



Alsager Highfields Primary School

Mighty oaks from small acorns grow

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Newsletter Friday 6th October 2023



Dear Parents & Carers,

Autumn has well and truly set in and we have really started to notice a change in the weather in the past couple of weeks. We do try, where possible, to ensure all children get some fresh air during breaks so please do remind your child to bring a coat, even if it looks sunny in the morning! As the rain increases, the field gets muddier and to stop children from playing on the field at lunch times does drastically reduce the amount of space for our 205 pupils. When the field is in use, there are far fewer instances of children falling out as they all have adequate space to play. With this in mind we are going to trial using the field throughout the winter months for years 5 and 6 only. In order to go on the field, pupils must bring in a change of shoes and store these in a carrier bag in their lockers. This arrangement will start immediately. We have purchased 2 boot scrapers for the playground, so hopefully we will be able to keep the inside of school mud free!

A huge congratulations to Mrs Harry and the work she did last year on improving our PE offer for all children. Her commitment to our school priority of 'Healthy body, Healthy mind' has led to the school achieving the Gold School Games Mark for our engagement with the school games programme. This priority is continuing this academic year and we hope that break times will become even more active for our pupils with the installation of the 'gym stations' kindly paid for by money raised by the PFA. We hope this work will be completed by the end of the spring term, if not before.

Finally, over the past two weeks I have shown many prospective parents around the school and the behaviour of your children has been exemplary. Without exception, every visitor has commented on the calm and happy environment and how polite and well behaved the pupils are. You should be very proud—I am!

Rachel Woollam

PFA

The PFA had a really successful AGM on Monday and it was lovely to see so many new faces at the meeting. Thanks to all attended. During the meeting the PFA decided to support the following ventures with the monies raised last year:

The coaches for the KS2 theatre trip, the KS1 pantomime and outdoor gym stations for the main playground.

A huge thank you also to **Rachel Neal** who has managed to secure a much needed dishwasher for our breakfast club for FREE! This will make a huge difference to the running of this club.

Upcoming events:

Thursday 19th October—school disco

Friday 1st December—Christmas fair



Mr Phelps

It is with great pride, but also immense sadness that I inform you that Mr Phelps will be leaving Highfields at October half term. I have worked with Mr Phelps for many years and will be forever grateful that he took a leap of faith by joining the team a year ago. Since becoming a full time member of Highfields, Mr Phelps has assisted Mrs Harry in improving the PE and sports offer for all of our pupils as well as embracing 'Outdoor Learning'. He has been a wonderful teaching assistant for many pupils and I know he'll be sorely missed by the entire community. Mr Phelps is going to take up his dream job of working for Port Vale Academy, as their lead academy goalkeeping coach. They are incredibly lucky to have him. He has promised to return for all fancy dress events as we all know he does love a costume!



A new Sports coach has been approached and will hopefully be joining the team before Christmas.

Bottles needed

We are soon to start our whole school



poppy project and would dearly love this to be ready and installed in time for Remembrance Day in November. All year groups will be making poppies out of plastic bottles and we are in need of some donations please. We need clear plastic bottles of any size and any donations would be gratefully received. If bottles could be rinsed prior to handing them in that will save of time. If you would like to get involved with this project and make a poppy to go on our fence then there is a video link below. I would like this to be a community project as much as possible.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oVcsBo-VT5A>

Sports Ambassadors

Introducing our Sports Ambassadors for this academic year; Erin Y, Rosie S, Zachary G and Arthur M. This is an important role for pupils and together they will work with Mrs Harry to ensure younger pupils are active at break and lunch times. This role also includes taking PE lessons under Mrs Harry's supervision for Key Stage 1 pupils. The Ambassadors all received their hoodies today and wore them with pride.



Operation Encompass



Our KS2 Safeguarding Ambassadors led the first of our half-termly safeguarding assemblies today. They taught the rest of the school all about Operation Encompass and how it helps to keep everyone safe. We are proud to work closely with Cheshire Police on this initiative to ensure the safety of our pupils.



Proud!

Some pupils have managed to achieve their bronze award already for exceptional effort in their attitude and work.

Huge congratulations to:

Y1—Emilia C

Y3—Jenson C and Lola H-H

Y4—Harrison H and Oliver G

Y5 - Freddie C , Owen M and Lyla H



Harvest

On Wednesday the 18th of October, the whole school will come together to celebrate harvest. Pete Howard, the pastor from Alsager Community Church will be leading our harvest thanksgiving. The choir have been busy learning songs and we will take time to reflect on the food we eat and the work involved in farming and producing crops. We will also think about those less fortunate than ourselves and the vital work done in our community by the Alsager foodbank.

If you are able, please consider donating tins and packets of consumable goods so that we can support our local food bank. We ask that donations are sent in on the Monday and Tuesday so that we able to arrange the hall ready for our service on the Wednesday. Any support and donations will be gratefully received.



Medicines in school

Inevitably, with the return to school, there has been many coughs, colds and bugs circulating. The chart below clearly explains the length of time pupils need to remain at home. The school will administer non-prescribed medicines, such as calpol, to pupils, as long as parents or carers have filled in a medical form.

When should my child return to school? NHS

Chicken Pox When all spots have crusted over	Conjunctivitis None*	Diarrhoea & Vomiting 48 hours from last episode	Glandular Fever None*	Hand, foot & mouth None*	Impetigo When lesions are crusted & healed or 48 hours after commencing antibiotics
Measles or German Measles 4 days from onset of rash	Mumps 5 days from onset of swelling	Scabies After first treatment	Scarlet Fever 24 hours after commencing antibiotics	Slapped Cheek None*	Whooping Cough 48 hours after commencing antibiotics
Flu Until recovered	Head Lice None*	Threadworms None*	Tonsillitis None*		



This information is based on the Public Health Agency guide - full copy here

*No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed.

