

# Highters Heath Community School

## Newsletter

Friday 10th May 2024

### Dates for your Diary

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May -  
school closes at the  
normal time of  
3.15pm**

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June –  
School reopens at  
the normal time of  
8.45am**

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June –  
Year 5 visit to the  
Space Centre**

**Monday 8th June -  
19<sup>th</sup> June – Year 4  
Swimming**

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June  
– Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June –  
Year 6 Residential to  
Beaudesert**

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June  
Year 4 visit to  
Kenilworth Castle**

**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June –  
Year 2 visit to Weston  
Super Mare**

**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June –  
Pupil Parliament visit  
to Heath Mount  
Primary School**

**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June  
– Visit to Birmingham**

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June –  
Sports Day**

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July –  
Speak Up, Speak Out  
final**

### Message from the Headteacher

It seems, for now, that we are finally enjoying some lovely summer weather and with OPAL in full swing it is lovely to see the children playing so well together – building dens, dressing up, making things and generally enjoying each other's company. As the sunny weather continues, please can I remind parents to apply suncream to your child before school and send in a cap for the children to wear out on the playground. Fingers crossed the lovely weather stays with us.

As always if you have any questions or queries, please contact the school office using the enquiry email.

[enquiry@hightersheath.excelsiormat.org](mailto:enquiry@hightersheath.excelsiormat.org)

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Aulton

### Pupil Parliament – Well Being Week

Our school Pupil Parliament will be holding a well being week on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May. The week will start with the Pupil Parliament running a whole school assembly to explain the week ahead. The children in each class will then take part in various activities including getting active and spotting wonderful acts of kindness during the week. The week will end with 'wear it happy' on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May. The children will be asked to donate 50p to wear something that makes them happy for the day. All money raised will be used for resources for the children. Please look out for a letter next week with more details.

### Lost Property

As the summer approaches we are finding we have more and more lost property in school particularly jumpers and cardigans. If your child is missing one or several of these items, please see the school office who will happily show you our lost property items.

### Year 5 Grammar School Entrance Tests

Any parents wanting their child to take the entrance tests for the grammar schools, please be advised that the registration is now open for parents of current Year 5 pupils who would like their child to sit the entrance test for a place at any of the grammar schools in Birmingham (entry to Year 7 in September 2025). Registration can be made online by visiting the website below.

[www.westmidlandsgrammarschools.co.uk](http://www.westmidlandsgrammarschools.co.uk)

The closing date for registering is 4pm on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2024. The test will take place on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2024.

## Spotlight on Attendance

### Penalty Notice Fines for School Attendance are Changing!

With the introduction of the new National Framework for Penalty Notices, the following changes will come into force for Penalty Notice Fines issued after 19th August 2024

#### Per Parent, Per Child

Penalty Notice Fines will be issued to each parent, for each child that was absent.

For example: 3 siblings absent for term time leave would result in each parent or carer receiving 3 separate fines.

#### 5 consecutive days of term time leave

Penalty Notices will be issued for Term Time Leave of 5 or more consecutive days.

#### 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10 week period

Penalty notices will be considered when there has been 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10 week period.

2 sessions = 1 day



#### First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance, the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child, paid within 28 days. Reduced to £80 per parent, per child, if paid within 21 days

#### Second Offence (within 3 years)

The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child, to be paid within 28 days.

#### Any Further Offences (within 3 years)

The third time, and any further time, an offence is committed for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance, a Penalty Notice will not be issued. The case will be presented straight to the Magistrates' Court. Magistrates' fines can be up to £2,500 per parent, per child. Cases found guilty in Magistrates' Court can be shown on the parent's future DBS certificate, due to 'failure to safeguard a child's education'.

A big 'thank you' to all the parents who are working with us to improve our attendance. Unfortunately, our attendance remains concerningly low at only 89.7% this week and 92.4% for the year so far. As you can see, we are a long way away from the target of 96%.

Out of the 30 weeks that school has been open this year, we have only had attendance over 95% for 3 of those. We have a number of children on holiday at the moment, but we also have a number of children who are classed as having "persistent absence". This means your child's attendance is below 90%. That's the equivalent of missing half a day a week, every week. Think how much learning they miss in that time!

As always if you have any worries or concerns about your child's attendance, please contact Mrs Lindsay via the school office.

### Celebration Assembly Award Winners

This week's winners are:

Reception	Mowafak and Luca
Year 1	Eriife and Scarlett
Year 2	Ayanda and Omar
Year 3	Mohammed A and Pippa
Year 4	Jack and Mishaal
Year 5	Mayanne and Harrison
Year 6	Joshua and Leila-Rae

Congratulations to everyone who won a Headteachers Award this week.

### House Points

Well done to everyone receiving house points this week. The winners are...

<b>Apollo</b>	<b>Mercury</b>	<b>Neptune</b>	<b>Pegasus</b>
7869	8030	7938	7816

Well done to **Mercury** for achieving the most house points this week.

### Attendance

Well done to everyone who has tried really hard with their attendance this week. As always, school attendance is important for your child, both in terms of their education as well as for their well-being and life opportunities.

Our attendance this week

Reception	84.1%
Year 1	84.0%
Year 2	88.3%
Year 3	94.6%
Year 4	92.9%
Year 5	95.1%
Year 6	89.2%
Whole School	89.7%

Please can you ensure your child attends every day where possible and is on time for school – doors close at 8.55am.

### Hot Chocolate Friday Winners

Congratulations this week go to:

Reception	Saliha
Year 1	Kayla
Year 2	Ayanda
Year 3	Pippa
Year 4	Lexie
Year 5	Harrison
Year 6	Skye

I look forward to meeting even more children who have gone above and beyond and have been nominated for this award.

