



Highfield Newsletter



Headteacher's Message

This week I attended a Primary Leaders conference where the opening think piece involved a picture of Elon Musk and Donald Trump embracing and we were asked to think about the possible outcomes of this relationship for our children. History has taught us that marriages of convenience in politics rarely end well. However, Musk's substantial reach through platforms like X (and now Government) means in the short term at least we may see him contributing to social attitudes which parents and educators need to be aware of. We discussed how, in the past, Musk has posted comments to X which could be interpreted as misogynistic as he has mocked progressive social movements such as feminism. Such attitudes can lead to issues such as online harassment, discrimination and gender parity being normalised. Andrew Tate is one recent example of how powerful such influences can be.

Countering the rise of harmful influences is not straightforward, but teaching our children to safeguard themselves is the greatest defence in my opinion. By fostering inclusive environments as we strive to do at Highfield, we keep respect and empathy at our core which reduces the impact of toxic material. But by also fostering critical thinking and media literacy, we can help our children make informed decisions about the information they consume. As a parent I appreciate the intent behind the Australian Governments proposal to ban social media for under 16's, but as an educator I worry it could stifle children's ability to navigate a digital world independently and critically evaluate content. Also, we must not forget that not all social media is bad – it provides us with an opportunity to learn about different global perspectives, access diverse ideas and engage in alternative education streams. Balance is required.

Enjoy your weekend and thank you for your support.

Mr Feeley

News & Updates

Congratulations and a huge well done to the children in Key Stage One 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!

RH - Camilla, Eric, Hamda, Nikethan

RGM - Armaan, Ayaat, Ayza, Emmie

1B -Emily, Ollie, Waroud

1W - Aiza, Arshaan, Elis

2F - Gurbani, Hudson, Layla

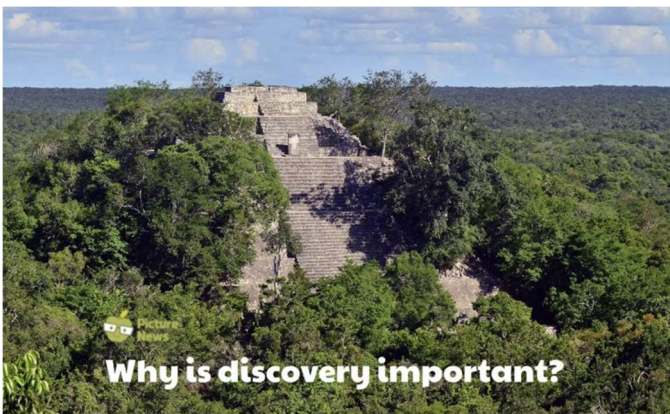
2H - Libby, Lilyanne, Sushrut

Girl's Tennis



Tee, the Head Tennis Coach from Shadwell Tennis Club, came to school today to present the girls who have taken part in the after-school sessions with their free kit. Funded by the LTA, these girls have really enjoyed the sessions, learned lots of skills and had lots of fun! Next year this has been expanded to girls from Year 1 to Year 6. Thank you Tee!

Picture News:



Thank you Dr Onion!

Year 1 had a very special visitor this week. Dr Onion came to share his experiences of working on the Yorkshire Air Ambulance! The children even got to try on some of his equipment and clothing and role play some scenarios Dr Onion might face. Thank you so much for visiting and sharing your terrific knowledge Dr Onion!



Dates for your Diary!

- **Mon 25th Nov:** Deadline for Parent Governor Election applications
- **Tues 26th Nov:** Choir rehearsal, Resources Governing Body meeting
- **Weds 27th Nov:** Year 1 Toys workshop
- **Thurs 28th Nov:** Open Morning for prospective parents
- **Fri 29th Nov:** Training Day

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