



Highcliffe News



Friday 22nd December 2023
Autumn Newsletter 3

Welcome to our final newsletter of 2023! This term has been a very long but enjoyable one and I wanted to take the opportunity to reflect on how much we have achieved and enjoyed at Highcliffe in the Autumn term. It's been jam packed full of fantastic opportunities for pupils, staff and our local community.

We have had the opportunity to welcome lots of parents and carers into school for Stay and Learn sessions and Open Classrooms. These have been a great success and we look forward to them continuing next term along with class assemblies which parents will be invited to attend.

The children have experienced a range of enrichment opportunities including an author visit, and a visit from an Olympic athlete. Year 6 have been on an action-packed residential and many year groups have been out on class trips to further deepen their learning.

I continue to feel very privileged to be the Head of School supported by the wonderful **Team Highcliffe**, dedicated governors, The Lionheart trust and our fabulous PTA (who provide a little bit of magic for our pupils across the whole year)

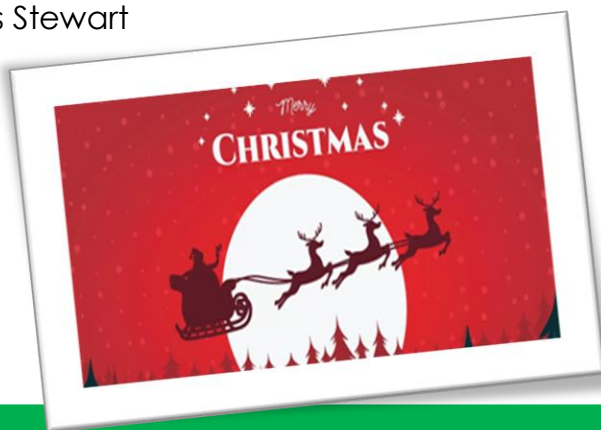
The pupils have been remarkable this term; demonstrating the Highcliffe values in their work and play!

The recent Christmas performances have been a joy to watch and it has been fantastic to see the creativity and musicality of the children.

The generosity of the school community has been amazing this year. Thank you for your support in helping to raise much needed funds for our chosen charities: Children In Need, The Poppy Appeal and large donations to our local food bank in Birstall.

I'd like to wish you a wonderful break. I hope it is filled with fun, food and family time. Sending you my best wishes for the New Year too.

Mrs Stewart



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Governor Message

Respect Resilience Responsibility Resourcefulness Reflection Reciprocity

Dear Parents and Carers, just a reflective note from myself, Charles Twort and Robert Prior, Co-Chairs of the school's Governing Board. Firstly, we like to thank School Leadership, Staff and Pupils along with yourselves in what has been achieved together this year. The school continues to go from strength to strength under the Lionheart Trust.

It is challenging times in education with the continued impact from the pandemic and the current cost-of-living crisis. However, as a governance team we feel exceptionally lucky to have recruited Mrs Stewart, an experienced and dedicated headteacher to lead the school. We also recognised the continued professionalism, dedication and passion shown by all the staff towards the wellbeing and academic and holistic education of our pupils.

As governors we recognise this is a time to reflect and relax over the holiday period, and try to enjoy ourselves a little, while recognising this is not always an easy time for everybody. However, rest assured that the school is very much part of the community and is here to support where it can. Thus, for now, that just leaves us to wish you and your families, a safe and happy festive period and we look forward to continuing our journey in 2024.

Merry Christmas

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Christmas

Respect Resilience Responsibility Resourcefulness Reflection Reciprocity

EYFS Nativity



Well done EYFS for all your hard work in the Nativity.
We are extremely proud of you all!

Year 1 and 2 Performance

You did awesome Year 1 and 2!
Thank you to everyone who learnt their lines and sang their songs!



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Christmas

Respect Resilience Responsibility Resourcefulness Reflection Reciprocity

Carol Concerts

Year 3 and Year 4 had an exciting day on Monday, singing Jingle Bells, 12 Days of Christmas and Sleigh Ride.



Likewise, we would like to thank Year 5 and Year 6 for their excellent resilience practising and performing 12 Days of Christmas and Reindeer on the Roof. It was a fantastic concert!



Rest your voices for now and enjoy your Christmas holiday!

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Christmas Dinner

It was lovely to see the smiles of the children coming into the dinner hall for their Christmas lunch! The children had fun pulling crackers, singing along to Christmas songs and eating their delicious Christmas dinner!

The lunch staff worked hard to make it special for the children and a good time was had by all!

Merry Christmas Everyone!





Happy News

Respect Resilience Responsibility Resourcefulness Reflection Reciprocity

A huge congratulations to Amber in 6RP for being selected as a mascot at Old Trafford over the weekend.

We are so proud of you! 😊



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Class Messages

Respect Resilience Responsibility Resourcefulness Reflection Reciprocity

EYFS

We have had the best term ever in EYFS! We have had so much fun and learnt many new things. It is quite hard to believe that this is the children's first term ever at school as they have all become such confident and independent learners!

The children have been working so hard this term rehearsing for their Nativity. They have been singing and dancing their hearts out and we are very proud of them. We hope you enjoyed their performance as much as we did.



This half term the children have enjoyed talking about people who help us in our community and around our school. We asked some of the adults around the school questions about their job role. The children asked many wonderful questions.



This term we have been also looking at healthy eating and dental hygiene. As part of this topic we looked at how to wash our hand properly and how to look after our teeth. The children loved exploring the role play fruit and vegetable shop.



The children had so much fun going on their very first school trip to watch the pantomime Peter Pan. They enjoyed joining in with the characters and were amazed by some of the special effects. The children were very respectful and responsible throughout the trip.



We hope you all have a wonderful and restful break. We can't wait to see you all again in the new year. Merry Christmas!

From the EYFS team.

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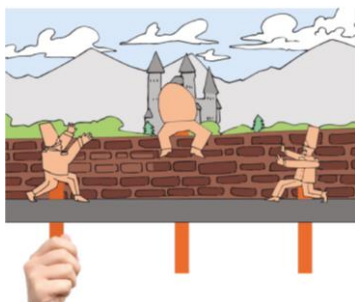


Class Messages

Respect Resilience Responsibility Resourcefulness Reflection Reciprocity

Year 1

Year 1s have had an amazing Autumn Term! We absolutely loved learning our topics this term in particular the DT projects where the children used their imaginative skills and knowledge to create a moving story book with levers and sliders. The children have shown great enthusiasm in their learning and they have produced fantastic work across the curriculum.



We have thoroughly enjoyed seeing the children develop their fantastic writing skills this term which has ranged from creating their own adventure story to writing letters to Santa!



The children have really impressed me with their computing skills in our Computing lessons. We have worked very hard in using the mouse in the Paint Application having learnt how to draw, fill and colour shapes using a variety of tools.

We had lots of fun learning about maps and what the local area looks like from above. The children enjoyed locating the local amenities they are familiar with in Birstall on a map and were able to identify human and physical features too.



Year 1s have shown incredible resilience in Maths in particular with additions and subtractions and are now enjoying spontaneous challenges as part of our retrieval practice. We are super proud of the children's hard work as we have come so far since the start of the year!

Enjoy your well-deserved break and see you next year!

Mrs Patel &
Miss Hardy

HAPPY
Holidays!

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Class Messages

Respect Resilience Responsibility Resourcefulness Reflection Reciprocity

Class 2LW

This half term has been awesome! It has been jam packed with lots of learning, but also with lots of fun!

The children have worked really hard to improve their reading and writing skills and I have been so impressed with how well they are all doing!

In English lessons, they have blown me away with the most recent writing that they have completed, including a letter in role as the Big Bad Pig and some beautifully written 'Twas the Night Before Christmas' poems.

In Maths, the children have been learning how equipment and resources in the classroom can help them in their lessons and this has helped them to become much more independent with their learning.

In Geography, the children have demonstrated great knowledge of the continents, including learning the words to the continents song.

In Art, the children have made the most beautiful dragon eyes and chosen their own colours to paint them so that the colour of the dragon's eye would really stand out!

The children thoroughly enjoyed their trip to Tamworth Castle, which was linked to our History topic. They had a great time looking at all of the exhibits and dressing a knight in all of the armour they would need to keep them safe!



One of my most proud moments this half term has to be the Carol Concert. The children's singing alongside their excellent poem reading skills were a real highlight of the term!

Have the best Christmas break and a very happy start to the new year 😊

Miss Williamson

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Class Messages

Respect Resilience Responsibility Resourcefulness Reflection Reciprocity

Class 2SM

Wow! What a busy term we've had!

We ended our half term with the most beautiful Carol Concert. The children worked really hard to learn their lines for the poem we recited and sang the songs amazingly well!

We showed off our handwriting skills by using the poem from our performance to demonstrate this. We took a look back through our English books and were really proud of how far we have come in terms of our handwriting posture and pencil grip.

We had a fantastic trip to Tamworth Castle. We loved walking around the castle grounds. We especially liked dressing the knight for battle and keeping a lookout for enemies in the top tower.



You've all worked really hard this term! Well done! Enjoy a well earned rest over Christmas ready for a busy Spring term.

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Class Messages

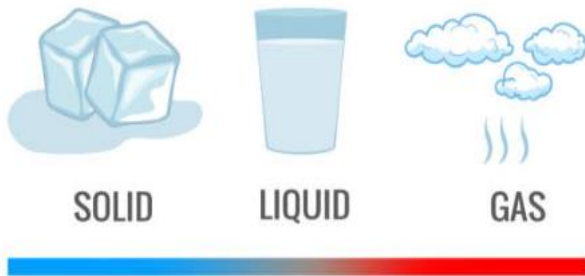
Respect Resilience Responsibility Resourcefulness Reflection Reciprocity

Class 3AK

What a great start to year 3 3AK have had! You have all settled in so well and are starting to get into the year 3 way of thinking. It has been lovely to see you all start to shine and find your feet, and your voices, in the classroom.

In English, it has been fantastic to see the classes creative flow, especially in our latest write based on the John Lewis advert 'The Hare and the Bear'. The description and vocabulary used has blown us away and we can't wait to see what you will continue to produce as the year progresses.

In science, the class have been engrossed in our latest topic of states of matter. They have carried out countless experiments and made fantastic predications and observations throughout these.



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Class Messages

Respect Resilience Responsibility Resourcefulness Reflection Reciprocity

Class 3EM

Year 3 you have been an absolute pleasure to teach this term. Your confidence, resilience and independence is growing each day and you should all be **so** proud!

We have ended our term with a lovely story write based on the John Lewis Christmas advert 'The Bear and the Hare'. We have retrieved our knowledge of setting descriptions to write about the beautiful snowy scene. Our grammar focus has been adverbs and the correct use of 'a' or 'an'. However, this has not stopped us from showing off our similes, adjectives, alliteration and more!

We have been practicing our multiplication and division this term. Our focus was on the 3, 4 and 8 times tables. We have learnt how to multiply a 2 digit number by a 1 digit number with and without exchanges. The class has really impressed me with their resilience and effort in this topic. Some of these times tables are tricky so please keep practicing on Times Tables Rockstars!

In design and technology, we have exploring seasonality. We have had the opportunity to taste some seasonal fruits and vegetables and then have created recipes for seasonal tarts. Year 3 then made their tarts in groups of three, tasted them and evaluated them. There were some very interesting combinations of ingredients!



Moving from year 2 to year 3 is a big jump with big changes but I am so proud of the progress that all of you have made. Keep up the hard work next term 3EM!

Have a very merry Christmas and a happy new year and I will see you all in 2024!

Miss Miles



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Class Messages

Respect Resilience Responsibility Resourcefulness Reflection Reciprocity

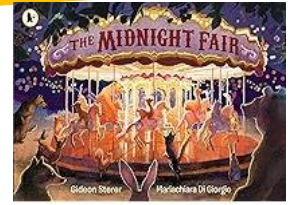
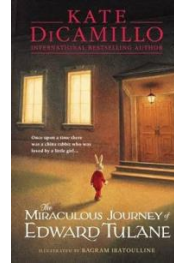
Class 4KM

It has been busy Autumn but I have absolutely **loved** my first term with you all! I feel like the luckiest teacher in the world to have a class of children so wonderful - not only do you put all your efforts into your work, but you are thoughtful and polite and you never fail to put a smile on my face.



We have had so much fun this term. In science, we have studied forces and magnets before moving on to study electricity where we create our own electrical circuits. The children conducted various scientific investigations which they thoroughly enjoyed.

In English, we were lucky enough to study a beautiful book; *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*. We all thoroughly enjoyed the story and the children produced some wonderful writing off the back of it. Following this, we studied a captivating picture book called 'The Midnight Fair'. The children were moved by the images and tasked to write a narrative, adding the words to the picture book. They absolutely loved this task, and really impressed me with their hard work and resilience to produce a beautifully written story.



← (I highly recommend reading this book with your child - it is so beautiful!)

We also had a great DT topic this term. We were tasked with designing and making a fairground ride model. I was blown away with the team work and responsibility the children all showed. Creating the ride was really tricky, but they all persevered and we had a great day.



Everyone has worked so hard this term. Some days we have to squeeze an awful lot into our timetable but the children just get on with it and **always** take such pride in the work they produce.

Well done 4KM, you make me proud every day. I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and New Year and I will see you again in 2024!

Happy New Year

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Class Messages

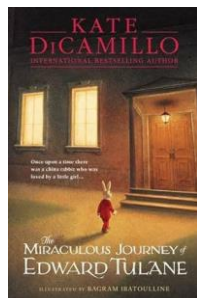
Respect Resilience Responsibility Resourcefulness Reflection Reciprocity

Class 4AW

As the Autumn term comes to a close, it is time to reflect upon what an amazing time we have had in Year 4. The children could not have worked harder, even in the busy run up to Christmas and I am so proud of them for this. A huge well done for showing such great resilience.



In English, we have read "The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane," "The Midnight Fair" and "The Nutcracker" and have produced some wonderful pieces of writing based around them. Whether it be an informal letter, a narrative or a character description and comparison, the children have never failed to impress us with their vocabulary choices and ideas. I am already looking forward to what they will write next term!



We also had a great DT topic this term. We were tasked with planning, designing and making a fairground ride model that used a pulley system in order to make it work. The children took great care with using tools and then adding on detail around a theme. May I say a huge thank you to parents and carers who helped us to resource this project.



Our Geography topic about "Fair Trading" also brought out an empathetic side in the children as well as giving them the opportunity to think about the effect trading has on the environment.

All that is left to say is that I hope that you all have a brilliant Christmas and New Year and I will see you all in 2024.



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Class Messages

Respect Resilience Responsibility Resourcefulness Reflection Reciprocity

Class 5NP

This term has been a very busy time for class 5NP! I have been very impressed with every single child in my class. The children have been working extremely hard by showing resilience throughout this term.

In English, the children have read lots of different Greek Myths and learnt different writing styles. The children have been able to write a letter, balanced argument, character description for a likeable and unlikeable character. The children thoroughly enjoyed writing their own Greek Myth with the use of their excellent imagination!



In D&T, the children learnt about the history of Greek bread and successfully made bread which they then evaluated.

In Computing, the children created their own video vlog where they learnt about different camera angles and shots. The children really enjoyed creating their own video and showed reciprocity during the lessons.

Finally, I would like to say a huge well done to all the children for showing all the 6Rs throughout this term and I cannot wait to start our new Topic after Christmas which is 'All about Space'!

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents and carers for their support this term! I wish you all, Merry Christmas and a happy new year !



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Class Messages

Respect Resilience Responsibility Resourcefulness Reflection Reciprocity

Class 5EC

Wow, what a busy Autumn term for 5EC! We have had such a good time learning all about the Ancient Greeks, and thoroughly enjoyed finding out the similarities and differences between Ancient Greek life and how we live today.

The children have shown great creativity and perseverance in DT, using what they've learnt in this topic to make their very own Greek bread to take home and eat!



The children have also been working really hard on their writing skills, and have been able to produce a wide range of pieces, from a letter of complaint to their own version of a Greek myth. I'm so impressed with their creations!

5EC have also really impressed me with the resourcefulness and resilience they've shown in Maths, really getting to grips with adding and subtracting fractions, as well as practicing their multiplication and division skills!

The children have also been working very hard in Computing, showing their imagination and reciprocity by creating a video with several different kinds of shots and camera angles. I've been so impressed with the hard work and effort they put into creating them!

Finally, it's been an amazing pleasure to watch the whole class developing their 6Rs, and showing fantastic progression all throughout the Autumn term!

Have a restful break, and a very Happy New Year!



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Class Messages

Respect Resilience Responsibility Resourcefulness Reflection Reciprocity

Class 6CG

Wow! This has been an incredibly busy and memorable term! 6CG have shown the 6Rs in abundance and have engaged with their learning with enthusiasm and interest. Each pupil can be very proud of their efforts this term.

We have spent much of year 6 so far learning about the First and Second World Wars, and this culminated with our excellent visit to Beaumanor Hall, where we lived a day in the life of evacuees and code breakers. The children enjoyed this (very cold) day in the past and learned lots.

To complete our topic, we have used our knowledge of the Blitz and our growing understanding and skill in design and technology to build our own model Anderson Shelters.



Year 6 have also had the privilege of many other exciting opportunities including: a visit from author Steve Skidmore, who inspired our writing; our adventurous and engaging residential trip, where pupils tackled a huge range of challenges with excitement; and many of us had the pleasure of travelling to Loughborough Town Hall to watch this year's pantomime – Peter Pan.

We wish everyone in 6CG a very Merry and restful Christmas break and a Happy New Year!



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Class Messages

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Class 6RP

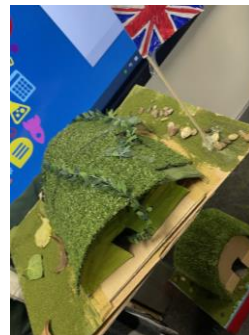
What a busy and fun-filled term 6RP have had! They have shown huge amounts of respect, resilience and responsibility over the last few weeks and I am super proud of every single member of the class. Keep up the great work!

Our WW2 topic has continued to enrich the children's minds as we made our first trip to Beaumanor Hall in Loughborough for a WW2 day. The children thoroughly enjoyed going back in time and learning more about rationing, undertaking code breaking exercises and experiencing the cramped life in an Anderson Shelter during an air raid.



This term, we have been extremely lucky to have some fantastic opportunities outside of the classroom, the best of these being our Y6 residential! It was fantastic to see the children demonstrating the 6R's outside of the classroom, challenging themselves and making both the adults and themselves proud!

To complete our topic, we have used our knowledge of the Blitz and our growing understanding and skill in design and technology to build our own model Anderson Shelters.



Thank you for a fab term 6RP! Have a well deserved rest now and enjoy all the festivities. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year ☺

Mrs Pabla



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Parentmail Reminders

Respect Resilience Responsibility Resourcefulness Reflection Reciprocity

Key Dates

Training day	Monday 8th January 2024 (closed to students)
School opens	Tuesday 9th January 2024
School close	Friday 16th February 2024
Spring Half term	Monday 19th February 2024 – Friday 23rd February 2024
School opens	Monday 26th February 2024
School close	Friday 22nd March 2024
Easter Holidays	Monday 25th March 2024 to Friday 5th April 2024

More information about other key events will be sent through parent mail and the newsletter.

Severe Weather Communication

If the decision is taken to close the school due to severe weather over the Winter period, we will inform you as early as possible by placing a banner on our school website. We will also inform Radio Leicester who will share this information. All pupils will be provided with work through their school email and our learning platforms (TEAMS & Tapestry) by 9am .



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