



Highcliffe Headlines

Courage Compassion Respect

| Special Edition—Events

Welcome

Welcome to Highcliffe St Mark Primary School. We are delighted that you decided to join our community and we look forward to getting to know you and your child over the coming days, weeks, months and years!

We hope you find this newsletter useful throughout your child's first year, as it gives you a small insight into some of the exciting events we hold at school. Dates for events are shared regularly and we aim to give you as much notice as possible. Lots more information can be found on our website or via our weekly Headlines.

Christmas Events

Christmas is an exciting and busy time of year for everyone, and this is especially true in schools. As part of our build-up to Christmas, all children in Foundation and KS1 will participate in a Christmas Nativity. There are 2 performances, taking place on 2 different days. Each family will be allocated 2 tickets in total, which can be used either for 1 performance (2 tickets) or split across both performances (1 ticket per show).

Unfortunately, we are unable to offer additional tickets due to the size of our hall and to ensure the event remains enjoyable for the children.

In KS2 year groups perform 2 Christmas songs at our Carols By Torchlight event. This is a whole school community event when you return to school after dark to sing Christmas Carols together. It's really magical! We also join Christmas Jumper Day for Save the Children.

Discovery Days and Enrichment

In addition to the events where parents are invited into school, there are also some special events that take place throughout the year just for the children.

During the year, children in Foundation take part in Discovery Days, where they come into school to enjoy themed outdoor learning experiences. There is one Discovery Day each term.

In March, World Book Day will be an opportunity for all children to come into school in fancy dress. There will also be mufti days throughout the school year and some year groups have themed days where the children can dress up, too.

We have trips and visitors into school to look forward to each year and you will be contacted about these when they are due to take place. We always need a small number of volunteers if we are leaving the grounds.

Heroes Events

Our Hero Events take place for every year group during the Spring term. These workshop style events give you the opportunity to learn alongside your child as the expert. We aim to help you to help your child with learning key skills at home. You also spend some time looking through their fantastic learning in their books.

In Foundation, these are held in the children's classrooms and the KS1 hall. In KS2 the events are held in both halls. Due to the nature of these events, we kindly ask that only one parent attends per child.

Celebration Assemblies

In KS2 in autumn and all year groups in the summer term, parents are invited to a celebration assembly. The children share some of their most recent learning with parents in the school hall. A maximum of two parents may attend this event. There will also be an opportunity at the end of the assembly to sit with your child and look through their books.

Friends events

Our Friends PTA team will run numerous events throughout the year for all families across the school, including a Christmas Fayre, Summer Fayre, and Mother's and Father's Day events. Our children have the opportunity to attend a school disco in the Autumn and Summer terms. Please note that Foundation can only come to the summer disco. Friends also organise a range of adult events, including wreath making, quizzes, and bingo nights. You can find out more via Friends communications which come via email or by following Friends on Facebook and Instagram.

Progress Reports

There will be two formal parents' evenings, one in the Autumn term and one in the Spring term. Appointments open in advance and can be booked via Arbor. This year, we will update you with our assessment of your child in the Prime Areas of Learning and core subjects of English and maths via Arbor each term. Parents will receive a report via Arbor at the end of the summer term.

Sports Days

Towards the end of the school year (it will come around quicker than you think), the children will take part in a Sports Day. There is no limit on the number of adults who can attend. The events include running races and a variety of sports skills which the children love to showcase. Children will earn stickers for each activity which translate into House Points. If parents are unable to attend this event children will be able to participate alongside a friend or member of staff.

St Mark's Church

We enjoy visiting Church throughout the year and enjoy a wonderful link with our church. During the first term in Reception, the children will take part in a welcome service at St Mark's Church, where they will sing hymns and songs and showcase their Autumn learning.

Parents are welcome to attend the service, and we will be seeking volunteers to support the children on the walk to the church nearer the time. Our Year 6 children celebrate the end of Primary School with a Leaver's Service hosted in church.

Due to the size of the church, we kindly ask that a maximum of two parents per child attend these events.

We also attend church for Harvest, Remembrance, Easter and with year 1 Children at Christmas.

Our wonderful team of church volunteers, called "Open The Book", visit us every Tuesday and bring to life Bible Stories with our Foundation and KS1 children.