

# Highwoods

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## Academy Newsletter Christmas 2017 Issue

It doesn't seem two minutes since last Christmas!

We have had a very hectic but enjoyable end to the term. The Christmas productions have been fantastic and thank-you for the kind comments – we have some talented young people and maybe stars of the future?

This Christmas, we say goodbye to two members of staff; **Mrs. Lewis** and **Mrs. Poultney**. We wish them good luck for the future.

We welcome **Mr. Taylor** and **Mrs. Sherratt**

We continue to work very closely with our Academy Trust Family schools and this is having a very positive effect on School Improvement.

The school is almost at capacity with very few spaces in most year groups and some year groups are full.

Finally, I'd like to wish you all a **very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year**

*G. R. Rhodes Head Teacher*

### Breakfast Club

When we return in January the cost of Breakfast Club will increase to **£1.20 per day**

This is the first increase in cost for 5 years.

We have kept this increase to a minimum, but the increase in food prices and running costs means we have no choice if we want to keep the Breakfast Club running.

Our Breakfast Club will therefore cost £6.00 per week and compares favourably with the provision of nearby schools. The change in price will be reflected on ParentPay from the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018

### Message from the Chair of the Local Governing Body

Dear Parents /Carers,

My name is Jill Northwood and I am Chair of Governors for Highwoods Academy.

In my previous role, I was a Headteacher and I worked with Mr Rhodes on a professional level and was pleased, when I retired from Headship, to be asked to become a Governor at your school.

As a Governing body, we are committed to wanting the best for your children and we will support and challenge the school leadership to ensure this happens.

This year has been exciting times for the school, we have become an Academy, opened a Nursery and had much improved Key Stage Two results.

If you have any problems and wish to discuss them with a member of the Governing Body please contact the school office and they will put you in touch with one of us.

Working together we can make Highwoods Academy even better!

Kind regards,  
Jill Northwood

Your Parent Governors:

Mr. Christopher Williams  
Mr. Mark Skelton

Associate Governors based in school:

Mrs. Kerry Skelton  
Mrs Jeanette Dawson

## Attendance

Regular attendance at school is very important.

Our attendance target this year is **96%**.

Any child whose attendance falls below this target will trigger a meeting where parents are invited into school to discuss their child's attendance. A plan will be put in place with parents and school working together to improve children's attendance.

Persistent absence (including lateness) can result in a fixed-penalty fine and/or summons to appear in Court.

## Fund Raising

### Children in Need



Children in Need non-uniform spotty day raised **£165.12**



### Poppy-Day

Our selling of Poppies and Poppy-Day items raised **£203.65** for the Royal British Legion

### Christmas Raffles

Our Christmas raffles raised £291.00 for school funds.

The winners of our whole school Christmas Raffle will be drawn after Christmas when we are back to normal

Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

## Residential for 2018

Following this year's very successful residential to Auusterfield for Year 3 and 4 and London for Years 5 and 6 we have arranged 2 residential for next year.

We have organised a residential for Years 3 and 4 to go to Austerfield again – with different activities planned, so those who went in Year 3, could if they wanted, go again. And for Years 5 and 6 we have booked an outdoor adventure residential at Kingswood.

Further details will be sent out in the new year.

## House Points

House points awarded this term...



Blue	430
Green	330
Red	220
Yellow	286

Totals so far this year....

1 <sup>st</sup>	Blue	1286
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Green	1208
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Yellow	1142
4 <sup>th</sup>	Red	1077

Well done **Blue House**

Will we have a new winner at the end of the spring term?

## Birthday Card Competition

All the children at Highwoods receive a birthday card on their birthday.

We have launched a competition to design an academy birthday card that the children can complete during the Christmas break – make sure you have got an entry form.

This is a prize competition.

Closing date is Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January.

Good luck!!



## Professional Development Days

We are having training about metacognition and self-regulation approaches (sometimes known as 'learning to learn' approaches) – these aim to help learners think about their own learning more explicitly. This is usually by teaching pupils specific strategies to set goals, and monitor and evaluate their own learning.

## Nursery - Holly Class

*It has been a very busy first term for our children in our new Nursery. The children have settled into school fantastically! We have learnt many new skills and built new relationships.*

We share and take turns. *"I like giving out the snack at snack time and sharing it"* Ivy.

We have been building up our muscles and keeping our fingers busy - getting them ready for writing in our Dough Disco and Funky Fingers sessions *"I like drawing and I've learnt to write my name!"* – Riley Q .

Mia *"Playdough and Dough Disco are my favourite"*

We have been learning to form numbers in our 'Digit Dances' and had lots of fun in the hall dancing with our 'Busy Feet'. *"In Busy Feet we dance and move like animals to the music"* – Lilly. Ashton – *"I like going down to the hall."* Tulisa – *"I like Busy Feet, I like going roar like a tiger."*

Wearing our big ears for our Phonics learning is helping our ears to listen carefully for sounds. Wizard has been helping us learn to count, to compare more and less and the names of shapes. Leo – *"I like numbers."*

These things have kept us super busy, along with all of our learning both outdoors and indoors in the different areas. Dylan *"I like playing in the water and pouring with the jugs."* *"I like building in the block area"* – Mason.

We really enjoyed practising for and performing our first Christmas Production with Reception class, 'Whoops-a-Daisy Angel'. *"I liked practising our snowflake song"*- Riley

## Dogs Trust Workshop

During a visit from the DogsTrust, Emma-Jo educated us on how to behave around dogs in a respectful way and how to care for them. The workshops were engaging, interactive and fun for all.

Hopefully, we will be planning future visits.



## Year 6 – Sycamore Class

*"Our topic this term was World War 2 and we learnt multiple things about it. I particularly enjoyed learning about Adolf Hitler's rise to power. Did you know he actually wanted to be an artist?"*

Max

***"In London, I enjoyed visiting the London Eye. Lots of people were afraid of the height but once they were on, they loved it!"***

Amelia

***"I loved the London Eye because it was high and it was fun!"***

Morgan

***"In London, I enjoyed the London Eye because it was high and you could see everything!"***

Scarlett

***"Year 6's performance this year was Snow White, I enjoyed it as we all worked as a team and took part to make a funny performance."***

Kian

***"I enjoyed watching people act differently in this year's performance of Snow White because it was funny and entertaining."***

Caitlin

## Year 4 – Oak Class

### Iron Man

Year 4 have thoroughly enjoyed studying the work of Mexborough's own author and poet laureate Ted Hughes this half term. They have been reading The Iron Man. Pupils have been fascinated by the images and language used. Their favourite activity was the whole class debate about the fate of the Iron Man. Were the farmers right to lure Iron Man into the pit and trap him? Ask a Y4, they have arguments for and against!

### Drawing with scissors

Year 4 were fascinated by their recent visit to The Point, where they explored images by Henri Matisse. They enjoyed the bright colours and the strong images, picturing body shapes in different positions. Harvey said, "The Christmas Night picture is my favourite." Whereas, Ella preferred the pictures of the lady carrying a pot and some of the patterns. Year 4 are looking forward to trying out some of Henri Matisse's techniques in the Spring Term.

## Year 5 – Hazel Class

**Year 5** have had a hardworking and productive Autumn Term. Reflecting upon the term there have been many highlights. Here are some that stuck out in the children's minds when asked.

The children have enjoyed learning about World War 2 during learning challenges and enjoyed their visit to Eden Camp with Year 6. As well as this the children loved art creating artwork based around WW2, staff and children outside of our classroom have admired the collaborative sketch of Sir Winston Churchill. The children have also enjoyed reading Rose Blanche (a story of a little girl who experiences war in her town in Germany) and getting creative with their writing.

Another highlight for some of Year 5 was the residential visit to London, it was a jam-packed few days away from home but the children absolutely loved it. Most of the children agreed that their favourite parts of the residential were the London Eye, The Tower of London and the Lion King theatre production.

## 'All Different – All equal' Anti-Bullying Week Competition

Thank you to everyone who entered the Anti-bullying competition and designed your own pair of 'odd socks'. Some wonderful creations



Congratulations to this year's winners - Kiegan (Elm Class) and Riley (Holly Class). They both received chocolates and 'odd socks' as their prizes.

**Runners-up** were Zac (Cherry), Abbie (Willow), Jayden (Rowan), Ella (Oak), Kaylie (Hazel) and Wade (Sycamore).

## Roots of Empathy

Year 4 are once again participating in a programme called Roots of Empathy (ROE) [www.rootsofempathy.org](http://www.rootsofempathy.org). Our tiny teacher this year is Evie Hawley. The ROE Instructor (Mrs Mitchell) coaches the children in observing Evie and reading the cues she gives as to how she's feeling. "Is she happy or sad?" "How can you tell?" We use discussions as a lever for the children to talk about their own emotions and to understand how their classmates feel. The programme helps to raise levels of empathy within our children which helps them to respect and care for one another.



## Year 1 Willow

Year 1 were invited to take part in a Dance festival. A group of pupils from Year 1 were among four other schools in the local area that took part in a sequence of four Christmas inspired dances led by Dance pupils at Mexborough Academy.

Year 1 took part in the lower key stage Christmas concert "Lights, Camel, Action!" Well done to all our beautiful angels and dancing sheep!