

# NEWSLETTER – 24<sup>th</sup> April 2020



Hello everyone, I hope you are all still safe and well. Normally today would have marked the start of Summer term at Highfields. However things are not normal at the moment, I appreciate that these are unsettling times but I wanted to say thank the entire Highfields community who have pulled together to support each other. I hope by now you have all seen our message to the children from the staff here at Highfields. It is just a little something that we hope will bring a smile to our children's faces and remind them that we are still here, missing them and thinking about them! I also wanted to reassure you all that, despite what is being said in the media, will only re-open when the scientific evidence is clear that it is safe to do so. Safe for pupils, safe for staff and safe for parents.

I saw this letter this week and thought I would share it with you all...

Dear Parents,

Don't stress about schoolwork. In September, we will get your children back on track. We are teachers and that's our superpower. What we can't fix is social-emotional trauma that prevents the brain from learning. So right now, we just need you to share your calm, share your strength, and share your laughter with your children. No children are ahead, no children are behind. Your children are exactly where they need to be right now.

With love,

All the teachers on planet Earth x



Take care and stay safe,

**Mrs Garratt**

## English

Some really helpful English resources are now being published for parents to use at home with their children during the school closure. 'Talk for Writing' have produced some excellent units for each year group (Reception to year 6) and these can be accessed through the

link: <https://mailchi.mp/talk4writing/home-school-booklets>

Jane Considine has also started to deliver a series of online English lessons called 'Sentence Stacking'. These are available on Youtube and children in years 3-6 may enjoy participating in these.

There are also a number of resources online where children can hear texts being read aloud. David Walliams now offers 'Elevenses' ([www.worldofdavidwalliams.com](http://www.worldofdavidwalliams.com)) where extracts from his books are available to listen to and Puffin books have also started a daily read aloud session at 3.30pm (Puffin Storytime can be found on Facebook or Youtube)

**Mrs Lewis**

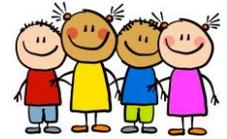
## Projects!

As you will already be aware every year group has been given a non compulsory Summer term project for their child to complete at home, in whichever way they like. All projects are now on the school website at the following link;

<https://highfields.sandwell.sch.uk/children-s-zone/home-learning/6067-year-group-projects.html>

## Nursery places

If you applied for your child to attend Nursery at Highfields from September you should have received a letter in the post confirming if you have a place. If you have not received a letter contact school office on 0121 559 1037. Further details will be sent out to you in regards to home visits and new parents meetings in due course.



## Reception places

If you gave applied to attend Highfields Reception you should have been notified either by email or letter directly from Sandwell Council. These places are not allocated by Highfields and so you would need to contact Sandwell Admissions with any queries on 0121 569 6765 or Dudley admissions on 0300 555 2345 if you have a Dudley home address.

## Cooking Masterclass!

Thank you to *Nathan* in *Year 6* who sent us this photo this week. We were so impressed with his amazing looking drip cake that we thought we would share Nathan's instructions with you all.



Thank you Nathan – keep up the good work!

- First things first, I baked a chocolate sponge.
- Then I cut it into 4.
- Immediately after, I stuck it back together again with chocolate buttercream.
- Next, I made some chocolate ganache and then coated the cake in it.
- 10 minutes later, I coated it in the ganache again to make it stronger.
- While you are waiting, get white chocolate and sprinkles of your choice.
- Eventually, 5 minutes will pass so then you need to melt the white chocolate in the microwave for 20 seconds.
- After that, stir the chocolate vigourlessly until there are no lumps.
- Then you will need to let the melted chocolate drizzle over the cake.
- If you have any chocolate left, coat the top of the cake.
- (If you want put a square of chocolate on, do so)
- Finally, add sprinkles and it will be ready to eat!

### 3-2-1-blast off!!

A huge well done to *Lily-Ruth* in *YR* who has made this fantastic rocket as part of her project. She has also been looking at healthy and unhealthy food – well done Lily-Ruth what fantastic home learning!



### #ArtJumpstart

For years now, Highfields have worked with an artist called Darrell Wakelam. Darrell has worked with most of our children over the years creating some breath-taking art pieces including the scientist in our Discovery Den and the Titanic art piece in the school hall. For those of you with Twitter @DarrellWakelam is posting friendly art ideas that can be made with things you have lying around your house. Here are a couple of ideas for inspiration. We would love to see your creations to share in future newsletters. Here are Darrell's egg box mice and some paper plate chameleons!



### Healthy Highfields

Phase	wc 06.04.2020	wc 13.04.20
EYFS	RW and RD	RD
KSI	2	2
KS2	5	5

Well done to all the energetic children and parents who have submitted their Healthy Highfields active minutes for weeks commencing 06/04/20 and 13/04/20.

The week commencing 13/04/20 was a RECORD BREAKING HEALTHY HIGHFIELDS WEEK!!! A record number of children sent through their Healthy Highfields minutes. Excellent exercising children (and parents)!

Congratulations to: *Toby M (YR)*, *Susan D (Y1)*, *Ibrahim M (Y2)*, *Benjamin S (Y2)*, *Joe G (Y2)*, *James A (Y3)*, *Hayden M (Y4)*, *Jessica G (Y4)*, *Jasmine R (Y5)*, *Amber A (Y5)*, *Liam C (Y5)*, *Ria N (Y6)* for continuing to keep themselves active. 🏃🏃

It's been wonderful to hear about how much exercise the children are doing and the variety of activities that parents (and children) are creating: a 'Ninja Warrior' assault course; garden obstacle courses; tag; karate; wake up shake up; yoga; trampolining; gardening; painting fences; gymnastics; walking the dog; Jo Wicks workout; circuits; football; crazy golf; cycling; and running;

A special mention to **Ibrahim M** from Year 2 whose amazing totals of 860 active minutes and 710 active minutes were both more than Mr Savvides (481 minutes and 514 minutes)! Wonderful exercising Ibrahim!

If you want to help your year group win next week's Healthy Highfields competition, please email [exercise@highfields.sandwell.sch.uk](mailto:exercise@highfields.sandwell.sch.uk) with your children's active time for next week (Monday -Friday) and the results will be calculated every Monday. All of the Healthy Highfields data and information is now also available on a separate tab on the Children's Pages part of the website

**CHALLENGE:** Can you exercise more than Mr Savvides????

Stay Healthy.  
Mr Savvides



## Oak National Academy

Oak National Academy are an online classroom and resource hub created by teachers. Their aim is to support teachers and parents to support their pupils. They provide a bank of high quality, sequenced video lessons and resources for teachers and parents to use as they wish. They cover a range of subjects including maths, English, art and languages. Parents can use these resources to help them until schools fully re-open. Every lesson will be free to use for every parent and every pupil. To find out more please see our [information for teachers and schools](#) or [information for parents and pupils](#).



The website states that you should use the lessons after consultation/discussion with your child's teacher however Highfields would advise parents to use the 'Schedule' tab which follows a daily sequence of lessons which your child can access by themselves. They will be taught by a teacher through an online video lessons. There are a range of video lessons, quizzes and worksheets for the children to complete. The website address is <https://www.thenational.academy/>

There are activities for children in Reception right through to Year 10.

## #ThisIsPE

#ThisIsPE is designed to support parents and teachers to educate and entertain primary school children at home during the school closures. There are a lot of high-profile exercise videos available, but far less genuine physical education. Each #ThisIsPE activity is designed to be fun, replicable at home, and can be done with things you can find around the house. All videos come from current PE teachers, or PE teachers now working elsewhere in the sector. The aims of the campaign are to:

- Support teachers and parents to educate and entertain at home
- Raise the profile and importance of physical education
- Change perceptions among parents who may have a negative impression of PE

#ThisIsPE was created by Yorkshire Sport Foundation, in partnership with the Association for Physical Education, Youth Sport Trust and North Yorkshire Sport. The Department for Education listed it as one of four 'high-quality resources' to support parents and teachers to deliver physical education for primary school children.

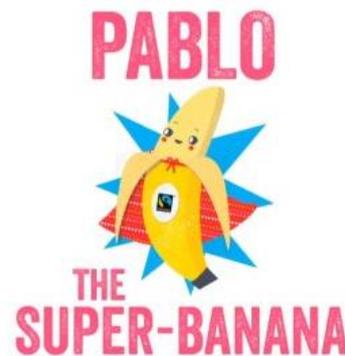
All #ThisIsPE videos are hosted on YouTube in a #ThisIsPE playlist. You could embed this on your website. A new #ThisIsPE video is posted at 1pm on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday. As well as being added to the YouTube playlist, it also appears on the Yorkshire Sport Foundation Facebook, Instagram and Twitter accounts. There is a #ThisIsPE landing page on the YSF website, which gives background to the campaign and relevant links.

## BBC Bitesize

Just a reminder that BBC Bitesize are still offering 3 new daily lessons including videos, activities and more at the following link <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/primary> As well as this some famous faces are also going to be teaching lessons for children to watch and follow. Some of the famous faces include, Doctor Who actress Jodie Whittaker will be dropping in on Bitesize Daily lessons, while a host of stars will read books aimed at both primary and secondary age children. They include singer Mabel, Strictly Come Dancing's Oti Mabuse, One Direction member Liam Payne and Countryfile presenter Anita Rani.

Celebrities leading lessons or making appearances include:

- Manchester City footballer Sergio Aguero, who will help youngsters learn to count in Spanish
- Sir David Attenborough, who will look at geography topics such as oceans and mapping the world
- Former shadow chancellor Ed Balls, who will deliver a maths class for 11 to 14-year-olds
- Professor Brian Cox, who will teach science topics such as force, the solar system and gravity
- EastEnders actor Danny Dyer, who will give a history class for five to seven-year-olds on Henry VIII



## World Banana Day

[Pablo the Super Banana](#) is here with some super Home Learning Challenges to keep you entertained! Each week we are sharing a Fairtrade film and a bunch of related home learning challenges

for you to get involved with! Download your [Pablo Home Learning Challenge](#) to see all eight of this week's activities and take your pick! But for now, here are our favourite two challenges this week...

### Create your own Fairtrade Super Banana Cape!

Pablo the banana is no ordinary banana. He is a super banana! And he has a super Fairtrade banana cape! Use an old pillow case, t-shirt or materials to create your own Fairtrade Super Banana cape. **Take a picture of you wearing your cape** and send it to [schools@fairtrade.org.uk](mailto:schools@fairtrade.org.uk) or tag us on Twitter at [@FairtradeUKEd](https://twitter.com/FairtradeUKEd).

Visit our [website](#) for more Pablo related activities - go bananas!

Claire, Jo, Joe & Shannon  
The Fairtrade Schools Team

P.S. What do Fairtrade bananas say when the answer the phone? ...Yellow!