



Highfield Newsletter



Headteacher's Message

Welcome to the new school year! It has been great to see the children back and enjoying their first week. I thought I would share with you some of our work this week. '**Mindset**' is a commonly used phrase when discussing attitudes and confidence. How to promote a positive mindset is a complex and challenging area but one the staff at Highfield are constantly looking to improve. We started our training day on Monday by thinking about how **confirmation bias** can be a barrier to a healthier mindset and how we might change that.

Children often experience confirmation bias, where they seek out information that **supports** their pre-existing beliefs (as adults often do on social media!). This tendency is a natural part of **cognitive development**, as children are still learning how to process complex information and often rely on familiar patterns of thinking. To combat this, it's crucial that we encourage **open-mindedness** and teach our children to evaluate **diverse perspectives**.

One way we repeatedly promote this at Highfield, is by encouraging a **culture of error**. A culture of error in the classroom is an environment where mistakes are viewed as **opportunities for learning**, rather than failures. We want our children to feel safe to take risks, make errors and receive constructive feedback, fostering growth and improvement without fear of judgment. We praise the **effort**, rather than the **outcome**.

Enjoy your weekend and thank you for your support.

Mr Feeley

School start time

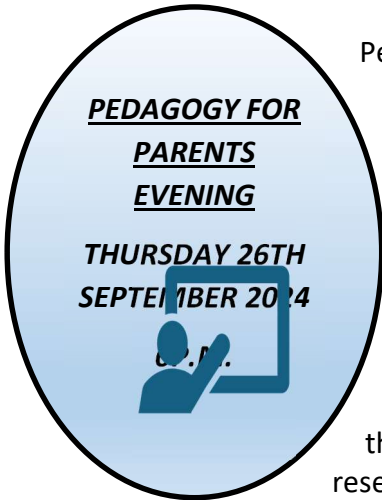
We have had some lovely feedback about the introduction of the new '**soft start**' to the school day with the school doors opening at 8:50am. Please remember that school starts at **8:55am** and the children need to be in by this time. If you have a message for a class teacher please pass it to one of the members of staff on duty who will relay it to the class teacher.

Newsfeed!

Please check the newsfeed on our website for weekly photos and updates of news in school. Photos from this week show how happy and settled the children are and what a great first week we have had in school!

<https://highfield-primary.co.uk/parents-carers/news/>

A date for your diaries from Mr Brassill!



Pedagogy is the science of teaching and learning. How does what we know about learning and memory inform our practice as teachers? My role at school is to keep us evidence-informed and research-led about this by reading the latest research and passing it on.

Want to find out more about pedagogy and take a peek into our practice as teachers at Highfield?

Tune in to my podcast Chalk Talk:

<https://highfield-primary.co.uk/parents-carers/news/chalk-talks/>

Listen to me and others talk about how we model as teachers on this podcast:

<https://open.spotify.com/episode/138imnGG2mAo1W0UMmcRXk>

Make a date in your diary for my **PEDAGOGY FOR PARENTS** evening on Thursday the 26th September 2024 at 6 p.m. in the school hall. In the session I will be uncovering some of the principles we use at Highfield to ensure that our teaching, and the learning that happens as a result, is outstanding.

Super Fruity Friday!

Last year our amazing Fruity Friday team raised £1850 for school! A massive thank you to them for volunteering their time and effort. They have already continued their great work this new school year. If you would like to join them then please get in touch.

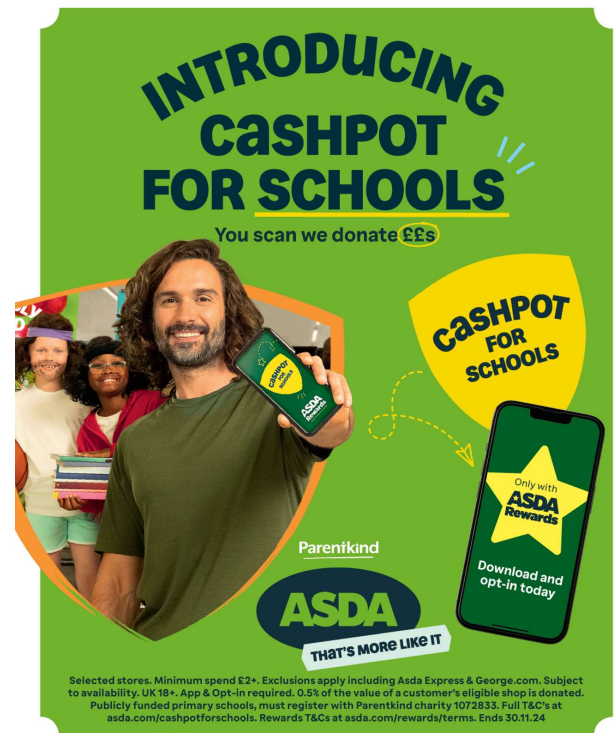
Free books

Please help yourself to the books under the canopy. They have been generously donated for our children to take home and enjoy.

ASDA rewards for schools

Parentkind – the charity that supports school PTAs - have teamed up with Asda, who are making millions of pounds available to donate to primary schools across the UK through their ‘Cashpot for Schools’ initiative. All you have to do is opt in through the Asda Rewards app, choose Highfield Primary school shop and scan in store or online at Asda.com, between 2nd September and 30th November 2024.

Asda will donate 0.5% of the value of your shop to our school. Also, every time somebody opts in, Asda will give an additional £1 to the school Cashpot. Plus, it doesn’t stop there – Asda are also giving £50 to every school to get them started. Please share with family and friends!



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