



## Monthly Newsletter 24 October 2023



### HOLIDAYS

Friday 27 October 2023 is the last day of school before October half term.

The children return on Tuesday 7 November.  
Monday 6 November 2023 in an Inset Day

**Please remember holidays should not be taken during term time.**

### ATTENDANCE FOR SEPTEMBER



Mrs Jones



Mrs Wood



Mr Gruffydd

The whole school attendance for September 2023 is 94.3%. Persistent absence is classed as under 90% attendance. As a school we are aiming for at least 96%.

### ATTENDANCE—96% WHOLE SCHOOL TARGET

Thank you very much to all of you who made sure your children were in school and on time last year.

Unfortunately we still had a small number of children who were regularly late and/or had very low attendance.

It is very important that children are on time at the beginning of the school day. When children are late it can be very disruptive to both the latecomers and their classes—missing **10 minutes** every day adds up to missing **A WHOLE WEEK** over the course of a year.

Education regulations make it clear that Head Teachers should not grant approval for any leave of absence during term time, including **holidays**, unless there are exceptional circumstances. These regulations also state that holidays cannot be authorised retrospectively.

If you are applying for a holiday due to exceptional circumstances you should complete a request form and hand it into the school office for consideration prior to any holiday/leave arrangements being made. You may be issued with a Penalty Notice should leave be taken which is not authorised. Currently the fine is £60.00 per child per parent per holiday – **this is a government imposed rule and it is not within our power to change it.**



### **NEW WEBSITE**

Our new website is now live and fresh content will be constantly added. The calendar on the homepage is where you will find all the latest events and activities going on in school. If you have not downloaded the new school app, please do, as this will be the main communication vehicle between school and yourselves.

### **CONTACT DETAILS**

Communication between school and home is really important.

If you change your telephone number or address, would you please make sure that you inform the school office.

It is very important that your child's details are kept up to date, particularly Mobile numbers which we use for contacting you in an emergency.

This will also apply for any other contact we have for your child.

### **GOVERNORS**

Do you feel you could take an active part in the school?

We would like to invite you to stand for election as a parent governor on our governing body.

No special qualifications are needed, and the most important thing is to have a keen interest in the school and be prepared to play an active part in the governing board's work.

If you are interested in joining, please call into the school office for more information.

### **FLU VACCINATION**

If you would like your child to receive the flu vaccine in school please follow this link to complete an online consent form;

<https://nhslmms.azurewebsites.net/session/ae28f7e7>

The vaccinations will take place in school on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2023. The link will close on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November, 2023. If your child has already had the Nasal Flu vaccine since Sept 2023 please disregard this msg. If you have any problems accessing the link please telephone 0333 358 3397 option 5.

Please note this only applies to Reception upwards.

### **REMEMBRANCE DAY**

Poppies and stationery items will be on sale in school from Tuesday 7 November 2023.



*Least We Forget*



Dear families,

There is wide agreement among health professionals and educational professionals that school attendance is vital to the life chances of children and young people. Being in school improves health, wellbeing and socialisation throughout the life course. The greatest benefits come from children and young people attending school regularly.

It is usually appropriate for parents and carers to send their children to school with mild respiratory illnesses. This would include general cold symptoms: a minor cough, runny nose or sore throat. However, children should not be sent to school if they have a temperature of 38°C or above. For more information about when to send your child to school, please read the [NHS 'Is my child too ill for school?' guidance](#) which has further information.

In addition to respiratory illnesses, we are aware that more children may be absent from school due to symptoms of anxiety than before the pandemic. Worry and mild or moderate anxiety, whilst sometimes difficult emotions, can be a normal part of growing up for many children and young people. Being in school can often help alleviate the underlying issues. A prolonged period of absence is likely to heighten a child's anxiety about attending in the future, rather than reduce it. If you are worried about your child experiencing anxiety that is affecting their attendance then please speak with the school to see what they can do to support.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Chris Whitty, Chief Medical Officer, England

Pat Cullen, General Secretary, Royal College of Nursing

Professor Kamila Hawthorne, Chair, Royal College of General Practitioners

Dr Camilla Kingdon, President, Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health

William Roberts, Chief Executive, Royal Society for Public Health



## SECONDARY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS FOR 2024/2025

You can [apply online](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk.admissions) at [www.derbyshire.gov.uk.admissions](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk.admissions) until the deadline of midnight on 31 October 2022.

If you have applied online you can view your offer online on 1 March 2024.

Internet access is available free of charge at all [Derbyshire libraries](#). Some schools may also let you apply online using their computers.

The online application form will enable you to make your application and send it immediately. You will receive confirmation that your application has been received. Even after you have made your application you will be able come back and make amendments at any time up until the deadline.

The advantages of making your application online are that you have the assurance that your application has been received and you will also be able to keep a record of the application you made.



When you apply online, you will need to give a username and password. Online applications will be issued with a unique identification number. Please make a note of these details.

The process should be easy to follow but if you have any problems you can either email: [admissions.transport@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:admissions.transport@derbyshire.gov.uk) or ring Call Derbyshire on tel: 01629 533190 and make a telephone application.

## VACANCY PERMANENT / RELIEF MIDDAY STAFF

Lunchtime is an **important** part of our pupils school day.

We have a wonderful and valued Midday team who help children in the dining hall and/or arrange activities to help children develop skills through play.

We urgently need more relief and permanent midday staff .

Qualifications required are: having fun, patience, a sense of humour, seeing both sides to a problem to resolving fallings out.

The current start time for midday staff is 11.50 a.m.  
1 hour 20 minutes per session.

Please contact the office if you have questions about the role  
01246 273534.



If you have are interested in being a part of this valued team call in to the school office.



## RECEPTION APPLICATIONS

If your child was born between 1 September 2019 and 31 August 2020 they will be eligible to start school in September 2024. **You should apply for their infant or primary school place by Monday 15 January 2024.** You will be able to make your application from 9am on Monday 6 November 2023.

To help you decide if Highfield Hall is a suitable choice for your child we have organised some open days.

Full details below.



## *Starting School Open Days*

If your child was born between 1 September 2019 and 31 August 2020 they will be eligible to start school in September 2024.

We would like to invite prospective families of 2024 Reception children to visit our wonderful school and site and to find out more about life at Highfield Hall Primary School. Each session will last approximately 30 minutes and your child is welcome to attend with you.

**Thursday 5th October 2023 - 9.30am**  
**Thursday 9th November 2023 - 1.30pm**  
**Thursday 7th December 2023 - 9.30am**

To book a place, please telephone the school office on 01246 273534

You will be able to apply for your infant / primary school place via the Derbyshire County Council admissions webpage from

**9am on 6 November 2023.**

The deadline for applications is  
**15 January 2024.**

<https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/education/schools/school-places/apply-for-a-school-place.aspx>





### PARENTS DROP IN SESSION

We look forward to seeing parents from Y1 to Y6 on  
Tuesday 14 November 2023 from 3.45 pm to 6.00 pm.  
(Doors will close at 5.30 pm)



This is an opportunity for you to come into school with your child/ren to look at their work, and talk informally to the class teacher.

Nursery and Reception sessions will run slightly differently; parents will be contacted separately about these sessions.

### BREAKFAST AND AFTERSCHOOL CLUB

Our breakfast and afterschool clubs are run here by Highfield Hall staff.

**We ask that all children are signed in and out .**



**All sessions are run in term times, but not on inset days.**

The staff arrange lots of fun activities which the children really enjoy,  
in a safe and friendly environment.

Breakfast Club starts from 7.30 a.m, and as the name suggests children can have  
breakfasts provided, usually cereals or toast and butter and jam.

The fee for this session is £3.50 .

At 8.50 a.m. the children are taken to their classrooms ready to start  
their school day.

The after school club starts at 3.30 p.m. when children are supervised in  
travelling from their classes into club.

Once there they will be given a snack

The after school club runs from 3.30 p.m. until 5.30 p.m.

Sessions are charged at £3.50 for session/part session .

Session one is 3.30p.m. until 4.30 p.m.

Session two is 4.30 p.m. until 5.30 p.m.

If you arrive after 5.30 to collect your child an additional charge of £5.00 for every  
ten minutes your arrive late will be charged.

Making a booking and payment is through ParentPay before your child arrives at the club,  
unless you use the Tax Free Child Care Scheme.

If you choose to use this form of payment you will need to notify Mrs Shelbourne on  
dshelbourne1@highfieldhall.derbyshire.sch.uk and she will register your child and adjust  
your invoice manually, once we receive payment..

Could you please ensure that Rob or Jayne are aware of who  
will be collecting your child.