



# Alsager Highfields Primary School

*Mighty oaks from small acorns grow*

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Headteacher: Mrs Rachel Woollam



Friday 7th March 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week we have really enjoyed getting outside in the warmer weather. Let's hope spring really is on its way!

It was lovely to see so many wonderful costumes on World Book Day and once again we utilised being in the centre of the town with visits to the library. Please do try and use this resource with your child as we know many libraries are under threat of closure and we would hate to lose this wonderful resource.

Playtimes have been really positive this week and in the words of George S in year 4; 'in two years, people won't play football because they will all play Opal Play.' That is not the ambition, but we would like play at breaks to be less dominated by football and more 'cross phase.' It has been truly wonderful to watch all ages playing together with the bikes and parachutes and seeing older pupils build with younger pupils using the construction materials. As this is only week one, all the staff and children are really excited about this development at Highfields. I truly do believe it will be transformative.

A reminder that the PFA are holding their annual quiz for parents on the 28th March from 7pm at the school. This event has been great fun the past two years, so please join us if you can.

*Rachel Woollam*

## School Dinners

The cost of a school dinner will be increasing to £2.80 a day from April 1st. This increase is being applied across the Trust and the decision has been made after continual increases in food prices and staff wages. Thank you for your understanding.



### **Attendance**

Everybody wants children to be safe and get a good education. This means they should attend school regularly unless they are ill. The government and local authority (Cheshire East) take children's attendance at school very seriously.

It is important to let the school know on the first morning of illness that your child will not be attending school that day.

If your child is absent for 10 or more unauthorised sessions (a session is half a day) within a term or two consecutive terms you may get a penalty notice warning letter. The letter will give you a period of 15 days in which to improve the child's attendance.

If there is no improvement in attendance within the 15 days then you will receive a school absence penalty notice which would result in a fine. You will receive a separate penalty notice for each child who has been absent.

The fine is £60 per child for each parent/carers with parental responsibility. If the fine is not paid within 21 days then the fine rises to £120 per child.

If the fine is not paid within 28 days you could be taken to court. You could get a criminal record and you may be fined up to £1,000.

If you take your child out of school in term time without the head teacher's permission you may also receive a penalty notice (fine).

If you as a parent are worried about your child's attendance you should speak to the school. The school wants to work with you to improve your child's attendance. Don't wait until the situation escalates, the school can offer practical ideas and support to help your child.

I have advertised in many newsletters that the Government made changes to the laws regarding school attendance in August 2024 and parental fines for unauthorised absences have now been brought in under a national framework.

I have included the guidance here (on left), so that all parents are clear about unauthorised absences and when, not if, fines will be issued.

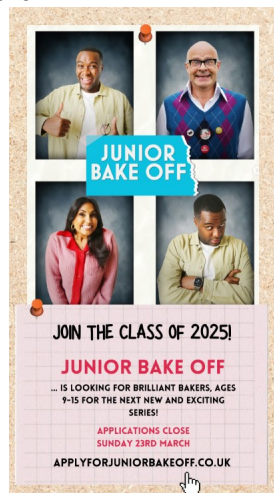
The legislation is clear that time off can only be authorised by a headteacher if the circumstances are exceptional. An exceptional circumstance is defined as 'a one-off event which is unavoidable.' Head teachers cannot authorise term time holidays, therefore we have removed the 'authorised/ unauthorised' section on the holiday request form.

I have always tried to work with parents regarding absence and hope that together we can continue to improve our overall attendance figure. Whilst we are in line with national figures, I would dearly like us to be higher.

## Opportunities for children

If your child loves to bake then apply for Junior Bake Off by Sunday 23rd March.

Sports enthusiast? Consider booking some Easter sessions with ASM. Discounted in March.



## Opal Play

This week has seen the launch of Opal Play with bikes, wheeled carts, Lego, tepees and much more available for our pupils at breaks and lunch time. It has already transformed the play experience for our children. We have a few 'zones' we would like to complete before the summer and are after tyres, wheelbarrows, hammocks (without stands), old hats and handbags, willows (willow for weaving) and some high visibility vests for children and adults.

If you are able to help with the above list, or have a contact for someone who may be able to help. Please email [admin@alsagerhighfields.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:admin@alsagerhighfields.cheshire.sch.uk)

## Family Liaison Officer

Mrs. Helen Potts has already made a huge impact at Highfields and the chart below clearly explains the role of the FLO within our trust. If you feel you or your child would benefit from Mrs. Potts' help, please email her at: [hpotts@alsagerhighfields.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:hpotts@alsagerhighfields.cheshire.sch.uk)



Please treat us with respect – we are trying to do our best for your child

## Bronze Awards

YR—Jake H

Y3— Lowen R, Aubrey W, Benjamin B, Isabella T, Riley H, Mikolaj W, Nora O,

Y4— Bronte P, Joey J, George H, Demi F

Y5—Nancy P



## Silver Award

Y1— Arthur H, Vaughn S, Paislie G and Edward K-A

Y2—Jessica S

Y6—Ben M and Freddie C



## Word Millionaire

We have 4 more word millionaires this fortnight. Huge congratulations to Xander A and Lachlan in Year 6, Sophia in Year 5 and Jenson in Y4. This takes our pupil millionaire total to 10 and staff millionaire total to 2.

Also Grace B in Y5 has now read over 2 million words and Noah L in Y6 over 4 million! Phew!

## Book Fair

A reminder that the Book Fair is in school next week and parents can browse and buy during Parents' Evenings on the 11th and 13th. March A reminder that this is now cashless school and purchases are done through using QR code payment, so phones and bank cards are needed.



Unfortunately on this occasion, we are not accepting world book day vouchers due to the complexity of working out payment after discount with a QR code..

## Nut Free School—polite reminder

We have had a few products brought in of late that do contain nuts.

