

...Changing lives

Highfields Primary Academy NEWSLETTER

We're nearly there...

Our long awaited, new front entrance, academy kitchen and Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) Room access is nearing completion with the final key components planned to be installed this month.

This week, a new door was added to the rear of the STEM Room to provide pupil access (shown here). This room is a



very important additional facility of our academy that most other schools do not have the privilege of having. This space is filled with a variety of different resources and equipment to allow groups of children to explore, investigate and experiment in order to hypothesise new theories and challenge things they already know.

We are hoping that as these new changes will be completed by the end of January that we will be able to resume cooking school meals on site from February. In consultation with the children of the school council, we are currently designing a whole new menu chosen and developed for the children. We are hoping by February that the current COVID-19 restrictions will have lifted and the rate of infection will have dropped to enable us to allow parents/carers the opportunity to sample different meals from the new menu before the choices are released.

Mr Williams



COVID-19 Update

This week you will have received an update regarding the temporary suspension of PCR testing and a reminder of the precautions left unchanged. Please scan the QR code to see an update about the new five-day self-isolation period rules.

Thankfully, unlike other schools, we continue to have very low numbers of positive COVID cases. This is due to the diligence of our children, parents/carers and staff to ensure the highest levels of care and safety. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their continued support to protect and support our school community.



Attendance

Butterfly Lions



Rainbow Fish

Pirates Next Door (Year 1)



Class	Week %	Year %
Rainbow Fish	100%	96%
Pirates Next Door (Y1)	98.0%	94%
Pirates Next Door (Y2)	92.9%	96%
Butterfly Lions	98.1%	96%
Stormbreakers	92.4%	97%
Explorers	92.8%	96%
Whole School	97.8%	96%

Reminders

- **PE:** PE is held every **Monday** and every **Thursday**. Children need to bring their PE kits to school in order for them to get changed before and after the lesson.
- **Book Bags:** Children must bring their book bags along with their reading diary and staged reading book to school **every day**.
- **Reading:** We ask that all children read **at least three times** to an adult at home. Please can you ensure that you record the date, title of

the book and the pages read to and from in your child's reading diary once you have heard them read.

Football Competition

This week in school, we have been running a very exciting football competition. Doncaster Rovers have very kindly donated 15 child tickets and 2 adult tickets.

On Saturday the 29th of January, Mr Lancashire and Miss Duckitt will be taking 15 lucky children to watch Doncaster Rovers vs Plymouth. To win a place, the children have been designing a football strip for Highfields Academy.

We will be announcing the lucky winners during Friday's assembly. This is the third tier of professional football in this country and a fantastic opportunity for our children. Last term we took a boys and girls team to compete in a football tournament, and there are lots of other fantastic sporting events and visits coming up during the school year, so keep a look out!

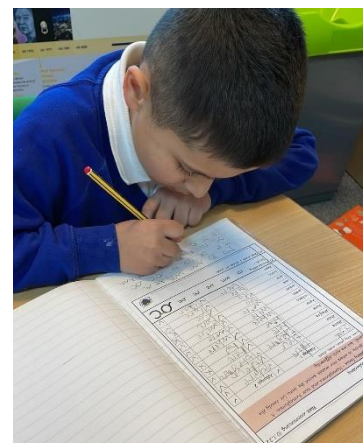
Mr Lancashire



Handwriting Challenge

With National Handwriting Day (January 25th) approaching, children across the academy have been challenged this week to improve their handwriting to showcase to parents/carers and other members of the school community. 'To improve my handwriting' was a popular resolution amongst our children during our discussions of personal and class new year's resolutions last week, so we thought, what better way kick start the year than achieving an aspiration.

Through daily sessions, the children will be practicing their letter joins, letter size, fluency or pace in order to better their cursive writing. They began by writing a 'Handwriting Promise' this week to show their best handwriting to date so that they have a comparison for later in the month. To support their development, children may be sent home with handwriting activities to practice at home. As in school, children can also practice using Letterjoin, an online platform for developing handwriting. Access codes for Letterjoin can be found in your child's reading record.



Diary Dates

18th January – Northern Ballet Workshop (Year 3-6)

27th January – Holocaust Memorial Day (Year 5 and 6)

4th February – Times table Rockstar Day (Years 1-6)

8th February – Safer Internet Day

11th February – Break up for half term

21st February – School reopens to all pupils

22nd – 23rd February – Parents' Evenings

3rd March – World Book Day