



# Alsager Highfields Primary School

*Mighty oaks from small acorns grow*

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Dear Parents & Carers,

Happy New Year!

As usual, the spring term has set off at a pace and we are now busy finalising plans for trips and residential visits in the summer term as well as planning more collaborative work with other schools in the Trust. Last term, Heads and English leads from both primaries and secondaries in the Trust spent 2 days working collaboratively on writing expectations from ages 4-13. This work is already benefitting pupils in all schools as well as giving teachers a clear framework when assessing writing. We also have a Trust public speaking event planned for the summer term for year six pupils, with pupils writing a short speech titled 'My Big Ambition.'

Yesterday Cheshire Fire Service visited our key stage 2 children to complete some work on fire safety and what to do in the event of a fire. The children were impeccably behaved and were incredibly sensible when in the 'smoke tent'.

Have a great weekend—hopefully the weather will be a little kinder!

*Rachel Woollam*

## Parent/Carer Survey

Many thanks to all parents who completed the parent survey last month. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with **99%** of parents and carers agreeing with the statements that Alsager Highfields was a good school, that was well-led and that they were proud for their children to attend it.

It is always heartening to read positives about the school, but equally the surveys are vital for me to identify the areas in which we can improve further and to gauge whether areas highlighted in past surveys have been successfully addressed. Communication between school and home has come out much more favourably this year, however comments about streamlining communication methods are acknowledged and we are currently looking at possible solutions to this.

PE uniform was also an area highlighted by many this year and I totally concur with all comments about the quality and appearance of the coloured PE t-shirts. As you know, we have been trying to source a green and black PE top, similar to the staff shirts, but this search has been unsuccessful. Therefore we have made the decision to go with a bottle green polo shirt with the school logo on. School will purchase a shirt for each child and we hope to provide these this term.

Finally, the range and amount of after-school clubs for younger pupils was highlighted. As the number of classes has reduced at Highfields, the number of staff available to take clubs has also inevitably reduced. Clubs are not a statutory duty for teachers, but are run through goodwill, however we are looking at ways in which we can expand the current offer.



## Maths

Over the years, the way school teaches maths to pupils has changed significantly and as a parent it can be difficult to support your child when you are unfamiliar with new methods.

Mrs Dyde has therefore updated the school website under the 'Our Curriculum' tab in the maths section. On this page you can now access the Maths No problem calculation policy which clearly sets out how we teach each area of the curriculum.

## NSPCC Number Day

On the 2nd of February we are taking part in the NSPCC number day. Children are invited to come in their own clothes (number themed if they wish) for the donation of £1. All children in years 2-6 will be taking part in a TTRS inter-school competition, so any practice on times tables would be welcomed, as we all know how competitive I am!



## Mobile Phones

We know as the year progresses, many pupils in years five and six start to walk home and we actively encourage this in order to prepare for High school. As a parent it is always good to know where your child is and that they can be contacted if needed. For this reason, we do encourage your child to bring a mobile phone into school if walking home alone. Phones **MUST** be handed in at the office at the start of the day and picked up before going home. If your child attends an after-school club, then phones will be collected at the end of the day by the adult running the club.



## Staff Fundraiser

On the 4th of February, staff from Highfields are running the 'Alsager 5' in order to raise funds for our outdoor areas. Money raised will be split between the annexe outdoor area and the main school. At the annexe we will be concentrating on upgrading our construction area and at the main school seating and planting areas. If you see our staff out training, please do shout encouragement and if you would like to support them by making a donation, then please follow the link below.



[https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/alsagerhighfields?utm\\_term=V2aKgwR8G](https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/alsagerhighfields?utm_term=V2aKgwR8G)

## Alsager Connected Communities Partnership

Cheshire East Council are currently conducting a survey for residents of the Radway Estate, to find out how they can best support residents and which services are most needed in the area for families. I intend to send this questionnaire out next week to families who fall within this catchment, but it's equally important that this questionnaire reaches families who don't have children of school age too.

To find out more about the work being planned or the services on offer you can sign up to receive newsletters on:

[https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKCHESHEC/subscriber/new?topic\\_id=UKCHESHEC\\_47](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKCHESHEC/subscriber/new?topic_id=UKCHESHEC_47)



As part of this initiative there are some funding streams available. The Flourish Fund and Healthy Neighbourhoods Fund are now live [Community Grants \(cheshireeast.gov.uk\)](https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/community-grants)

If you would like more information about how to apply for either fund then there are awareness sessions planned for Tuesday 23rd and Wednesday 24th January. To register for the sessions, please click on to the links below

Flourish Fund Awareness Session [Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams](#) Tuesday 23 January 2024 10.00am-10.30am

Healthy Neighbourhoods Fund Awareness Session [Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams](#) Wednesday 24 January 2024 2.30pm – 3.00pm



## Proud!

The run of certificates has started so congratulations to Henry C and Erin Y in year 6, who both earned their silver award.



## Word Millionaires!

Huge congratulations to Grace B in Y4 and Noah L in Y5 who were awarded their £10 book voucher in today's celebration assembly. Their picture will now be added to the 'Millionaire's Row' in the library.

Last year we said we would celebrate children who had met milestone word counts too, so here is the roll call:

## Y2—50,000 words

Benjamin B, Briana C and Quinn H

## 100,000 words

Emily B & George S (Y3), Dexter D, Billy E, Harrison H, Jago J, Heidi P & Holly R (Y4) Isla B, Molly C, Freddie C, Heidi F, Evie J, Ben M, Holly S, Abe W and Grace W (Y5), Theo G, Shianne G, Sienna H, Rory H, Scarlett H, Ottilie N, Isla N, Hayley S, Rosie S, Christopher S & Leo S (Y6).

## 250,000 words

Cleo A (Y3), Rosie C, Naomi L & Charlie P (Y4), Xander A, Willow D, Tom G, Lyla H & Sebastian K (Y5), Henry C, Zachary G, Molly H, Marcello H, Isobel J, Olivia P, Marlee P, Phoebe S & George W (Y6).

## 500,000 words

Jenson C (Y3), Shadrach A (Y5), Elise C & Erin Y (Y6).

## 750,000 words

Lachlan F (Y5) & Amelia H (Y6)

My target was for 30 word millionaires this year and by my calculations, we are on track to achieve this. Well done to all our bookworms!

## Cold Weather

The start of the spring term has seen unusually cold weather and as a school we like all children to be out in the fresh air as much as possible. Therefore, please can you ensure that your child is suitably dressed and that older children who walk to school are wearing a coat.

## DT Workshops

28 pupils attended DT workshops at the High school last term and as part of the work in textiles, designed and made their own pencil cases. We think the end their fabric designs are fabulous!

