

# Highfield CE Primary School

## Weekly Update

### A message from Mrs Walford and Mrs Bond

As we draw close to the end of this wonderful year, we wanted to take a moment to express our heartfelt gratitude for the support and enthusiasm you've shown during our festive celebrations here at Highfield. It has been an absolute delight to witness the joy and talent displayed by our amazing children throughout the various nativities, carol concerts and festive activities around the school. A HUGE thank you to the parents too for the wonderful staff Christmas hampers - the staff are incredibly grateful.

The dedication and enthusiasm demonstrated by our children in bringing the spirit of Christmas to life have been truly heart-warming. Each performance and the enthusiastic participation in our seasonal events have showcased the creativity, unity, and vibrancy of our school community.

We are immensely proud of our pupils and grateful for the support and encouragement you, as parents, have provided in nurturing their talents and enthusiasm for these festivities.

As we approach this special time of year, I want to take this opportunity to wish you and your loved ones a Christmas filled with joy, warmth, and cherished moments. We extend our warmest wishes for a new year filled with opportunities, success and continued growth for your children and your family.

Thank you once again for your continued support and involvement in our school community. Let's cherish the wonderful memories we've created and look forward to many more happy moments ahead in the coming year.

**Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!**

Term **Autumn** Number **14**  
Date **15/12/2023**



info@highfieldshool.co.uk



02380 555793



Highfield CE Primary School, Hawthorn Rd,  
Southampton, SO17 1PX

# School Improvement Priorities

## 2023/2024

### Attendance

National attendance rate across the academic year to date was **93.6%**. The absence rate was, therefore, 6.4% across all schools.

Highfield CE Primary attendance to date this week: **95.4%**

### Writing



Miss Ellis conducted an inspiring staff meeting focused on crafting captivating introductory lessons for every new unit in English, aiming to entice and engage our children right from the start. Our dedicated teachers have invested considerable effort in devising compelling hooks for the initial book that the children will delve into upon their return from the Christmas Break. We look forward to sharing the photos from these exciting lessons with you in the first newsletter of 2024.

### Developing Leadership



The INSET day on the 2nd January has been planned to develop teachers subject leadership skills; teachers will complete a middle leaders skills and knowledge audit so that any areas of weakness can be address through targeted training opportunities and coaching. Teachers will also be introduced to the new subject monitoring schedule. Alongside this, teachers will be given guidance on how to prepare and complete learning walks for their subject which will specifically monitor impact. Teachers will also look at hoe to provide supportive feedback and manageable next steps.

### Curriculum



Geography is one of our foundation subjects in focus this year and Miss Collins has worked really hard to identify improvements she would like to lead. Through in-depth monitoring she has identified that our coverage against the national curriculum subjects is great but there are a few areas where we can make these stronger and this will be her focus in the Spring Term.

### Christian Values



Preparations on underway for the exciting unveiling of our new school values on our Values Day on Thursday 4th January! Mrs Shorey has been working really hard to make sure the day is engaging and exciting and we can not wait to see what she has in store for us all.

# Safeguarding Update

Sadly, the school holidays can place additional pressures on families often leading to an increase in safeguarding concerns. We know this can leave some children in extremely vulnerable situations. Vulnerability may be exacerbated by:

- Financial vulnerabilities such as fuel and food poverty, affording additional holiday related spend;
- Increased relationship tensions and stresses, leading to family disputes and /or mental health issues;
- Increased exposure to domestic abuse, substance abuse;
- Increased e-safety concerns of cyberbullying, exposure to potential grooming / exploitation or radicalisation;
- Other contextualised safeguarding issues outside the family unit that arise in the time away from the structure and safety of school.

If you are concerned about the immediate safety of a child Please call the police on 999. Once you have done this, please share your concerns with the Children's Resource Service by telephone on 02380 833004 (Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5pm and Friday 8.30am to 4.30pm) or 02380 233344 (weekends, Bank Holidays and outside of office hours).

If you are a child, young person, parent or carer, and you would like to discuss your worries or seek advice and support please get in touch with the Children's Resource Service. You can contact them on 02380 83 3004 (office hours) or 02380 23 3344 (outside of office hours).

If you would like to speak to a school DSL, please email [highfielddsl@gmail.com](mailto:highfielddsl@gmail.com)

This confidential inbox is checked daily by Rosie Walford (lead DSL).

## Give the gift of live music for Christmas!

Don't miss the City of Southampton Orchestra's 2024 Family Concert! Come along to Central Hall in Southampton on January 27th 2024 to enjoy a musical menagerie of animal related live music played by the CSO.

The whole family can enjoy such favourites as Peter and the Wolf, Swan Lake, Carnival of the Animals and Jurassic Park. The CSO will be conducted by John Trill as we once again team up with our friends narrator Phil Cheesman and The New Forest School of Dance.

The perfect Christmas stocking filler and a wonderful way to start the New Year with the family. Bring your favourite teddy and have the chance to meet the orchestra's mascot, Bernie Bear, ask questions and talk to members of the orchestra.

Tickets are available here: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/csorchestra>  
it would be great to see you there!

## Highfield Church Christmas Services for families this year

Highfield Church will be having a Crib Service on Sunday 17th December at 10AM. Children are encouraged to dress up as characters from the Christmas story and will be able to take part in the retelling of the story during the service.

On Christmas Eve they will be having a Christingle Service at 4PM. Everyone is welcome.



Here is a link to all of their Christmas Services:

<http://www.highfield.church/christmas>



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

All useful dates have been updated onto our website and can be found here:

<https://highfieldceprimarieschool.co.uk/>

**Tuesday 2nd January** - INSET Day (School closed)

**Wednesday 3rd January** - First day back to school after the Christmas break.

Harry Potter themed day (fancy dress) for years 5 and 6.

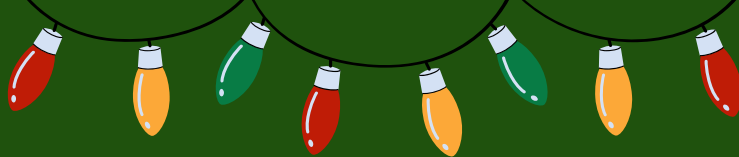
**Thursday 4th January** - Launch of our new school values - Peace, Courage, Respect

**Monday 8th January** - MINDS parent talk at 9.30. Details sent separately.

**Wednesday 10th January** - Year 5 and 6 trip to the Mosque







# IN SCHOOL THIS WEEK

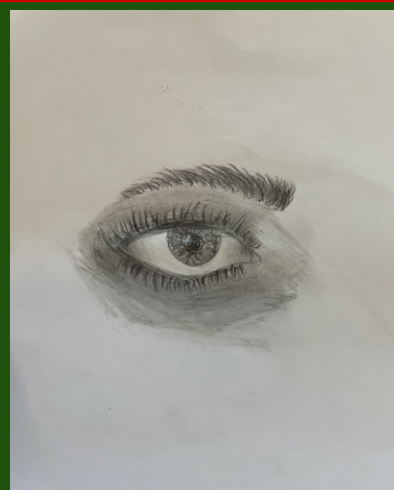
Both departments were alive with laughter and festive cheer during our annual Christmas lunch and jumper day. Children arrived in colourful, vibrant sweaters, adding to the spirited atmosphere.



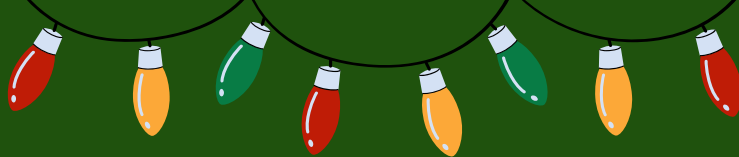
## Year R Christmas Performance



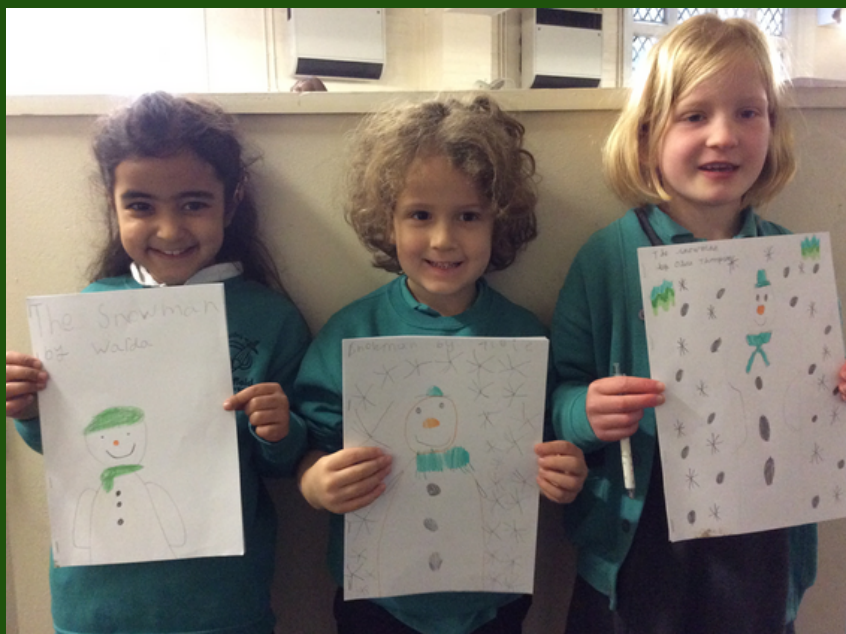
Pupils in year 3 and 4 have been learning how to sketch and shade facial features this half term. They then used these skills to draw their own portraits, which were fantastic. Olivia in Europe felt so inspired that she continued practising her skills at home, and we were all very impressed with her attention to detail!







# IN SCHOOL THIS WEEK



'Wonderful writing projects  
This week, the children in  
KSI have been authors!  
They have created their  
very own writing projects  
based on the book and film  
'The Snowman' by Raymond  
Briggs. They wrote  
character descriptions,  
poems and setting  
descriptions and worked  
really independently to do  
so. Well done everyone!'



Thank you to everyone that contributed to the  
Staff Christmas Treats Collection to show our  
wonderful teachers and support staff how much we  
appreciate them. We raised an amazing £822!  
A range of snacks and treats was delivered to both  
staff rooms on Tuesday. THANK YOU, PARENTS!  
The remaining £455 has been kept for the  
teachers to use in the new year.



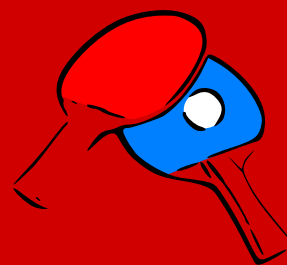
All of the infant staff would like to say a big  
THANK YOU to the HSFF and all of the  
parents for the lovely hampers we received.  
Miss Bignell also says a big thank you for the  
gluten free goodies included! It is very kind  
and generous of you all. We hope you all  
have a lovely and restful holiday break and  
we will see you in the New Year!





# SPORTING UPDATE

A HUGE well done to all of the children that have taken part in a sporting event this term. As a school, we have taken part in so many events, and it's been lovely to see the children enjoying the opportunities on offer. Whether it has been hockey, dodgeball, football or table tennis, the children have represented the Highfield Golden Goals and Core Values exceptionally well, and all the staff are so proud of them! Already at the juniors 41% of children have taken part in a sporting event for Highfield which is incredible to see! There are lots more events coming up in the spring term to be excited about!







# HSFF

## Highfield School Family and Friends



The HSFF would like to say a huge thank you to the whole school community this term for all of your support and engagement with our events.

We are looking forward to seeing you all again in 2024 with lots more fantastic opportunities to get together and celebrate the amazing pupils at Highfield CofE E Primary School.

We would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Love

The HSFF

xx



Please see the letter from Southampton City Mission thanking you all for your very kind donations through the reverse advent calendar arranged by Mrs Shorey



Unit 5 Second Avenue Business Park  
Millbrook, Southampton, SO15 0LP  
023 80550435  
office@southamptoncitymission.co.uk  
www.southamptoncitymission.co.uk  
Registered Charity No. 1162099

Ref: Your Christmas Food Donations 2023

Dear Friends,

We're so grateful that you have chosen to donate food for Southampton City Mission's Food projects this Christmas!

With the ongoing cost of living crisis, we are especially grateful for the donations you have made this year.

SCM Basics Bank exists to meet short term food and clothing needs for anyone and everyone who requires it – free of charge.

All of the food you give us goes to ordinary families and individuals in need in Southampton. Anyone can have a sudden crisis that leaves them in need of a helping hand to get back on their feet. We have fed people 19,989 times and have provided clothes for 1,958 people so far this year.

So, a heartfelt THANK YOU for helping people who are struggling in our city and Happy Christmas.

Many thanks again for your kindness and generosity.

Vicky Mckillen  
Basics Bank Manager



# Do you want to become a Primary School Teacher?

Then come along to our free open event we are hosting with



Find out about their **OUTSTANDING** one year training programme

Have your questions answered by the SCITT Director

Get advice on how to apply, prepare & what to expect

**TUESDAY 16TH JANUARY**  
**5PM– 6PM**  
**HIGHFIELD CE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Address: Hawthorn Road, Southampton, SO17 1PX. To register for this event or find out more details, please visit our website; [www.farehamandgosportprimaryscitt.co.uk](http://www.farehamandgosportprimaryscitt.co.uk)

## Autism Coffee Morning



**Re:Minds**

Re:Minds is a Southampton based organisation supporting families whose children/young people have Autism, ADHD or other neurodiverse needs and/or mental health needs - with or without a diagnosis.



We have arranged a chance for parents to come and talk to Re:Minds about your views around autism and to see if there is any other support they can offer you.

- ★ Monday 8th January 2024
- ★ 9:30am-10:30am
- ★ Junior Department Hall



Tea, coffee and biscuits provided

## Southampton Mental Health in Schools Team (MHST)



### Managing Challenging Behaviour A Workshop for Parents & Care Givers

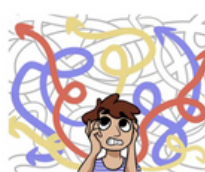


Does your child show challenging behaviours at home?  
Do you want to learn tools to manage these behaviours?

All children show behaviours which can be difficult to understand and manage at times, we all use behaviour as a way to communicate.

It can be difficult for parents/care givers to know how best to support children during these times of challenge.

This workshop is for parents and caregivers to understand more about why children show challenging behaviours and learn some tools which help with managing behaviour at home.



**Who:** All Parents and Care Givers are welcome  
**Where:** Highfield Primary School (Junior Department)

**When:** Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2024  
**Time:** 9am-10am

**What do I need to bring:** Just yourself! However, you are welcome to bring note paper and a pen if you would like.





# 12 Top Tips for Children and Young People to Enjoy a TECH-FREE CHRISTMAS

The Christmas holidays are tailor made for families to enjoy relaxed quality time in each other's company – but with distractions like pinging phone notifications, the lure of games consoles and online Boxing Day sales, that can be more difficult than it sounds. Staying off our phones, laptops and tablets, however, can really help us to appreciate the things that genuinely matter at this special time of year. Follow our 12 top tips for a tech-free festive season ... Yule be glad you did! Merry Christmas!

## CHRISTMAS CRAFTING

Get out the paper, glue and scissors and have a go at hand-making cards or gift tags. You could also create your own decorations to add a uniquely personal touch to the Christmas tree.

## NATURE QUEST

Try a scavenger hunt in the garden or your local park. Challenge yourself and your family to find natural treasures that are symbolic of this time of year – like holly or pinecones, say.

## CAROL KARAOKE

Sing your hearts out with a Christmas carol karaoke night. Pick out your favourite tunes and enjoy a musical celebration with family and friends.

## WANDER DOWN MEMORY LANE

How about making a scrapbook filled with your favourite memories from Christmases gone by? Unleash your creativity while you enjoy reliving those magical holiday moments.

## TRY REFLECTIVE JOURNALLING

Jot down your thoughts, feelings and reflections on the holiday in a notebook or diary – you could also list some of your main goals for the new year.

## WRAP IT UP

Take time to get inventive with some luxurious gift wrapping. Break out the wrapping paper, ribbons and bows to make parcelling up those presents into a creative adventure.

## WALK IN A WINTER WONDERLAND

Delight in the great outdoors with some gentle walks over the holiday. The family can all wrap up warm as you add to your step count and savour the crisp winter air together.

## BE A SEASONAL CHEF

Get the whole family working together in the kitchen for some Christmas cooking. Choose a recipe and whip up a festive feast that all of you can enjoy.

## ENJOY A CHRISTMAS STORY

Christmas is a perfect time for sparkling stories. Get cosy and lose yourself in a brilliant book, from Dickens to Dr Seuss or a more modern favourite by Chris van Allsburg or Tom Fletcher.

## SNOWY SCULPTURES

If we're fortunate enough to get a white Christmas this year, make the most of the opportunity by having a family snowman-building competition!

## GAMES NIGHT GALA

Dive into some old-school fun with a tech-free games night. Classic board games and card games have stood the test of time for a reason!

## GOODWILL TO ALL

You and your family could spend a day volunteering – perhaps at a food bank or helping a local charity. After all, kindness and thinking of others are part of what Christmas is all about.

## Meet Our Expert

Minds Ahead design and deliver the UK's only specialist postgraduate mental health qualifications. They also provide training and support to education organisations and local authorities – empowering school leaders and staff with the knowledge and tools to shape their settings into inclusive communities where the mental health of pupils and personnel is prioritised.



The National College



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday



# INFANT CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK!



**Ash**

**Sulaiman** is always very kind and helpful.

He always tries his best in his learning and this week he has done a very good job at showing our Golden goals. His Snowman writing was very good and showed that he had put in so much good effort into his description! Well done, Sulaiman!

**Agnes** always demonstrates our Golden Goals. She is kind and helpful to everyone and is also an extremely reliable member of Ash Base. She made a beautiful front cover for the card that Ash Base wrote for Mrs Krishnagarar too! Well done, Agnes!



**Willow**

**Bethany** has worked so hard this week with

her writing and she has been so focused on getting it beautifully neat. Bethany has also been showing the school value of love by being kind and caring towards her friends. You're a star, Bethany!

**Oscar** has also done a fantastic job with his writing and he has been carefully thinking about the sounds he can hear in words. Oscar has also been a Reciprocal Raccoon by going out of his way to help his friends and teachers. Keep being super, Oscar!



**Beech**

In Beech class, we have been so proud of **Mattia** these past few weeks. He has been working really hard to be a reflective rabbit and make a big change in his behaviour and attitude. We love seeing Mattia make others happy and caring for them! Keep being amazing!

**Harin** has been so amazing in trusting herself and her abilities this term. She is producing incredible work which shows just how hard she is working to ensure that she makes excellent progress. Well done Harin we are really proud of you!



**Maple**

**Warda** has shown such RESILIENCE in her writing project this week. She wrote a brilliant description of the snowman and illustrated it with a fantastic front cover. Super work Warda! **Shahwaiz** is such a special member of our class. He is funny, and livens up the room with his smiley face. He really shows the school value of LOVE.



**Oak**

For **Freddy** who has been a fantastic resilient rhino in working on his pencil grip and letter formation. It is looking fantastic well done Freddy!

For **Suubi** who has been showing love to everyone and overcome his nerves to do a brilliant job of being our Angel Gabriel in our Christmas show. Well done Suubi!



# JUNIOR CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK!

## Asia

Well done **Senan** for a fantastic week and first term Senan!

He has made wonderful progress across all of his subjects, and this has been demonstrated in his superb practice SATs papers! He demonstrates all the BLP skills on a daily basis, and in particular his resilient approach to his learning has really shone this term. On the football pitch, he has also been incredibly reciprocal in cheering on his team mates and encouraging those around him. Well done for a brilliant term Senan!

Well done **Aurelie** for an amazing Autumn term! She has made wonderful progress across all of her subjects and risen to the challenges of year 5! In particular, I have loved reading her different writing tasks and she has shown what a reflective, creative and imaginative writer she is! In class, her work is always to a high standard and it's been lovely to see her enjoying all of her topics and looking to share her ideas in class. She has been a superstar! Well done for a fantastic term Aurelie!



## South America

**Greg** has shown real dedication to his science work this term and has developed such a great understanding of the solar system. His enthusiasm and eagerness to share his knowledge have been inspirational. It has been a real delight to see his passion for his science learning!

**Teresa's** dedication to her geography work this week has been amazing. Her exceptional effort is evident in the outstanding work she has produced, demonstrating her understanding of geographical formations such as cracks, caves, arches, stacks, and stumps. Well done Teresa, you are a superstar!



## Europe

**Mohammed** has been very resilient this week. His hand has been in a cast, but he hasn't stopped him! He has been very determined to continue with his learning, and to continue writing with his bandaged arm. Well done Mo for your determination and brilliant attitude!

It's always so special to see how **Alex** loves and serves everyone in our class. She has such a warm and caring heart and I can count on her to always check on others and have a kind word for everyone. Keep on being a superstar Alex!



## Africa

**Theo B** for the love he has shown to his work and his friends this week. I really noticed the care he put into his diary entry to make it as brilliant as possible and it is the same care he shows to all of his friends.

Well done Theo.

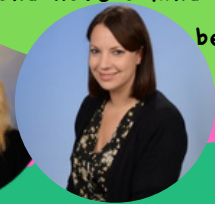
**Humza K** for resilience in literacy, persevering to get his diary entry as fantastic as possible and in recognition of his continued perseverance to learn all of his spellings. Well done Humza!



## Australasia

**Veera** has been showing our school value 'serve' by being a fantastic handwriting coach to others. Well done Veera, your kindness and reciprocity is wonderful and we are so proud of you Veera!

We would love to celebrate **Marcy** for being resourceful and resilient. She tried really hard to write her diary entry this week, which was slightly challenging after having a missed session due to illness, but she proved if you have a positive learning attitude and work hard, you can succeed. Well done Marcy!



## North America

**Rayyan** for consistently demonstrating enthusiasm and perseverance during lessons. Rayyan's active participation has greatly enhanced the learning experience for everyone.

**Jack** for consistently producing exceptional work that goes above and beyond expectations. Jack's dedication and creativity have set a high standard for excellence in English studies.