



# *The Highfielder*

*Highfield so far! - A 'Hello!' from Mr Gath and the Highfielder team.*



## **A Busy Term Full of Firsts at Highfield!**

Hello everyone! Mr Gath here! It is wonderful to be sharing our very first *Highfielder Newspaper* with you. As we look back on our exciting first term, there is so much good news to celebrate.

This has been a *term of firsts* at Highfield. For the first time ever, we watched fireworks sparkle and crackle on our school field. Years 1 to 6 have enjoyed guitar lessons, filling the school with music. Many children walked through the Highfield gates for the very first time; and of course, this is also my first time helping to publish a newspaper!

Even with these new experiences, we have kept our much-loved Highfield traditions. Our school orchestra played beautiful Christmas carols in church, joined by our fantastic choir and the bell ringers. Families were treated to brilliant festive performances from Year 5 and Year 2, and our Reception children put on a wonderful nativity play that made everyone smile warmly.

Throughout the term, our classes have taken part in trips, special visits and exciting enrichment days. In this issue, our Highfield reporters will bring you the inside scoop from across the school, including interviews with staff and pupils—get to know the team. Keep an eye on future issues for fun ideas, activities and things to explore.

We hope you enjoy this term's newspaper—there's plenty of great news inside!



## **Meet the team:**

**Jenson:** Hello, I am Jensen Vaines and I am in year 6. I have been attending Highfield primary school since reception and have enjoyed all my time here as all of the teachers are very friendly and also incredibly helpful. My teachers right now are Mrs Homan and Mr Brassil who are both very committed to my education and help me all the time with my French, History and especially writing. I am pleased to be a Highfielder because I get to combine my ICT skills with my journalism skills. Look out for my articles inside!

**Nerea:** Hi, I am Nerea from 6BH. My favorite subjects are English, PE and DT. I have been coming to Highfield since Reception and have loved my journey at school. I am proud to be a Highfielder because the team and I can inform you about upcoming events, past events and activities.

**Katherine:** I am Katherine and I am in 6G. I joined Highfield in year four, and I think it is a great school. All the subjects here are interesting but I do have some favourites: art, PE and DT. I am excited to be a Highfielder; I aim to bring you accurate reports about all the key events across the school.

**Safaan:** Hi there, my name is Safaan and I am in 6G. My favourite subjects are PE, Maths, and DT because they are always enjoyable; we learn a lot of new skills in every subject. I joined Highfield way back in 2019 and I have been here for 7 years. I like to make sure I am busy at school, I have joined lots of clubs such as the Computing club, a Basketball club, and a Drama club. I am excited to be a Highfielder because I like to keep an eye on what is going on.

## *Team News*

*By Mr Gath*

### *Thank you from us*

We would like to say a huge 'Thank you!' to Mrs Maskill and Mrs Bannatyne who have been invaluable in all they have done during their time at Highfield. Whilst we will not be seeing them in school everyday, we are looking forward to seeing them at school events in the future. Thank you again for all your help and good luck!

### *Getting to know you... Mrs Busch*

*By Jenson & Katherine*

*A look into the mind of a teacher....*

**How long have you been at Highfield?** "Let me see... I must have been at Highfield for ten years this year! Wow!" **Do you have a favourite lesson to teach?** "I am science lead, so that is probably my favourite lesson to teach because you carry out a lot of fun experiments and investigations." **Why did you want to become a teacher?** "I like to help children learn and I worked in childcare prior to teaching so I felt like this was the perfect job for me." **How many of your primary school teachers can you still name now?** "I can still remember them dearly. Let me think: Mrs Peaks, Mr North, Miss Barley, Mr Nunns, Mrs Ingram and Miss Swan." **Were any of these teachers your favourite?** "Miss barley because she was very encouraging and when she found maths tricky, she supported me and helped me believe in myself."

**Thank you Mrs Busch.**

### *What's been going on?*

*Reception to Year 2*

*By Safaan and Nerea*

Welcome to Highfield! Reception have had a great time settling in and getting to know each other, their teachers and the way school works. Each reception child has a year 6 buddy who will help them as they move towards year 1. Year 6 watched their buddies perform in their first nativity (and their first show ever!) They were extremely proud! What a fantastic start to Highfield life our Reception children have had!

In Year 1, children have been learning about toys of the past, this is always a favourite history lesson. Year 1 spent time playing with toys from the 70s and the 80s and were comparing it with the toys they bought from home. Our teachers were more than happy to bring toys they used to play with. Mr Feeley bought lots of Star Wars toys, Miss Thackrah bought a Teddy Ruxpin.

On 4th November, there was a visit from Dr Onion, who works for Yorkshire Air Ambulance—no need to panic, this was a planned visit! Dr Onion came to talk to us about his job. He spoke with the children and let them try out some of his equipment. All the children had a go at something and loved it. Some of them had to pretend that they were unconscious!



Year 2, have been rather green fingered this term. Our year 2 children enjoyed a hands-on day at the allotment, planting spring bulbs including bright daffodils and colourful crocuses. They also helped plant new trees, including rowan and ash.

In October, year 2 had an extremely important guest—Florence Nightingale paid us a visit. She taught year 2 some important first aid tips and told them all about her life! What a great visit!

## *What's been going on?*

*Year 3 and 4*

*By Jenson and Katherine*

Where to start? In October, year 3 studied a type of Japanese poem called a haiku. They created posters explaining all the features. They also went on a school trip to the past where they explored the Stone Age to the Iron Age. They hunted deer, caught fish, wattle, completed cave paintings and looked at roundhouses. Thankfully, they made it back to Highfield 2025 safely!



In November, they learned about shadows and the way that they change. They investigated the following questions. How is a shadow formed? What did you observe when you moved your torch back 5cm? Why does the size of the shadow change when you move the torch? Why does the size of the shadow change when you move the torch? They had a great time experimenting.

In September, year 4 went on a brand-new residential to Whitby. They, ventured to Whitby Abbey, went on an adventure through Whitby, played outside and ate delicious ice cream. They enjoyed scrumptious hot chocolate after their busy day and soon went to sleep. The following day, they ate breakfast and went to the beach for a fossil hunt. You can read all about this in their diaries—or even better... Year 4 presented everything they had done in Whitby with a big assembly to parents and children. They showcased their diaries, poems and their exciting adventures. They finished the assembly with a song about their time in Whitby.



Towards the end of November, 4V had a class assembly showcasing everything they had done that half term. They talked about the Romans, circuits and BBC micro bits (they made a reaction game out of cardboard and foil using these micro bits.) It was an entertaining way to start a Wednesday morning. Wow! Year 3 and 4 have had a fantastic term and have been extremely busy.

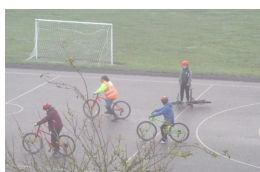
## *What's been going on?*

*Year 5 and 6*

*By Safaan, Nerea, Jenson and Katherine*

It has been a great start to the year for year 5, it has been incredibly musical. 5L and 5E have been sharpening up their glockenspiel skills and have been preparing busily for their Christmas performance! They have been studying different approaches to 'forgiveness' in R.E. and have been thoroughly enjoying their start to the new year.

Year 6 were lucky enough to receive a visit from the Northern Shakespeare company. A Macbeth workshop was held and year 6 were encouraged to use their acting skills to explore what happened in the famous play. It was an amazing way to spend the school day. Everyone enjoyed it, even the teachers!



Bike safety! We have been practicing our bicycle skills and had a visit from Cycle North, our Bike Ability experts. Year 6 started practising on school grounds and advanced to riding on the roads. When we were on the roads, we were learned about "T" junctions and how to be safe when riding.

Meeting our buddies was a momentous occasion, as it always is in Year 6! Our oldest children are such an important part of welcoming Reception into Highfield! We can't wait to see more of them next year!



## *Odd Socks Day*

### *By Nerea*

On Monday the 10<sup>th</sup> of November, Highfield Primary School had our odd socks day in support of Anti-Bullying week.



The day began with a meaningful assembly led by Ms. Overduin introducing the week's theme 'Power for Good'. This inspired children to use the power they have to stop bullying in its tracks. Odd socks day is a fun way to promote Anti-Bullying week and to encourage the children to celebrate what makes them special. Everyone had a great time in their mismatched socks and there was positivity in the air.

## *The Sound of Highfield Music!*

### *By Safaan & Mr Gath*

In early December, The Highfield Choir went to perform at Pudsey Civic Hall as part of the Winter Voices concert. Alongside Highfield, there were many other primary school (and two high school) choirs from across Leeds performing. A huge crowd came to support. The choir also performed at Alderbrook care home. Nerea, a key member of the choir, said 'We went to the care home to raise people's spirits at Christmas time.' Highfield would like to say a huge thank you to Miss Thackrah and Mrs Bowker for all the rehearsals and providing this fantastic opportunity.



Mr Gath's orchestra have been incredibly busy! They have been performing for parents and of course they provided the music for our church service. As always, they sounded sublime and the orchestra in church means Christmas is nearly here!

On Wednesday 10th December, Mrs Dalglish and Mrs Calvert took 8 children to a Christmas singalong event at Pudsey Civic Hall. They had a great afternoon singing, dancing and playing party games. There were lots of other children there from other schools. They had so much fun and even got to meet Santa.



Our school-wide guitar lessons have continued to prove popular. Some of our 6BH children were serenaded by the guitar club, brightening up a wintery December afternoon. They were treated to a terrific rendition of "Merry Christmas Everyone". Run by GET INTO GUITAR, this club has been thoroughly enjoyed by all who attend. Keep rockin' and rollin' Highfield!

## *Mad Science!*

### *By Safaan*



In November, a visitor came in to talk about Science of the Olympics. We had a special assembly and the school left feeling very excited! We saw experiments demonstrating all kinds of scientific concepts. We saw air resistance in action; tested our reaction times, and there was even an amazing finale involving flames. The visit was a precursor to a club that will be coming soon to Highfield. There will be all kinds of science based fun and lots of amazing science experiments.

## *Drama, oracy and theatrics!*

*By Jensen & Katherine*

We have had an exciting, festive finish to this term and there have been a host of Christmas productions. Let's start in Reception where they have performed The Nativity which is their first ever production in Highfield. Year 6 were lucky enough to see their buddies perform. The singing was angelic and each child played their part perfectly! It was such a lovely way to celebrate Christmas at Highfield.



Year 2 also showcased their take on the Nativity story in a production called The First Christmas. They excellently retold the story of the journey to Bethlehem and the birth of Jesus. Everybody lucky enough to see the production had nothing but good things to say about the play! Well done year 2! And finally, the Year 5 production: The Grinch. This was described by many as a spectacular production. There were some brilliant songs and the acting was full of poignant moments.

## *Sports at Highfield*

*By Nerea*

Year 6 have made a successful start to the season after matches against Gledhow Primary and Roundhay Primary. When the football team, came up against Gledhow Primary they were set back with a 2-0 start but rallied to win 3-2. All played well but special mentions go to Ralph Bavi, who scored the first goal; Joe Harding, for his spectacular defense skills; Sam Fishburn for his powerful goal; and finally, Mason Edwards for his fantastic goal.

Another match was played in wintry conditions against Roundhay Primary and it finished in a 2-2 draw. It was a difficult match, and we also would like to give some shout outs to two of the members on the team. Sam Fishburn who helped the team by scoring 2 goals and Jack Cole who came close.



The girl's football team is very popular, and they have played an amazing first match. The football team ranges from years 3-5. Their first match was against Gledhow Primary, it didn't go how they wanted it to but they pushed through and still scored two goals.

Each year, Highfield partake in an inter-schools Cross Country event and children in years 4-6 compete. Well done to all participants and congratulations go to the following pupils who continue to the next round. All of whom placed inside the top 14 positions. Jessica and Charlie finished in 2nd position in their heats and Ernie finished in the gold medal position! Great running Sophia, Jessica, Ernie, Charlie, Seb, Sam and Jack!

## *Keeping fit and doing our bit!*

*By Nerea*



Replacing our Santa Dash this year, we had the first Elf Run. This was held in school time and all classes ran around the running track for 20 minutes. Whilst we were running, we had to wear an elf hat. We did this because we were raising money for the charity *Simon on the Streets* - an organization which helps people who are homeless and provides them with food, water and a safe place to live. Thanks to the generosity of the Highfield community, we raised an outstanding £2,191 for them. You can still donate using the QR code here. What a great community effort,



## ***PTA Events***

***By Safaan & Nerea***



There have been so many fun activities going on outside the classroom. Thank you to the PTA for organising these events and the teachers for making arrangements for these things to happen. This year, lots of children had a ball at the Pumpkin party with a DJ and yummy crisps and fizzy drinks. This was such an amazing party for children to enjoy and remember.

This year, Highfield hosted a spectacular firework display with amazing fireworks lighting up the night sky with lots of bright colours. This event has made it onto Highfield's calendar for next year - BOOM!.

In the penultimate week of term, each year group had a Christmas dance party that was led by a professional who showed us a routine to 'All I want for Christmas is Youuuu...'. This really made us feel the

Christmas spirit!

A big thank you goes to Mrs Shelley who organised this year's Christmas Fair. The fair was held in the school and sold many different products and some sweet treats. Many people came to this with their children and left with their spirits high. A personal Highlight of the Christmas fair was a raffle where people won prizes for either picking the right numbers or guessing a teddy bear's name right.



## ***The Highfield Legacy - Where are they now?***

### ***An interview with former pupil and current Key Stage 1 assistant, Annie Coldwell.***

***By Safaan and Katherine***

In this issue, we had the pleasure of speaking to Miss Coldwell who was a pupil at Highfield in the not so distant past. Annie has been coming back to Highfield to help us and we have asked about her memories of being in Highfield. **Hello Annie, welcome back. What do you remember about being at Highfield?**

I remember all the extra activities and lots of kind teachers.

**What events did you like particularly?**

I like sport and all the Christmas events.

**Do you remember any teachers in particular?**

I remember everyone being very kind, I had a good time in year 5 with Miss Elson.

**What would you like to do in the future and how did Highfield help you?**

All the teachers helped, they have inspired me to do the same as them—I enjoy working with children.

**Finally, what would you rate Highfield out of 10? 10 out of 10 definitely!**

**Thank you so much, Annie—all the best in the future!**



## Christmas fun activities

### Musical Jokes By Mr Gath (...So Sorry!)



## Christmas Word Search

A	L	X	O	Y	A	D	I	L	O	H	J	O	Y	I	N	S	Q
S	G	I	N	G	E	R	M	A	H	T	A	E	R	W	M	Z	A
H	Y	S	E	M	E	A	N	S	A	M	T	S	I	R	H	C	N
P	W	O	T	R	E	E	J	Y	C	A	N	D	Y	C	A	N	E
L	R	Q	A	O	K	E	L	O	V	I	A	N	F	G	T	H	N
O	S	H	R	G	C	O	W	V	O	W	S	R	A	W	R	I	A
D	J	V	B	E	S	K	N	G	E	H	O	X	M	N	E	D	W
U	O	O	E	L	I	K	I	D	O	S	L	G	E	D	E	O	I
R	L	Q	L	S	T	H	A	N	T	L	Z	D	C	O	D	N	G
J	U	E	E	L	O	C	K	Y	G	P	E	G	S	G	N	Y	N
H	B	N	C	A	Y	L	U	T	H	L	H	E	J	Y	I	T	I
E	L	O	B	E	R	S	M	I	S	T	L	E	T	O	E	W	H
E	I	R	E	I	N	T	E	B	E	X	W	F	I	R	R	S	T

**SANTA**

**MISTLETOE**

**REINDEER**

**TREE**

**CELEBRATE**

**STOCKING**

**WREATH**

**JOLLY**

**BELLS**

**CANDY CANE**

**ELVES**

**HOLIDAY**

**RUDOLPH**

**FROSTY**

**CHRISTMAS**

**SLEDGE**



**Ho! HO! HOOO!**

*HO! Why did Santa join a hip-hop crew?*

*To improve his **wrapping** skills!*

*HO! Who is Santa's favourite singer?*

***Elfish Presley!***

*HO! Who is a Christmas Tree's favourite singer? **Spruce Springsteen!***

## Things to do in the Christmas holidays around Leeds...

*By Jenson and Katherine*



At Stockeld park, you can experience a Christmas adventure! Visit Santa's grotto, go ice skating, venture through a snowflake maze, and gaze at dazzling illuminations. There is also a live theatre showcasing family-friendly shows to watch with the whole family. This Christmas experience ends mid January.

At this time of year, Leeds city centre is completely converted into a huge Christmas market featuring sweet treats, themed ornaments, and artisan stalls. The delicious smells of baked goods fill the air creating a lively atmosphere unlike anything else.

You can explore the beautifully decorated Lotherton hall and its enchanting grounds, which are modified into a festive wonderland with bright lights, Yuletide displays, Christmas workshops, seasonal guided or self-led tours and winter walks through the gardens.

During Christmas time, the Leeds Grand Theatre and West Yorkshire Playhouse hold Christmas themed plays and pantomimes full of laughter, music and holiday spirit.

Many local museums host family workshops and craft activities for kids to create Christmas cards or decorations.

