



Highcliffe News

October 2016

We have had a terrific first term back at Highcliffe; many exciting events have already taken place! As always, it has been wonderful to see the children (and grown-ups) walking in to school with huge smiles and full of enthusiasm! The children have settled in to their new classes quickly and have had a good time getting to know their new teachers. A very warm welcome to all the children and parents who have joined us within the Reception classes; we hope you enjoy reading through the school newsletter.

We have sadly - this term - said 'Goodbye' to Mrs Garner, who has been with the school for 13 years working as a Learning Support Assistant. We would like to all wish Mrs Garner well as she moves on to her new employment, and would like to thank her for her many years of support and dedication to Highcliffe. She will be missed very much!

Mrs Gutteridge has also taken on a new position with the Trust; she is now working as the Family Liaison link for both Highcliffe and Riverside. She will still run the friendly and supportive coffee mornings on Thursday mornings in the community room for anyone who fancies popping in for a cuppa. She will be missed greatly within the Reception classes and we would all like to wish her well in her new role.

A warm welcome to Emily Nicholls who has joined our office team as the Office Manager; I am sure many may have come in to contact with Emily already and we look forward to working with her as part of the Highcliffe team.

During this term, we have voted in a new School Council and for the first time (at Highcliffe) we have appointed House and Vice House Captains; all of which were voted in by the children. Throughout the year both the School Council and House/Vice House Captains will support the school through championing pupil voice and completing mini projects.

"This year we are looking at even more ways to involve parents and family members."

We are actively looking for more opportunities to invite our parents and families into school and we are looking forward to hosting our Parent Open Classrooms during the w/c 28th November. This is another first for Highcliffe and a chance for you to pop in and see your child's work and classroom from 3.15-4.45pm. The dates for this will be confirmed nearer the time. You can find more dates for your diary within this newsletter.

Head of School's Welcome...



We are very pleased with our new Breakfast Club which has been in place since the start of term. The Breakfast Club is open from 7.30am each morning in Greengate Hall. There is no need to pre-book and you pay on the day. The children have enjoyed eating a delicious breakfast and taking part in the activities provided.

A polite reminder to please remember swimming and PE kits on the days they have swimming or PE. The office have been inundated this term with kits arriving late so please ensure your child has their kit with them for the start of the school day.

"We cannot thank the PTA enough for everything they do for our school as well as our community!"

I would like to end on a very exciting note linked to our wonderful PTA. On Monday 26th October the children watched a very large cheque being handed to me in assembly. The cheque amounts to **£10,000** which will be allocated to projects and resources across the school to improve and enhance provision for the children. I would like to thank the PTA on behalf of all the staff and children for the work they do to raise such substantial amounts of money which goes directly back in to the school for the children. Thank you!

I would like to wish everyone a very happy half term and we look forward to seeing all the children back in school on Monday 24th October.

Mrs K. Renshaw

High Aims - High Challenge - High Standards

What's made us smile?

Smiles, smiles all around...

Reflecting on our first half term of the academic year, both children and teachers have been recalling what has made them smile over the last seven weeks!

Reception DMF

This September we have really worked hard to bring in 'growth mindset' from the very beginning. We have talked about how we follow 'I can't' with 'YET!'. The children have literally flew with it. We have also added in reflection about being 'on our way' and that has become the catchphrase for our class. It is a big deal for a child to pick up a pencil and begin to 'write'. We have talked about giving things a go as it helps us to be on our way. I remember when we went on a listening walk to the trees and we were all sitting down, trying to tune our ears into the environmental sounds around us. We then had to try to draw pictures of what was around us and if a child felt they could label their picture they gave it a go. One little girl stood up and announced to everyone, "I can't write letters yet, but I am going to give it a go with what I think is right - I am on my way". This was a fantastic moment, right at the beginning of our school year, and it has had a huge impact on how we go about our daily challenge as we are all trying to be 'on our way'.

Reception SC/JD

The children have made a fantastic start to the year. They have settled so quickly and already look like a 'class'.

"We have worked hard on learning and using the 5 R's – mainly respect, resilience and responsibility!"

The children are always thinking about how they are using these in the school day, and it makes us smile especially to see them 'respecting' and looking after each other, as they are making close friendships now. The children have taken to school life very quickly and are learning to be resilient, when setting out to achieve their own learning. We have started 'flying with phonics' and the children are picking up their letters and learning how to use them through games, which they have loved! We are looking forward to a great year, watching the children grow into little people! The children are also ready to have a great year, lots of fun and new learning!

1 JV

It has been a fantastic start to the year in 1JV and I'm really enjoying being back in my class after the summer holiday! Seeing the children's eager faces as they are walking into school in the morning makes me smile more than ever.

"They have settled into Year 1 so well and it is a joy to see them grow and become more independent every day!"

What has made me smile the most is how well children have adapted to whole class teaching in Year 1. They have worked extremely hard this half term to listen as I introduce a lesson and to carry out instructions. It's amazing to see how excited the children are to learn too. This week we discovered a bone in the ground and the children couldn't wait to write about who they thought the bone belonged to, or where it came from. The quality of their work was astounding and I couldn't believe how hard they had all tried, even though the task was tricky! It has been lovely to get to know the children this half term. I'm so proud of everyone and can't wait for the next half term!

1 PH

My class have made me smile because they have been so supportive of each other this half term. I have moved lots of children up the ladder for showing the 5R's and whenever I have, the children have always congratulated their peers and made them feel very proud of themselves! Thank you Butterworth Class! You have made me feel very proud of you too. Keep showing that respect to each other - it is lovely to be part of.



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Why are we smiling?

2 AK



Dr Seuss class have enjoyed a brilliant start to the academic year.

"Our feet don't seem to have touched the ground, and the children have settled in beautifully!"

We have had lots of highlights, but the most impressive has to be our trip to Beaumanor Hall. The day was superb from start to finish, with the children resplendent in their Victorian costumes. Thank you to all of you who supported this by dressing your children in attire worthy of Charles Dickens, and to those who helped so much on the day. Mrs Kilpin always enjoys an opportunity to dress up, and our parents didn't let the side down. Thank you. Our class have broken a record at Beaumanor, as Orla stunned everyone by reciting the alphabet backwards fluently! Apparently this is a first at Beaumanor Hall so well done Orla, and well done to the whole of Dr Seuss class who made the adults feel so very proud. It's going to be a great year and if it carries on like this children, to quote Dr Seuss, "Oh, the places you'll go!"



2AR



We had a fantastic trip to Beaumanor Hall where all children dressed up as Victorians. The children all looked fabulous in their costumes - thank you for your hard work with them! The children enjoyed experiencing working in the cellars, being laundry maids and going to Victorian School. The teacher was strict and made us all do curly writing with our right hand! The children were fantastic and really enjoyed the day learning about William Perry-Herrick and the Victorian house. The best part of the day was playing real Victorian games - we all enjoyed that part.



3 EH

The Roald Dahl class have settled so well into Year 3. They have already learnt lots of new aspects in both Literacy and Numeracy. All children can now write a really good set of instructions using imperative verbs and time connectives. In Numeracy, we have spent the majority of this half term looking at place value and addition.

"I am so impressed with how quickly the children have recognised numbers up to one thousand. They can add two and three digits together mentally as well as formally."

Keep up the good work Dahl class and I promise I will keep smiling!

3 KW

The Rosen class have had a great start to year 3. It has been lovely to see how hard the children have been working in English so far. They have been focusing on writing in paragraphs and using powerful verbs to write their own story (based on one we have read in class). I was really impressed with these and it made me smile reading about all the scary things they imagined! Well done Rosen class.

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Who's still smiling?

6LM

What has made us smile in 6LM?

Quite a few things have made 6LM smile, including friends, lessons and school elections but the one moment which featured the most laughter was when we recorded wireless broadcasts giving advice to the public about how to keep safe during the war! Everyone tried out their BBC voices, talking about wearing 'g-ar-s m-ar-sks.' Very few programmes were recorded first time!

A selection of quotes:

"The thing that has made me smile is my friends when they tell me jokes and play with me."

"Something that made me smile was getting vice house captain."

"Getting school councillor made me smile."

"The thing that made me smile was when I got a great stamp in my work."

"Things that have made me smile – laughing so much I was nearly crying, history and Anthony Horowitz."

"What has made me smile? Having friends to help me in lessons and me helping them."

"The thing that made me smile was science when we used chocolate."

"The thing that made me smile was science when we had some spare chocolate and Mrs Malpas put it in her mouth!"

"The thing that made me smile this year was when we did the World War II radio broadcasts and everyone had to start again because we were laughing so much."

"When we did the World War II news reports and our posh voices were really funny and something to remember forever."



6BM

Sharing our LOVE of literacy...

Amazingly, I have been SO impressed with how my class have taken to life in year six by storm!

"Due to their 'oozing' enthusiasm and conscientious attitudes, my children are making me beam with happiness."

One noticeable thing - which has struck me - has been how much my class have an affinity with literacy! When writing, they constantly reflect upon their vocabulary use and take responsibility for 'up levelling' their language using the thesauruses. Some children are beginning to challenge me with this too: I am even having to get my dictionary out at home when I mark their writing!

On Fridays - across the whole school - pupils complete an extended writing task called a 'My Write' that has had a positive impact on the children's learning. In 6BM, we love to dim the lights, power up our electric candles and play some soothing guitar music in order to help us focus upon our writing! (Please see the photo below!) When this happens the atmosphere is so magical, therefore we always look forward to Friday coming around again!



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Announcements

Rucksacks

A huge thank you to the efforts put in place to bring fold away/shopper bags to school rather than rucksacks. These have made such a difference to the cloakroom areas. We conducted a pupil survey, with children across the school, and they were all in agreement that the cloakrooms are much more accessible. Children's comments included, "it's much better now I can actually get to my peg", and "it's the best thing ever because it looks much tidier and neater, and we can see what is on our peg without everything falling onto the floor". We would like to continue to encourage the use of fold away/shopper bags that can be kept in children's drawers to reduce the congestion within the cloakroom areas. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Parking

A polite reminder to park cars with consideration when dropping or collecting children from school. Please do not park across residents driveways. Thank you.

Pen Licences

We are starting a new system this year where children can earn a provisional or full pen licence for having neat joined handwriting. All children can work towards earning their provisional pen licences, which allows the children to use a pen in English lessons. This is very exciting for the Elmfield children as it is new and we are all trying hard to earn our pens! Children can then earn their full licence, this allows them to use their pen in all lessons. Keep an eye out to see the new certificates coming home!

School Councillors 2016-17

Form	Name
2AK	Benjamin Kay
2AR	Nicole Cain
3EH	Jack Chadwick
3KW	Chester Evans
4JS	Charlie Cross
4NW/AW	Mollie Staniforth
5JB	Millie Lowe
5LW	Arundeeep Tara
6LM	Evie Mills
6BM	Mia Reed

House Captains

House	Captain	Vice Captain
Abbey	Libby Doyle	Lily Coleman
Bradgate	Louisa Chadwick	Ava Williams
Swithland	Scarlett Harrison	Katie Mason
Watermead	Grace Clarke	Jack Cross



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Highcliffe Events

Key Events from this Term:

We were thrilled to have had the American NFL visit our school on Friday 2nd September; the Year 5 and 6 children were treated to an afternoon of fun and sporty activities.



We were also very proud of our musical Year 6 children who represented the school and performed in the opening ceremony at the Youth Olympics (at Loughborough University) on Thursday 1st September. They excitedly met Max Whitlock - the double Rio Olympic GOLD medallist!

Some of our classes have already been on trips: Year 4 visited New Walk Museum in Leicester, and Year 2 as well as Year 6 have both visited Beaumanor Hall (as part of their topic work). The children have all had wonderful experiences and the feedback from the venues themselves spoke incredibly highly of our children, which makes the school very proud.

Please keep an eye on our twitter feed and website for regular updates on events, results, reminders and photographs.

Forthcoming Events

Mon 24th – Fri 28th Oct	Year 6 Residential Trip to Manor Adventure
Wed 26th Oct	PTA Quiz night 7.30- 10 pm
Fri 11th Nov	PTA School Disco (all years- Rec/ KS1 afternoon/ KS2 times tbc)
Fri 18th Nov	Children in Need
Fri 25th Nov	PTA Non Uniform Day – Raffle Prizes for Christmas Performances
w/c 28th Nov	Parent open classroom afternoon 3.15-4.00pm
Tues 29th Nov	EYFS Christmas postal walk
Fri 2nd Dec	PTA Family Christmas Film night
Mon 5th Dec	KS1 Christmas Performance 1.30pm
Tues 6th Dec	KS1 Christmas Performance 10.30am
Mon 12th Dec	EYFS Christmas Performance 10.30am
Tues 13th Dec	EYFS Christmas Performance 2.15pm
Tues 13th Dec	Year 5 & 6 Carol Service at St. James' Church
Tues 13th Dec	Year 3, 4 & 5 Evening Performance
Weds 14th Dec	Year 3, 4 & 5 Afternoon & Evening Performance
Fri 16th Dec	Christmas Jumper Day (Save the Children) £1

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