

Highfield CE Primary School

Weekly Update

A message from Mrs Walford and Mrs Bond

Dear Parents and Guardians,



We are so proud of the children for their fabulous Easter services. The Easter bonnet parade was a wonderful success, with our infants adorning magnificent Easter bonnets that truly stole the show. Thank you to all parents for their incredible support in helping our little ones craft such amazing creations. We couldn't be prouder of the infants' dazzling display! Our juniors shone brightly during their special Easter service and their narration and beautiful singing was fantastic to see.

Thank you for encouraging the children to participate in our active travel initiatives. The biker's breakfast was a great success and we look forward to the scooter breakfast in coming weeks.

As we look ahead, we kindly remind you that school will finish **one hour early next Wednesday** (Thursday is an INSET day), with dismissal at 2:15 PM for infants and 2:25 PM for juniors.

Thank you once again for your continued support and involvement in making our school community thrive. Wishing you all a wonderful week ahead.

Warm regards,

Mrs Walford and Mrs Bond



Term: **Spring** Number **11**
Date: 22.03.24



Theme of collective
worship next week:

Easter



info@highfieldshoolco.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 **93.2%**
Highfield CE Primary attendance to date this week: **96.1%**

Writing



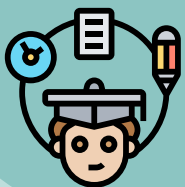
Teachers attended an Aspire writing moderation event, where teachers shared writing books and good practise with other schools in the Trust.

Developing Leadership



This week, Janine Finney (our safeguarding governor) came in to review systems with Mrs Walford. Mrs Walford and Mr Dodson attended an assessment briefing ahead of statutory assessment deadlines. Our well-being committee met and made priorities for the term ahead.

Curriculum



Mr Upson (our History leader) spent time looking at lessons, books and talking to pupils across both sites. He was very impressed at the skills and knowledge that pupils had retained.

Christian Values



This week, Mrs Shorey spent time looking at RE and collective worship following the staff training last week. She focussed on planning collective worship for coming weeks and considering ways to ensure high pupil engagement.

IN SCHOOL THIS WEEK



Neurodiversity

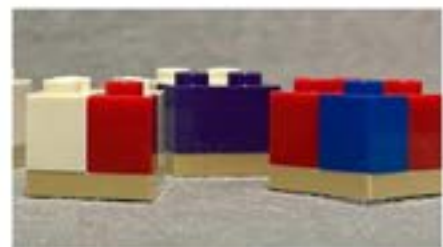


Value link - Respect

We began with a Lego colour matching challenge. We then watched a video that explains about how people's brains work differently, using Lego to help the children understand. We learnt how people with an array of different neurodivergent brains learn, communicate and interact with the world differently to those with neurotypical brains, and reflected on how we could work to better understand and support everyone in our school community.



neurodivergent



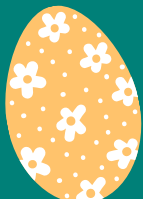
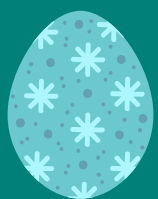
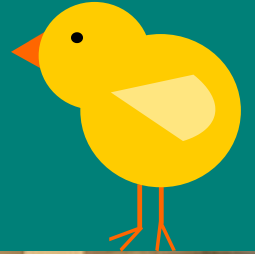
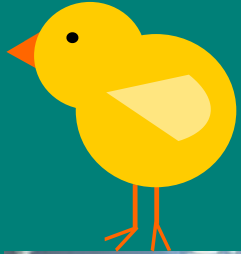
Dear God,

Thank you that you have created us all differently, and for all the amazing, beautiful diversity within our school. Help us to value and respect one another, to support and encourage each other to be ourselves and embrace our differences.

Amen

IN SCHOOL THIS WEEK

Wonderful Easter Services

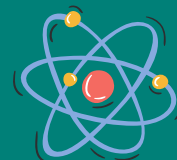


IN SCHOOL THIS WEEK



Silly Science

Recently we have been lucky enough to have some super scientists visit us in year 3/4. On Monday we had a 'silly scientist' from the Education group come in and talk to us on the three points of a fire triangle, solids liquids and gases and how air can expand with heat. His many experiments were so fun! On Tuesday we had Professor Ivan Haigh and his PHD student Sunke from Southampton Oceanography centre talk to us about how small environmental changes can make a big difference. It was eye opening to see how our planet is changing and how we can help with tackling climate change. We all went home with a warming/ biodiversity stripe plus the feeling that we CAN make a positive difference. Thank you to all our visitors and to the HFAF for funding this :)



Well done to all the pupils like Amélie who went home talking about positive environmental changes.



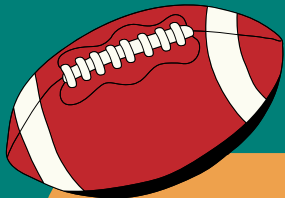
IN SCHOOL THIS WEEK

KS1 – The Great Fire of London

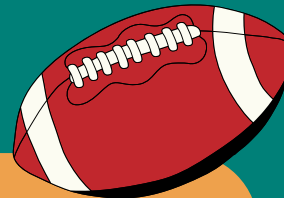
To conclude the children's learning on the Great Fire of London, KS1 re-enacted the event! They made paper houses to represent the houses being made of wood in 1666.

The houses were placed close together, to represent the streets during the time period as the houses being so close together is how the fire spread so quickly. There was even a bit of wind just like there was during the Great Fire of London. It was fantastic to see the children so engaged and enthusiastic about their history learning!





SPORT IN SCHOOL



Year 5/6 rugby

Well done to all the children that took part in the year 5/6 rugby festival yesterday! They all showed fantastic teamwork, determination and resilience to quickly learn the rules and apply it to their matches. Both teams won lots of matches, scored some great tries and were working really well as a team. Well done everyone!





Well done to Aurélie and Eleanor Tanner who participated in the South Region Acrobatics Gymnastics Prelims Competition on Sunday at Southampton Gymnastics Club and both gained bronze medals in their categories:-
Aurélie and partner Amelie, a Grade 3 Womens pair scored 25.5 overall with one of the highest execution scores of the day- 16.7 out of 20!
Eleanor and partner Eve, a Grade 4 Womens pair scored 25 overall and came 3rd out of 15 pairs!

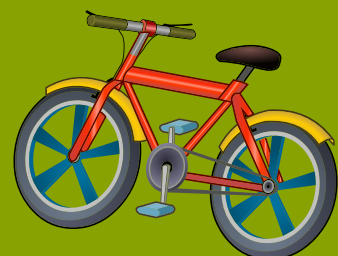


Active Travel Update

Big Biker's Breakfast

Thank you to our Junior Travel Ambassadors who helped organise a Biker's Breakfast this week at both the Infant and the Junior sites. We were so impressed with the number of children who attended. We had 30 junior children and 38 infant children attend!

We are looking forward to hosting a Scooter's Big Breakfast in June and we will be organising an event for children who walk to school or come on public transport.





**Do save the date and talk to your
young musicians about performing at
the
HSFF's**



Spring Musical Afternoon Tea

on

Saturday 27th April 2024



**Letters will be given to all peripatetic
learners and the School's Orchestra next
week.**

**A parentmail message will go out for
children who play an instrument outside
of school.**



**Do email the HSFF if you have any
queries:**



familyandfriends@highfieldschool.co.uk





DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:



All useful dates have been updated onto our website and can be found here: <https://highfieldceprimaryschool.co.uk/>

Wednesday 27th March - Last day of term, finish 1 hour early (2.15pm Infants & 2.25pm Juniors)

Thursday 28th March - INSET Day (school closed)

Friday 29th March to Friday 12th April - Easter Holidays

Monday 15th April - First day back to school

Wednesday 22nd May, 1.30pm-7.00pm - Parents' Evening (details tbc)

Change of date for Europe Class Assembly!!

The date of Europe Class assembly has had to be changed from Friday 10th May to **Friday 7th June**, sorry for any inconvenience.

**BOOST THEIR
HEALTH HYDRATION
DEVELOPMENT**



with free & subsidised
SCHOOL MILK

Register your child online at www.coolmilk.com

Our school works with *Cool Milk* to provide fresh school milk!

Register online today at
www.coolmilk.com

- ✓ **Calcium** for strong bones and teeth
- ✓ **Protein** for muscle repair and growth
- ✓ **Vitamin B12** to boost the immune system
- ✓ **Vitamin B2** to aid energy release
- ✓ **Potassium** to regulate fluid and blood pressure
- ✓ **Phosphorus** to strengthen bones and generate energy in the cells
- ✓ **Iodine** to support healthy cells and metabolism

Our milk is supplied with financial support from the Department of Health and DEFRA.



For more information, ask a member of staff.

KIDS HOLIDAY CAMPS

TEAM SPIRIT

SPORTS COACHING

APRIL 2ND -
APRIL 12TH



**SOUTHAMPTON
HAF**
Holiday Activities & Food

**FREE spaces available for
children in receipt of free
school meals as part of
Southampton HAF**



**Visit
our site**

**Join us this Easter for some action packed days full of
enjoyable activities! MULTI-SPORTS, CRAFTS,
FOOTBALL AND GYMNASTICS! SO MUCH FUN TO BE
HAD THIS HALF TERM - DON'T MISS OUT BOOK
TODAY!**

**Shirley Junior School (Week 1) / Redbridge Community School (Week 2) /
Highfield CE Primary School (Both weeks)**

Short day option 9am - 3pm / Long day option 9am - 5pm



**For More Information, contact us :
admin@teamspirit4sport.co.uk
023 80 658 636**

**Limited spaces - BOOK TODAY:
www.teamspirit4sport.co.uk**

Flyers should have come home this week with the children for Southampton City Council's latest free walking trail for pupils and their families to enjoy over the upcoming Easter break

Southampton's
OLD TOWN
EASTER TRAIL

28th March - 14th April

Opening Times: 9am - 5pm


JOIN IN THE FUN!

Follow our map around Old Town to find all of the eggs hiding in windows. Each of the eggs will have a unique number of bunnies hidden in the designs for you to find. Write down the number you see on the back of this page, then head to our final destination where every child will receive a FREE small prize.

Along the way, you will also visit some of the city's most loved historic sites and answer questions on the back of this map.

EASTER EGG TRAIL STOPS:

Visit each location to find an egg in one of the windows.
Write down the number of bunnies hidden in each egg.

1	2	4	5	6	7
9	10	12	13	14	

LANDMARK TRAIL STOPS:

These trail stops do not have eggs. Visit each location to explore the area in order to answer the questions below.

3	WHICH FAMOUS FEMALE AUTHOR IS MENTIONED ON ONE OF THE PLAQUES HANGING ON THE WALL OUTSIDE GOD'S HOUSE TOWER?	
8	WHICH LARGE MARITIME OBJECT CAN YOU FIND INSIDE AND OUTSIDE HOLYROOD CHURCH?	
11	WHAT ANIMALS CAN YOU SEE STANDING GUARD OUTSIDE OF THE BARGATE?	

LOOKING FOR MORE FAMILY EVENTS?
visit www.thames.gov.uk/events

Why not stop off for a bite to eat or drink on your way?

There's so much on offer in Old Town, discover more at visitsouthampton.co.uk/oldtown

HOP TO IT...

1. room2
2. Oxford Brasserie
3. God's House Tower
4. Ennias
5. Domic Payne
6. Aesthetics & Dental
7. The Dark Arts Potion Bar
8. Argentio Steak House
9. Holyrood Church
10. Traveledge
11. Waterstones
12. Bargate
13. HMV
14. Howden Insurance
15. The Star Hotel

Tell us what you thought...

Tell us what you thought of our Easter trail for a chance to win a £100 Waterstones gift voucher. The winner will be announced in May 2024.

Did you enjoy

Postcodes

number of people
in your group:

Comments:

Adult's name: *

Adult's email: *

Would you like to sign up to visit Southampton's digital newsletter to learn more about other events and activities in the city?

*Average number of days per year above 60°F



Scan here for the digital version...



FullTextChat



THE
GREGG

Open Morning

17th April 2024 9:30-11:30am

- Student led tours
- Headteacher talk
- Visit the classrooms
- Talk with teachers
- Refreshments



10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

ENCOURAGING OPEN CONVERSATIONS AT HOME

With tricky topics and occasional clashes of opinion, it can be challenging to maintain an environment where children feel able to talk candidly and honestly. However, encouraging such conversations helps to develop trust – making it easier to unpack even sensitive subjects as children get older. Here are our top tips for promoting open conversations at home.

1 CREATE A SAFE SPACE



Criticism, blaming or shaming can all prevent children from feeling emotionally safe – while showing affection, positive attention and an interest in what a child has to say builds their sense of security. These formative years are when children's opinions and values begin to take shape, so it's important to provide a non-judgmental environment in which to discuss them – especially if their opinions differ from your own.

2 CONSIDER OTHER OUTLETS



Some children may find it easier to talk while they're participating in another activity such as drawing, writing, walking or sport. If it's possible, taking part in these activities together presents you with an opportunity to communicate while doing something side by side. A child may feel less pressure that way and can be more inclined to open up of their own accord.

3 NORMALISE CHATS ABOUT FEELINGS



Incorporate mental health and emotional wellbeing into everyday conversations, using age-appropriate language and examples to help children understand their emotions. Ask questions like "How are you feeling today?", "What was the best and worst part of your day?", "If you could start today again, what would you do differently?" and "Is there anything you want to talk about?"

4 LISTEN ACTIVELY



When children express themselves, make it obvious that you're listening closely and giving them your full attention. Maintain eye contact and validate their feelings without immediately trying to solve the problem. It's not helpful to dismiss their issues as childish or 'teenage angst' – or to assume that they'll simply 'get over' whatever they're feeling. Children don't have your life experience; their resilience is still developing as they learn to push through difficulties and handle problems.

5 ASK OPEN QUESTIONS



Encourage children to share their thoughts by asking open questions about their feelings and experiences. Closed questions (such as "Did you enjoy school today?") are more likely to elicit a simple "yes" or "no" response. Instead, you could ask things like "Who did you spend time with at break?" or "Who did you sit with at lunchtime?"

6 RESPECT THEIR BOUNDARIES



If a child isn't ready to talk to about something yet, respect their boundaries: this reinforces that their feelings are important and worthy of consideration. Ideally, you're aiming to let them know you care without smothering them, so just make it clear that you're there for them whenever they're ready to chat. Gentle, regular check-ins can sometimes be the best form of progress.

7 LEAD BY EXAMPLE



Model open, honest and healthy communication in front of children and young people. Try to demonstrate kindness when talking about others and yourself, because if children hear adults being overly harsh, critical or judgmental, or see them having unrealistic expectations of themselves, it makes them more likely to adopt and repeat this behaviour themselves as they grow.

8 HAVE REGULAR CHECK-INS



Check in with children periodically to discuss how they're feeling and what's going on in their lives. This could be a weekly or monthly conversation, where the child has an opportunity to share whatever's on their mind. For parents and carers, getting away from the house and other distractions might be productive here: you could consider regular trips to a coffee shop or a café, or just a weekly walk.

9 PROVIDE RESOURCES



It's often beneficial to let children know about other support that's available to them if they're struggling to talk to you specifically. Encourage them to talk to school counsellors, trusted adults or even a therapist, if necessary – while normalising this route and dispelling the harmful stigma around asking for help. Older children could engage with resources such as Kooth or YoungMinds.

10 CELEBRATE EMOTIONAL EXPRESSION



It's beneficial to praise children for expressing their feelings honestly – emphasising how important it is to talk about their emotions and how proud you are of them for doing so. This can be especially pivotal for boys, who often experience more of a stigma around talking frankly about their feelings and their mental health – a barrier that can be overcome, with enough love and support.

Meet Our Expert

With 30 years' experience as a teacher, trainer, consultant and interim executive board member, Anna Bateman has a superb understanding of what works in pedagogy, school improvement and leadership. She has also advised the Department for Education on their mental health green paper.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College®

INFANT CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK!



Ash

Yokshi has been super resilient in his writing this week and has planned, written and published a great diary entry about the Great Fire of London. Well done for keeping at it, Yokshi, you did a great job!

Dahli always follows our school values so very well. This week she has been particularly good at showing the school value of peace! She is such a good friend and a great role model for Ash Base!
Well done, Dahli!



Willow

Felix has been incredibly resilient with his reading this week and he has been working hard at independently reading sentences. Felix has also been so kind and helpful to his friends and teachers and he is always putting a smile on our faces; thank you Felix! Keep up the great work!

Theo has been working hard with his sentence writing and he has been the Resilient Rino when remembering finger spaces between words. He has also been doing a great job thinking of exciting adjectives to use in these sentences too! You are a superstar, Theo!!



Oak

Arthur! He has been working so hard on his independent writing, he has really shown how to be a resilient rhino and a resourceful rat. Keep up the hard work and never stop smiling!

Jude who has been showing our school value of courage and really working hard at being independent in his learning.
Well done Jude!



Beech

Eddie has been a truly wonderful addition to Beech. He has settled in so well and the children have loved getting to know him. He has been so resilient and put his all into his learning even though he has not been here for the whole journey. We feel very lucky to have such a kind and positive boy join our class. I have been incredibly impressed with **Bassam** in history this week. He demonstrated how much he has been engaging in the lessons as he was able to recall so much information about the Great Fire of London. It has been so wonderful to see him be so engaged and see this reflect in his learning. Well done Bassam!



Maple

Emily for the amazing writing she has done this week. She worked independently on her diary, using her plan to help her and included adjectives and conjunctions.
Great work!!!

Adam for trying so hard with his cursive handwriting in literacy. He wrote a diary entry about the Fire of London and it was not just neat but contained some great word choices. Keep it up
Adam!

JUNIOR CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK!

South America

Kaydee for showing amazing dedication to her learning this week. She has attacked all the learning she has been asked to do with determination and resilience and we are all so proud of her! We really hope she keeps up this fantastic confidence she has found because she is a total superstar!

Emmanuel for showing excellent effort in his writing work this week, having the courage to give his Savage story his best shot! Miss Hill was especially impressed with how well he met the success criteria, chose vocabulary carefully and proofread to check his work when he was done.

North America

Amelia F never gives up, even when learning gets hard. She listens well, follows instructions without any fuss, and finishes her tasks. Her hard work has paid off, as she's improved a lot in her skills.

Mai for consistently demonstrating respect towards her classmates, teachers, and the school community as a whole. She consistently listens attentively, follows instructions, and treats others with kindness and consideration.

Australasia

We are so proud of **Marcy** for her enthusiasm and effort this week. She always greets us with a smile and shows school value "love" towards her school day, which inspires and motivates those around her. You are wonderful Marcy!

Amélie deserves a golden leaf this week for her incredible engagement and reflection of her Science learning experience. At home, she even taught her younger sister what she had learned and spoke with such enthusiasm. She has also been a fantastic and enthusiastic singer during our Easter performance – We think you are great Amélie!

Asia

Well done **Aurelie** for another wonderful week! Her attitude in lessons has been fantastic, and she has been really determined to do her best within all her subjects. She has been working really hard on her narrative, and I have been loving her creative ideas to build tension and atmosphere! She has also worked really well in her group for our class assembly! Well done for a fantastic week Aurelie!

Well done **Isaac** for another brilliant week! I have been so impressed with his determination, resilience and courage to learn all of his lines for our class assembly, and speak so fluently in front of an audience. He was also celebrated numerous times for his fantastic rugby skills at the rugby festival yesterday. He made some unbelievable catches and played with great skill. Well done Isaac!

Africa

Leny H for the resilience he has shown this week. Communicating how he is feeling to adults, making such good use of all of his strategies and in his learning where he has challenged himself to make his learning as brilliant as possible including brilliant maths and fantastic literacy. Well done Leny!

Humza K for the courage he has shown this week. This week I have really noticed how courageous Humza is when it comes to his learning. Really challenging himself in his literacy when making comics and in his maths, doing brilliant work with fractions as well as in our performance of the class song. Well done Humza!

Europe

Olivia is always a delight to teach. She is such a reciprocal member of the class. I was so proud of how quickly and diligently she learnt our class song for the Easter Service, and she even helped to teach the song to some of her classmates. You are a star Olivia.

Eros has been showing our values of Respect and Peace this week. He has been making some lovely choices – engaging well in our learning time, being a kind and helpful friend and contributing brilliantly to our class community. Well done Eros.