

# Highfield Junior and Infant School Newsletter December 2018

Although the Autumn Term is the longest of the year, it always surprises me how busy it is and just how much we manage to fit in. As you all know, Mrs. Davies went on maternity leave in October and has since had a baby girl; both are doing very well. Typically for Highfield, there have been many highlights but I think the biggest highlight for me was the amazing 'Culture Week' that took place in the first half term. Across school, we embraced the wide variety of cultures that form our wonderful school community and celebrated them all whilst learning about what is different but, more importantly, what is similar. We have so much more in common that unites us and that is what we focus on and are proud of at Highfield. We have also launched cursive writing across the whole school and have been amazed at some of the improvements that we have seen in children's handwriting. Our neatest writers have received their pens and pen licences this half term; I'm looking forward to giving many more pens and licences out in January. Across the course of the term, we have had a number of external visitors coming in to review how well Highfield is doing and the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive with all of them commenting on the quality of teaching that children are receiving and how much behaviour has improved. This is fantastic and all down to the work of the staff and children in school. In January, I will be sharing more information on how school has improved over the time that we've been here. We've had many Christmas performances over the last 2 weeks and our children have really enjoyed performing to the school community. It's been a pleasure to see them all and we hope that you've enjoyed them as much as we have. May I wish you all a very relaxing holiday and a Merry Christmas to all of you who celebrate. Everyone at Highfield wishes you a very happy, healthy and prosperous 2019. We look forward to seeing you all back in school on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January.

**Mr. Knibbs**  
Head

## Writing – Mrs Middleton (AHT)

Children in Years 2-6 received a very special delivery from Mrs Middleton and Mr Knibbs this half term: a scroll challenging them to a handwriting competition. We adopted a cursive handwriting approach in September and children have been working really hard to join their handwriting. Mr Knibbs challenged the children to write neater than he can, with a prize of 'pen licences' for those children who succeed in producing neat, consistent, cursive handwriting. Our first special writing assembly took place on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December and we will be holding more throughout the academic year.

## Amanda Hazeldine – Associate DHT

I have really enjoyed my first half term as Associate Deputy Head. We have continued to develop our links with parents and the community. Culture week was fantastic and it was lovely to see the children in their cultural clothes. Thank you to all of the parents who came to the assemblies at the end of the week. The children produced fantastic work throughout the week and these are on display in the Junior Hall. We also set up a Community Cohesion parent group and we have met several times to discuss future plans so watch this space! I enjoyed meeting parents at my first coffee morning too. It was great to see so many families at our Christmas Fayre and we hope to make it an annual event

## Reception – Mrs Middleton (AHT)

We have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know our new children and parents in Reception this term. They have settled really well into life at Highfield School, making lots of new friends and have learnt so many new skills already! Lots of learning this term has been focused on storybooks, with 'Room On The Broom' and 'Brown Bear, Brown Bear What Do You See?' being firm favourites. Just one look at the amazing display Reception children made for their cloakroom area proves how much they have loved learning about stories. We are so proud of all of their achievements and are looking forward to welcoming them back for the Spring term in January.

## Inclusion – Mrs Dunkley

Since starting at Highfield in September I have been teaching our Nurture group (affectionately known as 'Smarties') each morning and then getting to know all about the other children who need extra support, in the afternoons. We have had fun the Smartie room this term. We have centred our learning around the Topics of Monsters Inc and The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark. In Maths we have been learning to recognise numbers, add and subtract. We have also been learning about shape. On November 5<sup>th</sup> we held our Inclusion Workshop. Parents and children enjoyed making playdough and creating firework pictures. Please contact school to make an appointment to see me if you have any concerns regarding your child's additional needs – or catch me outside before/ after school. I look forward to working with you all in the future.



### Year 1 – Mrs Flint AHT

This term Year 1 have been learning all about 'Changes'. They have explored the four seasons and learnt about how the weather and world around us changes during the year. The children have been learning about and labelling our body parts and then moved on to discovering what we use our senses for. The children have learnt how to classify animals and learnt how to look closely at the features of different animals and talk about how they are the same and how they are different. In year 1 we have been working really hard to write like Super Hero's by developing our cursive writing. All of the Year 1 staff are very proud of how hard the children have worked on this and the progress they have made so far.



### Year 2 - Mrs Flint AHT

In Year 2 we have had an exciting time this term completing our 'Fire and Light' topic. We had an amazing WOW day for Diwali filled with dancing, art and design and technology projects. We will soon be recreating the Great Fire of London in the playground to end our topic! We have had the opportunity to use lot of exciting technology in our lessons such as the VR headsets and the Sphero robots. The children have been making great progress in their writing lessons with a particular focus on narrative texts. In Maths, we have been completing lots of work on addition and subtraction to secure these skills. Next term our topic will be 'Inventors and Explorers'. Please could we remind parents to make sure that their children have their PE kits in school on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Their book bags should be brought to school everyday and homework needs to be returned on a Monday. We hope you all have a lovely holiday!

### Year 3 – Mrs Hazeldine Associate DHT

Year 3 have really enjoyed their topic this term. They have learnt all about the Stone Age and they have been reading the Stone Age Boy. They loved going on a hunt for him around the school grounds at the start of the topic and they completed fantastic writing based on their hunt. I was really impressed with the work that they produced at home linked to this topic too. It was lovely to see lots of you at the reading workshop earlier in the term and I hope that you will continue to read with your children every night at home.



### Year 5 – Mrs Bi AHT

Year 5 have worked hard across all subjects this term. Their topic has been The Vikings. They have learned all about the Vikings and why they came to Britain. Year 5 even had a chance to create Viking long ships using a variety of materials. In writing the children have practiced developing their sentences and paragraphs using subordinating conjunctions, adjectives and adverbs to engage the reader. Year 5 have also worked on grammar and punctuation throughout the term and are becoming confident with including basic punctuation into their work. In Science we have studied living things and their habitats by looking at the life cycles of various mammals and insects. We have also immersed ourselves into our topic of space! The children brought in some fantastic projects that they made at home. In maths Year 5 have been delving into place value, addition, subtraction and multiplication.

### Year 4 – Mrs Bi AHT

This term the Year 4 topic has been Invasions and The Roman Empire. Over the course of the topic, they have learned all about the Romans, their clothing, entertainment, architecture and important events such as the eruption of Mount Vesuvius and destruction of Pompeii. In Writing, the children have made excellent progress and have practiced developing their sentences and paragraphs using adverbials and conjunctions to develop their writing. In Science, they have studied teeth and the human digestive system, including experimenting with different liquids to see the impact that they have on teeth. In Maths, the pupils have studied a number of topics such as ordering and comparing numbers, the formal methods of addition and subtraction, rounding and measurement.

**School will close for all pupils on Friday 21st December at 1pm.  
School will re-open for all pupils on Tuesday 8th January 2019**

### Year 6 – Miss Webster AHT

Lessons have provided many fascinating experiences – one in particular was the opportunity for each child to use a VR Headset, bringing our visual lessons to life. WW2 was our topic for this term and our students used their knowledge to plan, design and create an Anderson Shelter – an air raid shelter that was used during the war for protection (see the picture). With the festive season quickly approaching, it is another opportunity to take part in the many cultures that we pride ourselves for being a part of – the first being Diwali, which we embraced and indulged in a day packed with mesmerizing stories and colourful art to show the light in each child that we have in Year 6.

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