

## Headteacher's message...

We have reached the end of another academic year and it has been exceptionally positive for us. Our national data for EYFS has improved by 6%, our Phonics data has improved by 20% and we have achieved national or above in KS2 for GPS, Maths and Combined. This is testament to the hard work of our children, the hard work of the staff and the support that you have provided the children with. We are exceptionally proud of all of them for all that they have achieved. As sad as it always is to see our

Y6 children go, we wish them a very fond farewell, lots of luck and are confident that they will continue to be the fantastic young people that they are.

Our annual prizegiving event was well attended by parents who turned up to support and celebrate our winners. This is a highlight of our school year and something that is enjoyed by everyone who attends. Our summer fayre was also a roaring success with so many parents and members of the community turning up to support the school.

The money raised will go straight back to supporting school events and opportunities for children.

At the end of the year, we will welcome Miss. Alexander, Mrs. Hussain and Mrs. Fatania-Ward back to Highfield following their maternity leave. We will be saying goodbye to Miss. Perry, Mrs. Yusefi and Mrs. Dar who are leaving to spend more time with their families; Miss. Fareed and Miss. Karim who are moving to Birchfield School; Miss. Begum who is relocating having got married and Ms. Howard who is embarking on a 1-year secondment. Mrs. Barratt will also take some time out to begin her maternity leave. We wish all staff who are leaving the very best for their future and thank them for all that they have done for our children and families. An extra special thanks goes to Miss. Perry and Ms. Howard who have worked at the school for well over ten years.

As this is my final newsletter at Highfield, I wanted to express my sincere thanks and gratitude to you all for the support you have provided the school with in the time that I have been Head here. You are a massive part of the school community and a huge part of the achievements of all our children. I have absolutely loved my time at Highfield and will miss being part of the school on a day-to-day basis. Highfield is a fantastic place to be and I know that this will continue to be the case with Mrs. Davies. I wish you all a wonderful summer break with your loved ones.

**Headteacher:** Mr Knibbs

**Deputy Head:**

Mrs Davies

Miss Carney (Y6)

**Assistant Headteachers:**

Mrs Jackson (R and Y1)

Miss Webster (Y2, Y3)

Miss Meehan (Y4 & Y5)

**Inclusion Lead:**

Mrs Bull

**Pastoral Managers:**

Mr Farooq and Mr Azad

**Reception:** Reception children have had a wonderful summer term.

They have made progress in all areas of learning. We have explored a range of texts in our writing sessions and produced some fantastic work. Children really enjoyed 'Handa's surprise' where they enriched their knowledge of African culture. In family group time children experienced a special 'taste session' where they had the opportunity to try different fruits from around the world. Children used their knowledge of Africa and wrote a fact file. In Design technology and textiles we have investigated print and taken inspiration from Banke Kuku's traditional designs. We then made our very own prints on fabric! This term our parent workshop was focusing on reading, there was a super turn out and engagement with parents. In reading sessions we have been developing comprehension skills. Children have enjoyed re-telling stories, ordering events, anticipating and predicting narratives. The reception staff are so proud of the progress the children have made this year. We hope they settle well into year 1 and we will miss them all.



**Year 1:**

Year 1 have been working really hard this term. They have learnt about different Australian animals and written a non-chronological report using facts that they have learnt. In Science, they have been exploring their senses where they have carried out various investigations. They have begun to tell the time and have practiced showing different times on clocks as well as drawing their own clocks. In history, the children have explored Alum Rock in the past. They have discussed how the area has changed and looked at old buildings and compared them. This term, the children have had lots of chances to be creative, especially in DT where they have been designing their own purses. We are very proud of how hard the children have worked and have earned a well-deserved break when the summer holidays come.

**Nurture:** This term Nurture have been looking at Robots. They began the term by building their own robot, we then thought about what our robot would be called and what they could do. We completed a design sheet and began to write sentences about what they could do. We have looked at lots of different stories about robots too!





**Year 2:** This term Year 2 have been exploring Antarctica and have looked at whether we could live there permanently. We learnt about the climate and the animals that live there, as well as comparing Antarctica with other countries and continents, such as, the UK and Kenya in Africa. In Writing we have been looking at poems and have written our very own revolting rhyme based on the fairy tale The Three Little Pigs and Roald Dahl's book Revolting Rhymes. In Maths, Year 2 have been exploring multiplication and division and looking at different ways to show grouping and how to use the facts we know to work out Mathematical problems. In our DT lessons we have been planning and designing a cushion for an explorer to take to the South Pole, we have started to make our cushions using felt and other fabrics and have been using a running stitch to sew the pieces together. The Year 2 teachers are extremely proud of how hard the children have worked this year and want to wish them all the best of luck in Year 3.

**Year 3:** Year 3 have had a fantastic summer term and have made excellent progress. We have been on a trip to Sarehole Mill where we explored the ecosystems in the area. This is linked to our rainforest topic in Geography, where the children have learnt vast amounts of information about the benefits of the rainforest and how it supports our planet. In Science, we have been learning about what magnets are and how they work. We took part in several experiments to investigate magnetic fields. In writing, we have written a letter about poaching using persuasive language and have written a resolution for the ending of the Jungle Book. In Maths, we have looked at fractions and time. This is a key skill that the children have been learning and will continue next year. The children had a fantastic sports day with a big turnout from parents. They loved showing how fast they are and how far they can throw the javelins. It has been a wonderful year and we wish them all the best in Year 4

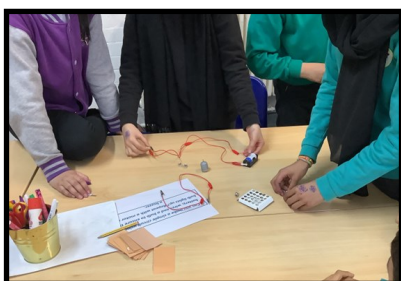
**Year 4:** Congratulations to all children in year 4 for completing their MTC test this half term. Children have worked extremely hard to score 25/25 questions in 6 seconds. That is a huge challenge for the children. Our sports day was super fun and exciting. Children took part in different activities and were very competitive against each other but maintaining good behaviour and team spirit. Thank you to lots of parents for coming and supporting your children. During our enrichment day, children learnt about the benefits of recycling. We linked Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and our school values and created fantastic pieces of work to display around the school. Children enjoyed learning about Charlie and the chocolate factory story and was excited to write a persuasive advert on behalf of Cadbury World. Children are enjoying our current text 'Kensuke's Kingdom' which they are totally immersed in.

**Year 5:** This term, the children in Year 5 have attended swimming lessons which has been an enjoyable experience for all. They have practiced front-stroke and back-stroke and made many memories. In Writing, children have written film narrative based on the Victorian novel, Oliver Twist. They have used emotive language and effective dialogue to engage the reader, and demonstrated an in-depth understanding of the conditions in the workhouse. In Maths, they have identified different types of angles and measured these accurately using a protractor. In Geography, children have been focusing on the country of Mexico which is located in North America. They have learnt about the importance that coffee beans have on the country's economy and trade. As well as this, they have explored the different climates across North America including tropical and desert. In Art, the children have been learning about Aztec sculptures, linking to the topic of Mexico in Geography. The children have used playdough to make sculptures of Aztec Gods using proportion, emotion and various carving techniques. This term has been very enjoyable and creative, children have really enjoyed taking part in practical lessons. The children in Year 5 should be extremely proud of their achievements.

**Year 6:** Year 6 have been working extremely hard this term. They have been working on creating a bag that is appropriate to use in Islamic Civilisation. They have explored the work of Farwa Moledina to gain ideas of different patterns that can be used to create their bag. Children practiced different stitches in order to help them make their bag, they used both a back stitch and a forward stitch to help them create their final bags. In Maths, children worked in teams to solve different problems to try and identify the mystery from venue. Children thoroughly enjoyed this and competed against other groups to try and be the first group to solve all the problems. Children have been looking at different circuits in Science, they had a challenge of creating an inclusive alarm at the end of their topic. In Geography children have been exploring different biomes across the world. They have been looking at how some biomes become endangered and how we can protect them. In Music, children have enjoyed learning how to play the glockenspiel to 'Happy' by Pharrell Williams. They thoroughly enjoyed performing this song. Furthermore, children have enjoyed auditioning in Highfield's Got Talent.

#### Staying safe over summer

- Sun protection
- Stay hydrated
- Stay vigilant around water sources
- Stay supervised



### Sports Week

This half term, we welcomed our parents into school for our annual Sports Week. The children enjoyed cheering on their teammates throughout the day. Thank you to all those families who attended, bringing your Highfield spirit with you and a big thank you to Miss Ashraf for leading the day.



### Health For Life

This term, we have had a new greenhouse and developed our green spaces to support our Health for Life Project. Children from across the school have planted fruit trees, flowers, courgettes, beans, peas, potatoes and spinach. We are hoping for a bumper harvest in September where we can use these vegetables for healthy cooking and eating recipes.

### Enrichment Day

This half term, children took part in a Recycle, Re-use and Repurpose Enrichment Day. Here the children made use of a range of recycled materials for Art, mobiles and plant pots.

### Summer Fayre

On Thursday, we welcomed our parents into school for our annual Summer Fayre. This was a tremendous success! Children, parents and staff alike enjoyed a day filled with exciting games, delicious treats, and engaging activities. The fayre provided a fantastic opportunity for our school community to come together and celebrate the joys of summer.

### Our School Choir

Our school choir marked the 75th anniversary of the NHS by performing at Heartlands Hospital. The choir performed some songs for the doctors, nursing staff, patients and visitors. Well done all!



### Medical

We kindly request that parents notify the school of any significant medical updates or changes in your child's health during the summer holidays, as it is crucial for us to have up-to-date information to ensure the well-being and safety of all pupils.

We currently have vulnerable pupils in our school that have medical issues that have resulted in their immunity levels being extremely low. If your child should be absent through illness, can we urge you to inform school of the reason as soon as practically possible. It is important this information is received quickly. We do not want to compromise other pupil's health.

As part of our offer to parents we provide a school nurse service to support with concerns and reviewing of medical conditions and plans. This year, we have had a number of parents not attending appointments. This is very disappointing as this has cost our school valuable money and prevented others from accessing support. If you are unable to make a booked appointment please let us know as soon as possible so we can offer it another parent. Thank you for your support with this.

#### **Contact Us**

There is lots more news and information as well as any letters sent out on our school website.

[www.hifield.bham.sch.uk](http://www.hifield.bham.sch.uk)

WWW

#### **BACK TO SCHOOL**

We are looking forward to welcoming everyone back to school on

**Wednesday 6th September**



Do you want to keep up to date with exciting things going on at Highfield?

Why not follow us on Twitter @hifieldji