED Kite Teaching Alliance. A lot of hard work went into applying for the award (from



teachers, children, parents and governors) and everyone feels proud that all the great work we do at Highfield has been recognised.

Mrs Homan and Mr Feeley went to collect the a plaque and certificate which was presented to them by Richard Sheriff the CEO of Red Kite. These are now in pride of place in the

reception area.

Elland Road Presentation. As a consequence of this success, Mrs Homan and Mr Feeley were then asked to deliver a presentation about our equality and diversity work to the Collaborative Learning Trust at Elland Road. What a great position to be in where we are being asked to share our skills, knowledge and expertise, working with other schools and multi-academy trusts.



Bringing the Community Together. Finally, this term we held our first Harmony and Diversity Breakfast for parents and carers. Highfield is all about encouraging positive attitudes and relationships not only amongst people at school but throughout the whole community. To help with this the Harmony and Diversity Breakfast enables everyone to come together to chat and share some delicious cultural food. It was a lovely experience for all involved, as we got to chat whilst eating some delicious Rice Kheer brought in by a kind Year 1 parent. We shared our experiences of everything about ourselves, our culture, school and learned a lot about how we live. It was fantastic to see all of our cultures coming together in such a positive way.



Snap shots from Highfield this term.

By William

Reception:

This term the Reception children learned about our bodies. They looked at their senses including taste by tasting some delicious and some not so delicious foods. They looked in detail at their hands and feet and how they use them. They also tried drawing like Alison Lapper, a famous artist, who despite her disability, produces beautiful paintings using a paintbrush in her mouth.



Year 1:

This term, Year 1 had a couple special visitors: Cathrine, who came to teach them about Toys and how they have evolved over time, from whipping tops to video games and Dr Paul who came to talk about his job as working as a Dr for the Yorkshire Air Ambulance. Both classes had lots of fun, including the teachers.



Year 2:

In Computing, Year 2 have learned to use the space bar, return key and Enter key to edit text in situations such as if song lyrics are on the wrong line or if there are too many finger spaces. In DT (Design Technology) they learned about smoothies which involved creating one! They were excited to use different cut fruits and used a blender (supervised) to make their own drinks. With this they also explored taste and texture and evaluated their recipes.



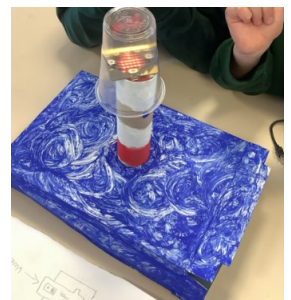
Year 3:

This term, Year 3 have been studying the life of a child in Victorian Times. A major highlight of this topic was when they visited Armley Mills and followed the footsteps of their old relatives, learning about what jobs the Victorians and their children.

**Year 4:**

For their Geography topic, Year 4 have been learning about the coast and coastal features. They went on an enjoyable residential trip to Robin Hood's Bay, where during their stay they took part in activities including

rock pooling, a smugglers walk, village study and sand castle construction. In addition, for the first time, Year 4 integrated their DT lighthouse topic with computing, using micro bits to make their lighthouse glow, by programming their Micro bits to shine at an interval.

**Year 5:**

A notable event this term was Year 5's Life of a Child day, where they dressed up as World War Two Evacuees: rich and poor. They experienced what it would be like by taking part in drama, swing dancing, looking at artefacts and much more. They even brought their lunches wrapped in brown paper!

**Year 6:**

One of the highlights for Year 6 was the trip to see Oliver at the West Yorkshire Playhouse. They were treated to thrilling dancing, superb singing, drama, comedy and a brilliant story.



School Council

By Jasmine

Since the start of this term, the school council have been in and out council meetings; meeting new people and brainstorming ideas to help our society and environment. They held the Park and Stride competition and judged the stella entries. The council agreed that all the entries were fantastic and made it difficult to decide. However, three creative posters stood out above the rest. An eye-catching poster from Aarnav in Year 1 coming first; 2nd place, a detailed Gruffalo saving the environment from JJ (Year 2); a phenomenal 3rd place from Jack with a digital art piece made from his iPad. It was lovely to also see lots of mediums of art being used.

This year the council have decided to support and get involved with Alwoodley Action 2030. Linking to this environmental group, Jen came in to talk to us about ways to help and promote how to save our planet. The council also completed a questionnaire to show everyone how much pollution effects the environment and how we could reduce it. Year 5 school councillor, Micah also suggested we



should promote Ecosia. Ecosia, is a search engine and after every 50 searches a tree is planted. How great, and it's free! Taking that idea, a step further our IT Technician Ryan downloaded it on our IT suit computers to help plant more trees!

Look out for the next issue of the Highfielder to find out what else is happening with Alwoodley Action 2030.

Where are they now? An interview with ex-Highfield student, Andrew Greenhow, who is an airline pilot.

When did you study at Highfield? Who was the Headteacher? I attended Highfield Primary School from 1989 to 1996. Mrs Snowden was the headteacher when I first started and when she retired Mr Tindle became headteacher.

Can you tell us about your experience at our school? I have lots of good memories from my time at Highfield Primary School. One of my happiest times was playing football in the playground at break time with my friends. I also remember school assemblies very well when we all gathered to sing songs; the harvest festival songs were my favourite.

What was your favourite subject? Why? Being a big football fan my favourite subject at school was always PE. I loved being active and I still do, I've even played football with Mr Gath! I always enjoyed History at Highfield, I remember particularly enjoying a project whilst in Year 6 about World War 2.



Are there any teachers that you have any fond memories about? If so who and what is/are the memory/ies? I remember whilst I was in Year 4, Mr Tindle was our teacher. He made learning fun and I always enjoyed lessons with him. He also had a strong passion for football and was a big Sunderland fan. I also remember Mr Potter, who I believe has only just retired; Mr Potter played the piano during school assemblies and at after school shows.

Can you share any specific memories or moments that stand out from your time at our school (trips etc)? My most memorable time at Highfield Primary was when I received an award, known as the John Fox effort award. I received this twice, one in reception and the second time in year 4. I was given a certificate and a book. I still have the Ghostbusters story which I now read to my daughter.

One big event that happened during my time at Highfield Primary School was the fire that forced the school to close and it needed rebuilding. During the closure we had to attend another local school. Highfield reopened just before I left in 1996.

I also remember going on two residential school trips to Robin Hoods Bay and Marrick Priory, these were so much fun. We were able to go rock pooling and rock climbing on our trips.

How did our school's extracurricular activities and programs impact your overall experience? There were lots of extra curricular activities but I only ever wanted to play football and this was on a Friday after school. I used to play for the Highfield football team and we got to compete against teams from other schools. Whilst there is no direct link to my job now as an airline pilot, playing football requires some of the same skills including: hand eye coordination, communication, leadership and team work.

How did our school prepare you for your current or future career? In order to qualify as an airline pilot I have had to take a lot of exams and pass a lot of flying tests. To pass these tests I've had to do a lot of studying over the years. Maths and English are a bit part of my job and I began to learn these during my time at Highfield Primary School. I need to read manuals, write reports, calculate the distance we will travel and add up the amount of fuel to take on the aeroplane.

I also need to understand science, again which I started to learn about at Highfield. I have to know about electrical systems and the weather. As you can imagine I have needed a good understanding of Geography too!

Was there a defining moment during your time at this school when you realised what you wanted to do with your life? Ever since I was about 8 years I have always wanted to be an airline pilot. My grandparents lived near the airport and I use to love watching the aeroplanes take off and land with them. I have always made decisions to help me get towards my goal of flying for a career - such as joining the air cadets at 13 years old and making decisions at high school to study subjects that would help me become an airline pilot.

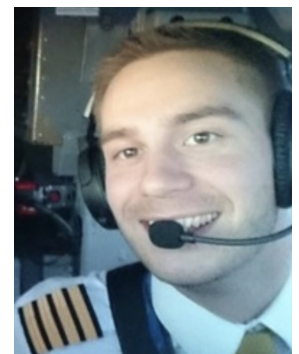
How has our school's education and values influenced your personal growth? I can't remember the exact values that Highfield had when I was a pupil but I do remember the school being very friendly and welcoming. This certainly shaped me as a young boy and to this day I always try to be kind to others and try my best to make people happy. As an airline pilot I have to work as part of a team working mainly with Air Traffic Control, Cabin Crew, Engineers, Baggage handlers and of course other pilots. I have to treat all these people with respect in order to successfully achieve safe flights everyday, so the start in life that Highfield (and my family of course) gave me was very important.

Did you make lasting friendships/are you still in contact with old school friends?

Unfortunately I haven't kept in touch with many of my Highfield friends, one of my closest friends from Highfield now lives in Canada and we have managed to keep in touch occasionally but it is hard to meet up!

Can you share any advice or suggestions for current or future students at our school? The best piece of advice I can give to any child at Highfield primary school is to make sure you have fun whilst learning, but also work hard. Make sure you follow your dreams. If you have a job you'd love to do in the future then make it your goal; it's down to you to make it happen!

Would you change anything about your time at Highfield? I don't think I'd change anything from my time at Highfield, I remember my time at the school being happy and I got a great start to my education. I had lots of positive experiences which will stay with me forever.



We're on the web too! For our online newspaper, please visit:

www.highfield-primary.co.uk