

Highfield Nursery School Children's Centre

Newsletter

November 2023

Dear Families

With Christmas fast approaching we hope you have enjoyed this term so far.

Friends of Highfield News



Save the date and spread the word! We are holding our Christmas Bazaar this year on
Wednesday 13th December 2023, 4pm-6pm.

We will be having a dress up day on **Wednesday 29th November**. We are asking the children to come to nursery in their pyjamas. We will also be having hot chocolate during the day. All that we ask in return is that you donate a contribution to a raffle prize; wine/spirits, chocolate or toiletries.

We will be holding a Christmas Raffle as part of the Christmas Bazaar. This will be drawn on Thursday 14th December. You should have already received your book of tickets, if not, please let Beth know. Tickets will be 50p each or a book of 5 for £2.50. Every family has been sent a book to sell to family and friends, if you would like more than one book, please contact Beth on admin@highfield.suffolk.sch.uk. If you don't want to sell your book, please return them so they can be passed to another family.

We are always looking for new members to join Friends of Highfield, so if you can spare just one hour each half term, please get in contact with Mollie, we would love your help.

Please keep a look out for these and future events on our Facebook page, which can be found at
@ipswichfriendsofhighfield.

Nursery School News

We have had a great first half term in nursery school and now all of the children are settled and enjoying their time in nursery. Our focus in the first term is around the prime areas of the curriculum (Physical development, Personal, Social and Emotional development and Communication and Language) as we know that this gives the children a firm and secure base for their learning to continue through the year and beyond into school. We have been making great use of the nursery garden to investigate, explore and collaborate - making new friends and building real class communities.

We all really enjoyed exploring the Beatrix Potter story 'Peter Rabbit' before half term - I am sure lots of you have had little rabbits hopping around your house - we certainly did at nursery. We love when your children share their learning with you at home, so please share what they tell you about their day on Tapestry. I am sure Peter will continue to visit throughout the year!

Our new theme for November is 'Space' - where we will be exploring planets, rockets, astronauts...and maybe an alien or two! We will also be learning about the dark and hibernation. After that, we will be beginning to learn the songs for our nativity. Your child will be able to choose their own part in the nativity, and don't worry - we provide all the costumes, so you don't have to make anything!

The Hive

The rebuild of the old patio area is now complete. The new room is called 'The Hive' as it is a 'hive of activity' when the children are exploring! The Hive is an area for the children to explore 'Expressive Art and Design' from both Bumblebees and Dragonflies classrooms and includes a home role play corner, creation station as well as water play and painting area. The space is flexible so will be used in different ways throughout the year.

Severe Weather Guidance

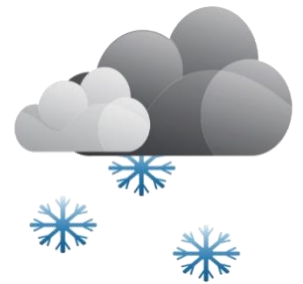
In the event of severe weather can we please ask parents to check for information on school closures through:

BBC Radio Suffolk Website www.bbc.co.uk/radiosuffolk

Or <https://schoolclosures.suffolk.gov.uk/e> and/or listen to

BBC Radio Suffolk (95.5 FM, 95.9 FM, 103.9 FM, 104.6 FM)

*Please note there will be **no** information on the Highfield phone line.*



Parking

PLEASE can we ask parents to be extra vigilant when parking to come to the Centre. Even if you are only dropping your child off and think you will only be a few minutes; if you block just a part of one of our neighbour's driveways this is not acceptable. It is also unacceptable to park in the parking spaces outside Chesterfield Drive Surgery, the Scout Hut car park or on the pavement outside the school. We strive to keep all our neighbours happy and this is a recurrent issue. We have a large car park at the back of nursery, which can be accessed next to the community centre from Highfield Road. We understand this can get full and, in that case, we ask that you park in one of the side roads instead of directly in front of the Centre or the spaces outside the Doctor's Surgery.

Rights and Responsibilities

In the last few weeks we have been using the ideas and language of rights and responsibilities. This is in line with UNICEF's rights of the child. For example, we talk about the fact that it is the child's right to play but it is also their responsibility to help tidy up. We encourage the children to have a voice and value everyone's ideas and opinions. It is also helping to develop a sense of community. We sent all new families a booklet on the Rights of the Child in your induction pack. We still have a small number of copies available, so just ask in the office if you would like another copy.

School Photographer

The school photographer will be visiting nursery on Wednesday 8th November. Photographs will be able to be ordered and delivered in time for Christmas, so you can start planning presents! The photographer will be here throughout the morning, so we will ensure every child who is in nursery has their photograph taken. If your child does not usually attend on a Wednesday, you are welcome to bring them to the main office from 1pm until 3pm. Please let us know roughly what time you will be coming, thank you. Purchasing the photographs will be optional.



Children in Need

Children in Need this year is on Friday 17th November. We have decided this year that with the current climate, we aren't going to have our usual fundraising for Children in Need, instead Friends of Highfield will be donating a percentage of the takings from the Christmas Bazaar to Children in Need on behalf of all the children at Highfield. If your child would like to wear Pudsey bear clothes on the day, or donate, you are still more than welcome to do so.

Christmas Lunch

On Thursday 14th December, the children who usually have lunch will have a delicious, freshly cooked traditional Christmas dinner. Unfortunately, due to space and cooking facilities we are only able to offer this to children who usually have a lunch on this day.



Christmas Nativities

Our nativity performance will take place on Wednesday 6th December. There will be two performance; Mrs Daniels & Mrs Goddard's' class (Bumblebees) will perform during the morning and Mrs Lewis's class (Dragonflies) will perform in the afternoon. If your child does not usually attend Highfield on a Wednesday and you would like them to take part in the nativity, please bring them to the Castle Hill Community Centre hall at 9am for Bumblebees children and 1pm for Dragonflies children. They will then have the opportunity to take part in a dress rehearsal before the performance. You will be able to take them home again after the performance. If you have any further questions please speak to your class teacher.

Please can all nursery children please wear a plain white or plain/pale coloured top on the 6th December.

Christmas Class Parties

Christmas parties will take place on Monday 18th December for Dragonflies and Bumblebees and on Wednesday 20th December for the Butterflies. The children will enjoy singing, dancing, party games and some party food. A food list will go up in your child's class nearer the time if you would like to contribute to the celebrations. Children who do not usually attend that session from either Dragonflies or Bumblebees will be invited in to attend from 1pm. More information to follow on Famly.



Personal/Contact/Medical Information

Can we please remind you that it is really important that you keep us informed of your latest details, including any medical changes! It is vital that we have up to date telephone numbers we can contact you on whilst your child is at nursery. Please ensure you tell the office if your number changes.

Please ensure that you let the office know that your child will be unable to attend nursery. You can do this by calling the office on 01473 742534 and leaving a voicemail on our new absence line or by reporting the absence on Famly.

Please remember that if your child has had Calpol, they are usually not well enough to come into Nursery. Also, if your child has had sickness and/or diarrhoea, they are unable to attend Nursery until 48hours after the last episode.

Appropriate Clothing for Cold Weather

Now the weather is turning colder could you please provide coats, hats, gloves etc for your children as we do go out in the garden most days and in most weathers. Also, please name ALL of your child's items as we have about 75 coats, hats, scarves and gloves through our nursery each day!



Visit our Website

<http://www.highfield.suffolk.sch.uk>

Visit our Facebook Page

[Highfield Nursery School – Ipswich](#)

Applying for a School Place

Parents with children born between **1st September 2019 and 31st August 2020** must apply for a reception place at primary or infant school by midnight on the **15th January 2024**.

There are two ways to do this: Online at www.suffolk.gov.uk/admissions
Or see Mollie in the office for a paper copy which will need to be sent to the Admissions Team at Suffolk County Council Endeavour House.

Several schools have shared their open day and visit information and we have attached to this newsletter. Please book a visit to all the schools you may wish to send your child to next year.



You can apply for three different schools. This means that if you do not get your first choice, you have a second and third choice. If you do not choose three schools, then you may be placed in a school offered by the Suffolk County Council.

If you need any help filling in your application – please contact the main office and one of the family support practitioners from Highfield Children’s Centre can support you through the process.

IMPORTANT Dates for your Diaries

Wednesday 8 th November	Photographer
Wednesday 29 th November	Pyjama Day
Wednesday 6 th December	Nativities Bumblebees AM Dragonflies PM
Wednesday 13 th December 4-6pm	Christmas Bazaar
Thursday 14 th December	Christmas Lunch
Monday 18 th December from 1pm	Bumblebees Christmas Party Food Lists will go up in your child’s class
Monday 18 th December from 1pm	Dragonflies Christmas Party Food Lists will go up in your child’s class
Monday 18 th December 10.30am-12pm	Children’s Centre Christmas Party
Wednesday 20 th December	Butterflies Christmas Party Food Lists will go up in your child’s class
Wednesday 20 th December	Last Day of Term
Wednesday 3 rd January 2024	Professional Development Day (Non-Pupil Day)
Thursday 4 th January 2024	All children return to nursery
Monday 19 th February – Friday 23 rd February 2024	Half Term

Children’s Centre News

The Children’s Centre Christmas party this year will be on Monday 18th December 10.30am-12pm. Why not dress in your festive jumpers and get ready to sing, dance and enjoy some games. More details will be sent via Family in due course as well as posted on our Facebook page.



Little Stars – SEND Support Group

1-2.30pm - 30th Nov & 14th Dec 2023. More dates coming from January 2024.

Castle Hill Community Centre IP1 6DG

This group offers the chance for parents to meet up in a relaxed and welcoming environment. You can ask for support and information around SEND from other parents and a Family Support Practitioner.

Solihull Approach – Coming January 2024

This parenting course will help you better understand your child's development and behaviour. We will explore issues together such as: having fun together, how children develop, explore feelings and much more. If you would like more information or to book, please speak to a member of the team.



Our full programme can be found through this link:

<https://www.highfield.suffolk.sch.uk/page/?title=News+%26amp%3B+Events&pid=9>

Or by visiting our Facebook Page: 'Highfield and Bramford Lane Children's Centre'.

Please contact us if you have any queries or questions – 01473 742534 ex2.