



Highfield Newsletter



Deputy Headteacher's Message

Primary schools are renowned for **singing**, especially around this time of year. However, when we think about why we sing we realise the benefits are enormous. Singing releases **endorphins** and 'happy chemicals' that boost your **mood, confidence** and make you **feel good** about yourself. It enhances lung function and helps to **beat stress** at the same time as building a sense of **community**. Importantly, for young children, it aids **language development** and **communication skills**, exposing children to words and phrases they haven't perhaps heard / used before. It also helps to improve memory, both long term and short term and builds concentration and stamina.

Last week Miss Thackrah and I had the privilege of taking our Highfield choir to perform at Pudsey Civic Hall as part of a 140 children strong Primary choir and 200+ Leeds schools choir, including children aged from 9-18. Wow! The children showed concentration and stamina beyond their years, rehearsing and performing for nearly 8 hours, and pure dedication having given up 3 lunchtimes a week since September to rehearse. The children were Highfield through and through and shone brightly on the stage.

As part of the performance the High school choirs each performed. I emailed the schools involved the following day:

We attended Winter Voices last night with our primary choir. Our children asked me to email you to pass on their thoughts regarding your choir. The words they used were: amazing, fabulous, wow, inspiring

It was the word 'inspiring' that caught me slightly off guard at the end of the night. I reflected on it as I drove home and fully agreed with what they said. Seeing positive role models for young children allows them to aspire to be the best they can be. Our choir consisted of 7 girls and 3 boys. It was the boys who chose the word inspiring because of the example your male students set last night. Thank you! We hope that when our children move onto high school they will continue to sing and enjoy the benefits they gain from it.

Enjoy the opportunity to sing whenever / wherever that may be.

Mrs Bowker

Winter Voices pictures:



News & Updates

Terrific fair turnout

Thank you to everyone who supported the Christmas Fair on Wednesday: stallholders, families and most of all The Friends and the army of volunteers who made it happen. It was a fantastic event and great to see so many of you there.

The Highfield Christmas Tree



A huge thank you to Christmas Tree Corner for sponsoring our tree again this year. It is a very generous gesture and we are hugely grateful. Find them on Instagram at: @christmastreecorner or visit them at Oakwood Clock, Roundhay, trading: 9.30am to 6pm, Friday, Saturday and Sundays.

A big shoutout also to Mrs Boyde, who kindly came in to decorate the tree and did an awesome job!

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

Cross-country superstars!

Congratulations again to our brilliant cross-country running squad who represented school so well recently at the Leeds North East Running Festival. All of our runners showed great resilience and stamina to complete this challenging event. We celebrated them in our assembly this morning, where they each received a bespoke certificate.

Well done also to the following, who made it through to the next round in February:

OUR YEAR FOUR BOYS TEAM

OUR YEAR SIX BOYS TEAM

IZZI THORPE representing YEAR SIX GIRLS

ISABELLE THOMAS representing YEAR FOUR GIRLS.

Congratulations to everyone!



Gingerbread competition:

Congratulations to everyone who entered the gingerbread competition run by our fabulous Friends of Highfield PTA! There were some amazing efforts on display and which made judging extremely difficult. The class winners were:

RH	Molly	RGS	Ruzgar
1W	Sophia	1B	Shylah
2F	Joshua	2H	Ashriya
3FW	Rose	3T	Mia
4V	Harri	4O	Luna
5E	Isabel	5L	Rajveer
6G	Khadeja	6BH	Ata

Engine Idling

Earlier this week the pollution sensors at school recoded a new high with a warning that some members of the public may experience health effects. The drop in temperature brings with it the temptation to sit in cars with the engine running to keep warm waiting for school start or finish. Unfortunately this then contributes to the poor air quality our children and neighbours breathe. The School Council who monitor this, have asked if parents would please not keep engines running and help improve the air quality in our environment.

Dates for your Diary!

- **Tues 10th Dec:** Year 2 Christmas Production
- **Weds 11th Dec:** Year 5 Christmas Production
- **Thurs 12th Dec:** Christmas dinner, Year 6 trip, Reception Christmas Crafts
- **Fri 13th Dec:** Harmony & Diversity breakfast, Reception Christmas Crafts

Medal haul

Adrian participated in the City of Sheffield Snow Frills 2024 over the weekend and achieved the following results in the Boys 10 age group:

Silver Medals: 50m Breaststroke, 50m Backstroke, 100m Backstroke; and Bronze Medals in: 100m Breaststroke, 200m Breaststroke, 200m Backstroke

A great effort Adrian!



Highfield Signposting

The Child Friendly Leeds team have put together a one page guide and [blog post](#) featuring activities for children and young people taking place in Leeds over December. The guide is coded, so it is easy to see which events are free.

To see which events are happening during specific weeks, please visit the links below:

[1 - 8 December](#)

[9 - 15 December](#)

[16 - 22 December](#)

[23 - 29 December](#)

[30 December - 5 January](#)



we are child friendly Leeds presents your 2024... **Winter Guide** to free/low cost activities happening across Leeds

events with a * cost £1-5 / events with ** cost £5-10

Leeds Christmas markets & Ice Cube are BACK!
From 22 November, pop into the city centre for some Christmas magic. (entry is free, ice rink tickets are paid for)

November...

- 30 Christmas Pantomime Meet & Greet**
City Square Christmas Markets, LS1, 12:00 to 13:00
- 30 & 1 Dec Christmas Playroom***
Sunny Bank Mills, LS28, 10:00 to 16:00, £3 entry for people aged 12+

December...

- 2 to 20 Story & Rhyme (under 5s)**
Selected Community Libraries for 1 hour, with times between 10:30 and 14:30
- 3 Code Club (ages 8 to 12)**
Halton Library, LS15, 15:30 to 16:30
- 7 The Museum of Roadside Magic**
Sunny Bank Mills, LS28, 10:00 to 16:00
- many! Meet and Greet with Santa!**
Leeds Kirkgate Market, LS2, 12 to 3pm (December 7, 14, 21 and 23)
- 7 & 8 Santa at the Museum****
Abbey House Museum, LS5, 12:00 to 16:00
- 10 Code Club (ages 8 to 12)**
Compton Centre, LS9, 15:45 to 16:45
- 12 to 22 'To Leeds, With Love' Christmas animation**
The Queens Hotel, LS1, 16:30 to 20:40
- 12 Code Club (ages 8 to 12)**
Compton Centre, LS9, 16:30 to 17:30
- many! Libellule Theatre Presents: The Stolen Stories of Winterlight****
Leeds Central Library, LS1 (December 14, 15, 21, 22, 23, 24, 27, 30, 31 & 4, 5 January)
- 14 Code Club (ages 8 to 12)**
Fudsey Library, LS28, 11:00 to 12:00 & 14:00 to 15:00
- 14 & 15 Santa at the Museum****
Abbey House Museum, LS5, 12:00 to 16:00
- 17 Code Club (ages 8 to 12)**
Halton Library, LS15, 15:30 to 16:30
- many! Festive Mystery Matinees (film screenings)****
Leeds Industrial Museum, LS12, 14:00 screening (December 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29, 30 & 31; January 2, 3, 4, 5)
- 21 & 22 Santa at the Museum****
Abbey House Museum, LS5, 12:00 to 16:00
- 22 & 23 Make Your Own Lore****
Sunny Bank Mills, LS28, 10:30 to 12:30
- 28 Libellule Theatre Presents: The Stolen Stories of Winterlight (BSL interpreter)****
Leeds Central Library, LS1, 10:30 to 11:30 and 15:00 to 16:00
- 29 Libellule Theatre Presents: The Stolen Stories of Winterlight (Relaxed Performance)****
Leeds Central Library, LS1, 11:00 to 12:00

CFL blog...
Get the details for the events listed our blog site

we are child friendly Leeds