



Highfield Newsletter



Headteacher's Message

Whilst the upcoming school governor election is without doubt the race to watch, for now I am going to reflect on the second-most crucial democratic process to take place this autumn; the U.S election. Legal duties on political impartiality mean that schools *must not promote partisan political views in teaching*. So as much as I would dearly love to get on my soapbox and impart my observations on the two candidates, their campaigns and the electoral college system, regrettably I cannot.

I don't think impartiality in the US media exists, and like much of our media, it is polarised and we are algorithmically guided to certain views. But my overall impression of the election was that one candidate appeared to have been held to much higher standards than the other. Why? Two out of the last three U.S elections have had a woman stand (Clinton & Harris) and both lost to the same man (Trump). On the only occasion he ran against male opposition (Biden) he lost. Coincidence? Possibly, but intriguing nonetheless. An obvious suggestion is that America is not ready to fully embrace female leadership, although I accept this could be viewed as over-simplistic in such a complex contest.

But leading the free world remains an opportunity for a woman to make history. We know it is possible; globally, perhaps the most impressive leadership in the last 5 years was demonstrated by Jacinda Ardern of New Zealand during the pandemic. Added to this, Sanna Marin's premiership at the age of just 34 guided Finland toward Nato membership and Kamala Harris's election as vice president continued to increase the visibility of women in power. The first female president is out there and one day our children will see it happen. Glass ceilings are there to be broken.

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!

2H - Anahita, Ashriya, Hamid

2F - Goran, Oscar, Rayann

1B - Arlo, Jackson, Maria

1W - Fatima, Leo, Sophia

RGM - Eliza, Sophia, Taran, Zakariyah

RH - George, Jasmine, Rowan, Zachary

Pumpkin Party Thank You!

A massive thanks to the Friends of Highfield for organising the pumpkin parties this week. They were a massive success raising further funds which will directly benefit our children. The Friends were supported by some really great parents who volunteered their time to help. Thank you so much to those parents. Also, some parents made greater donations than were requested; this is incredibly generous and hugely appreciated. It is a truly heartwarming gesture and reflects our fantastic community.



Dates for your Diary!

- **Mon 11th Nov:** Anti-Bullying week, Bikeability (Y6)
- **Tues 12th Nov:** ODD SOCKS DAY
- **Weds 13th Nov:** Open afternoon for new parents
- **Thurs 14th Nov:** Year 6 football fixture (H)
- **Fri 15th Nov:** KS2 Celebration Assembly. Children in need day

Odd Socks Day

Odd Socks Day in 2024 is on Tuesday, November 12th and is part of Anti-Bullying Week, which runs from Monday, November 11th. The theme for Anti-Bullying Week 2024 is "Choose Respect".

Odd Socks Day is a day to raise awareness of bullying and celebrate what makes us all unique. It's a fun day where people wear mismatched socks as a metaphor for embracing differences and standing up against bullying. Please come to school wearing mismatched socks on Tuesday 12th to show our support and help raise awareness.



Parent Governor Election

We have a vacancy for a Parent Governor and will soon be starting the process of an election for the position. At the last election we had 6 very strong applications and are very much hoping for the same high standard again! Look out for the information via ParentMail and please consider if you believe you could make a positive difference to our school community through the Parent Governor role.

5 Star Menu at Highfield Wraparound Childcare
 The Food Standards Agency visited Highfield to inspect our food provision at Highfield Wraparound Childcare. We were delighted to receive the highest food hygiene rating of 5 out of 5! A massive well done to Sharifa and her team for this achievement.



Picture News:



Year 2 Remembrance Day learning and art work. Here is a beautiful wreath made by our Year 2 children as a part of their learning about Remembrance Day. Remembrance Day will be observed on Monday, November 11, dedicated to honouring and remembering members of the armed forces who have lost their lives in service.



Highfield Signposting: Community Events:



The 'Add Everyone' Explicit WhatsApp Group

Recent concerns have emerged regarding a WhatsApp group known as 'Add Everyone.' Schools and regional police forces across the UK have warned that this group exposes children and young people to explicit and harmful material.

Although the minimum age limit for WhatsApp is 13, there may be children who access this. Please be vigilant regarding such groups. If you would like to learn more, the Safer School site has more information [here](#).

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.