



Friday 16th February

Dear Parents & Carers,

Today marks the half way point of the academic year and it always amazes me just how quickly the weeks seem to fly by. It's been a really busy half term and it is such a privilege to watch all the exciting things going on around school. This half term I've seen Reception pupils taste pancakes, Year 1 make Chinese lanterns, Year 2 make Bog Babies, Y3 work with Y6 to make beautiful watercolour birthday cards, Y4 perform an amazing dance, Y5 create some incredible mountain pictures using acrylic paints and Y6 designing and tie-dyeing their own t-shirts. We've also managed to squeeze in a school disco and a valentine tombola. No wonder we are all ready for a break!

Have a great half term,

Rachel Woollam

Royal Society Young Person's Book Prize

Our Science panellists have been busy reading, discussing and sharing their thoughts on the books shortlisted for this year's science book prize. Mrs Lindblad has been very impressed with the commitment and level of discussion by our panel and their winner was 'Made of Stardust?' by Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock. Let's see if our winner this year matches the overall winner nationally...it hasn't yet!



Snacks

We are currently looking at the snacks pupils are bringing into school as we are trying to reduce our waste whilst also trying to eat more healthily. The gym equipment has helped pupils increase their 'active minutes', but the staff and I agree, there is still more we could do, particularly in regards to healthier snacks. We have noticed a number of children are bringing in 'grab bag' sized crisps for break as well as tubes of Pringles. Crisps sent in for break should be the size of those in a multi-pack and we ask that no child is sent in with Pringles or energy drinks as these will be confiscated.

Thank you for your anticipated support with this matter.

Music Man

On the 7th of February, we were lucky enough to be visited by Tony the 'Music Man', who showcased several instruments to the pupils in years 2-6. The instruments that the children got to hear were cornet, trumpet, saxophone, clarinet and flute.



As you know, we are passionate about music at Highfields and offer instrumental tuition in all of the above instruments as well as piano and percussion. If your child is interested in learning an instrument, please follow the link below to download a parent information letter.

<https://www.mfsf.org.uk/parentinformation>

Illness—when should my child be off/ return to school?

When should my child return to school? NHS					
Chicken Pox When all spots have crusted over	Conjunctivitis None*	Diarrhoea & Vomiting 48 hours from last episode	Glandular Fever None*	Hand, foot & mouth None*	Impetigo When lesions are crusted & healed or 48 hours after commencing antibiotics
Measles or German Measles 4 days from onset of rash	Mumps 5 days from onset of swelling	Scabies After first treatment	Scarlet Fever 24 hours after commencing antibiotics	Slapped Cheek None*	Whooping Cough 48 hours after commencing antibiotics
Flu Until recovered	Head Lice None*	Threadworms None*	Tonsillitis None*		

PE Uniform

The final count is in!

Thank you to all who voted. The final count was as follows:

Option A (Falcon) 70% (103 votes)

Option B (banner) 30% (45 votes)

Please order your child's shirt through ParentPay. We have a number of sample shirts in the office if you are unsure of sizes.



Cards for Marie

I don't know if anyone saw the recent post on Facebook regarding an Alsager resident who celebrates her 107th birthday in February. As we try to create links within the community, we, as a school, decided we would like to make and send cards to this remarkable lady Marie. Pupils have already been busy making cards, but if families would also like to get involved then please send a card to:

FAO: Marie—c/o Rachel Bolton, Twyford House, Richard Woodcock Way, Alsager ST7 2DF.



School timings

A reminder that the school gates (front and back) are open daily at 8.40 am. Children walking to school by themselves, or being dropped off in advance of the school day, should aim to get to the gates for that time and not significantly earlier. There has been a couple of incidents over the past two weeks where pupils have been left unsupervised and behaviour has not been what we expect of our older pupils. This damages the reputation that we have worked so hard to rebuild.

A reminder that if your child is eligible and attends our breakfast club, then drop off is at the main front gate at 8.20am. We have had a number of pupils arriving after this time lately and providing breakfast for late-comers makes it difficult to staff when teaching assistants are also needed to get ready for the start of the school day.

Thank you for your anticipated help with both matters.



Huge congratulations to all our pupils whose achievements have been celebrated in assembly over the past two weeks.



Here is this fortnight's roll call:

Bronze Awards

Y3—Bronte P, Alfie H and Elivia W

Y4—Amber T

Y5—Tom G,

Silver Awards

R—Claudia O and Edward K-A

Y1—Isobel M

Y2—Lowen R, Alfie J

Y3—Martha K, George S, Demi F and Dina W

Y4—Naomi L

Y5—Riley L

Y6—Shianne G, Erin S, Arthur M, Christopher S, Zachary G, Rosie R, George W and Jakub G



Gold Awards (30 stars)

Y3—Oliver B, Reginald D, and Evie R

Y6—Leo S

Word Millionaire

Huge congratulations to Amelia H in Y6 who achieved word millionaire status yesterday! We are all so proud of this achievement.



Tesco Shoppers!

If you, or friends and family shop at Tesco in Kidsgrove, please ask them to put their blue token in the Alsager Highfields box.

Voting closes on the 31st of March and this initiative could raise as much as £1,500 for the school. The money raised from Tesco, will go towards improving our Early Years' Outdoor environment at the annexe and as the Tesco slogan says....



Every little helps