



Highfield Newsletter



Headteacher's Message

This week I attended the termly Leeds Local Authority Heads meeting where we receive updates, guidance and support on key matters. I particularly enjoy learning about how our city is changing and the evolving needs of our children. One focus was the development of cultural capital - the knowledge, behaviours and skills that help children succeed in education and wider society, which was timely considering that our Year 6 children embark on their residential next week and Year 5 will be taking a trip to a famous art gallery! Recent research by the **Cultural Learning Alliance (2024)** and the **Durham Commission on Creativity and Education (2022)** highlights just how transformative cultural capital can be. Here are some of the powerful findings that I noted down to share with you:

- Children with access to rich cultural experiences are **three times more likely to earn a degree**.
- They are **twice as likely to vote**, showing greater civic engagement.
- They are **twice as likely to report better mental and physical wellbeing**.
- The creative economy, driven by arts and culture, now represents **1 in 11 jobs in the UK**—contributing **£101 billion** to the national economy.
- Learning through the arts improves children's attainment in core subjects like **Maths and English**.
- Most importantly, children exposed to cultural learning show a **17% increase in cognitive ability**, becoming better at 'learning how to learn'.

These are not just statistics—they reflect real opportunities for our children to thrive. However, access to cultural capital is not equal. Reports such as **"Closing the Attainment Gap" (Sutton Trust, 2024)** and **"An Unequal Playing Field" (Social Mobility Commission, 2019)** show how poverty can limit children's exposure to cultural experiences and the advantages they bring. It is why **Curriculum Enrichment** is one of our four key drivers at Highfield. So, although children might recall who had their crisps stolen by a seagull or how long they had to survive without Wi-Fi, school trips help empower our children with the tools not only to succeed in school, but to flourish in life.

Thank you for your support.

Mr Feeley

News & Updates

Celebration Assembly

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! The children we are celebrating this week are:

2F - Aiden, Gurbani, Lucas, Rayaana

2H - Dolsie, Gus, Hamid

1B - Emily, Fox, Mani, Woroud

1W - Fatima, Isabelle, Kellan, Sohan

RH - Camilla, Georgina, Nikethan, Rowan

RG - Brooke, Liam

Baldish and her team are 5 star!



This week we received our full inspection by the food standards agency. It came as no surprise that our amazing kitchen team received the full 5 out of 5! We are so proud of Baldish and her amazing team who go above and beyond every day to serve our Highfield children. Thank you from all of us.

Highfield Signposting

COME & JOIN US

AT OUR FREE TENNIS OPEN DAY FOR FUN GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

WHERE

Roundhay Lawn Tennis Club
Shaftesbury Avenue
Roundhay
Leeds
LS8 1DR

WHEN

Saturday 7th June: 10:00-11:30 & 12:30-14:00
Sunday 8th June: 13:00-14:30

PRICE - FREE

You're invited to our FREE open days and no need to book to attend! Scan the QR code below for more information.

Further information available at:
www.roundhaytennis.org.uk

Everyone aged 4-11 welcome. All equipment will be provided.



Dates for your Diary!

- **Mon 9th June:** 6BH Residential, Reception sports morning, Phonics Screening Check week begins,
- **Weds 11th June:** 6G Residential, Year 2 sports morning, Year 4 sports afternoon
- **Thurs 12th June:** Year 5 sports morning, Year 3 sports afternoon
- **Fri 13th June:** 5L trip, Year 1 sports morning

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.