



Newsletter: Friday 9 December 2022



Christmas Wishes

Wow! What an absolutely jam packed Autumn term we've had this year! It's been so lovely this year to be able to return to all of our regular activities after COVID forced us to suspend so many of them for the last two years.

It was great to see parents and carers in school back in September when we held our Macmillan Coffee Morning, and then the children had a fab time at our Halloween Discos in October. The support for our Christmas Fair just this week was fantastic, and we hope you all enjoyed the opportunity to come into school and visit the big man himself!

Just before October half term, our pupil leadership team led a wonderful Harvest Assembly and your donations went out into our local community. But it doesn't stop for the holidays as during the October half term, Place 2 Be sponsored our new fantastic mural at the front of school, which has been a wonderful talking point!

We've had a number of trips and exciting curriculum activities this term. Year 6 took off to Robinwood for the weekend in September, whilst Year 5 had a trip into outer space when a mobile planetarium visited the school to complement their space topic. Year 3 and Year 5 both visited Castleshaw and explored the countryside on our doorstep, Year 1 and 4 made visits to the library and the whole school came together to commemorate Remembrance Day.

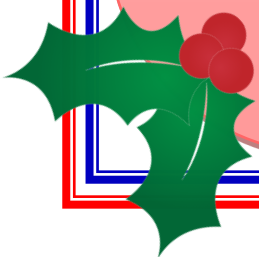
There's been lots going on behind the scenes too as our curriculum leaders have been working hard to develop a super, broad and balanced curriculum for all subjects, to ensure our children get the best education at HFPS. I know that there are lots of wonderful activities already being planned for the spring and summer terms, including Viking visits to school for History and visits to sculpture parks for art.

As you can see from the last page of our newsletter, we're still not quite finished yet this term, as we celebrate Christmas with a variety of acting, dancing and musical performances by our super talented pupils, before we celebrate the end of the year and Christmas with our annual Christmas Parties.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our families a Merry Christmas and hope everyone stay's safe over the festive period.

Please remember school opens again on Wednesday 4 January, and we look forward to seeing everyone back in school after a well earned break.

Mrs S Forster, Headteacher





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Cost of Living and Help and Support for Families

We know how difficult it is for families at the moment with rising costs across food, bills and energy, as well as the pressures of Christmas and family at what can be a stressful time of year.

Oldham Council have put together a list useful websites which contain information to provide help and support for families to manage these issues.

You can find out more by checking out the following websites:

- ♦ We Can Help: www.oldham.gov.uk/wecanhelp
- ♦ Free School Meals (FSM) eligibility checker: www.oldham.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals
- ♦ Children and family benefits: www.oldham.gov.uk/info/200230/early_years/194/children_and_family_benefits
- ♦ Help paying for childcare eligibility checker: www.childcarechoices.gov.uk
- ♦ Money Helper Service The free government-backed MoneyHelper service
- ♦ School Readiness www.oldham.gov.uk/info/200246/families_and_parenting/2828/birth_to_5_years/7
- ♦ Online Solihull Parenting Courses (worth £100) aligned with best parenting practice is free to use for anyone in Oldham. Parents, carers, grandparents, and staff can access the resources by entering the passcode: DAISY into this web page: <https://inourplace.heiapply.com/online-learning>.
- ♦ This May help – This is a new national initiative providing mental health advice to parents and carers who have concerns about their child's mental health: <https://thismayhelp.me>
- ♦ Get Oldham Working: www.oldham.gov.uk/gow

Struggling with the Cost of Living?

Help is available, whatever you are going through.

**WE
CAN
HELP!**



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Get involved in Oldham's **Holiday Activities and Food** programme

As part of our ongoing efforts to support families during the school holidays, we are providing free activities for children aged 5 to 16 across Oldham through the winter, Easter and summer holidays.

Oldham's Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme is a package of support for children and young people on benefits-related free school meals and is funded by the Department for Education.

From cooking sessions and arts and crafts to indoor and outdoor sports, drama, and dance, we have a wide variety of enriching activities available for you to enjoy in partnership with our local providers.

As part of every session, children will also receive a healthy meal alongside plenty of interesting and useful nutritional information to take home too.

For more information on Oldham's HAF programme, please visit www.oldham.gov.uk/HAF



Department
for Education



Oldham
Council





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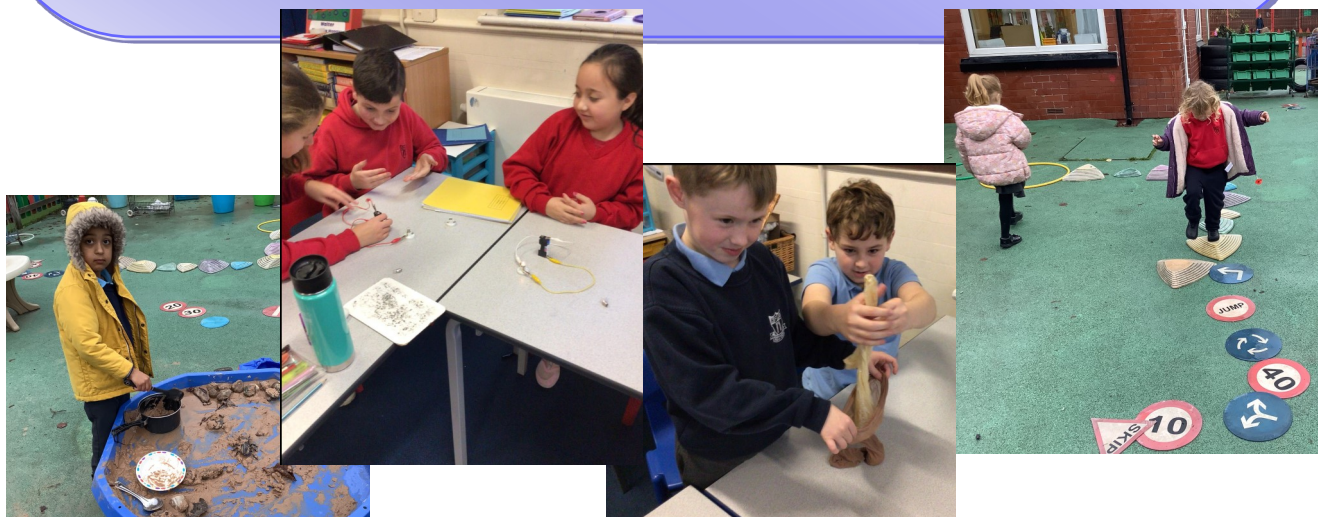
Active Learning at HFPS

You may remember a few weeks ago we shared in our newsletter about the importance of staying active and incorporating movement throughout the day and we how deliver is through focussed activity during break and lunchtimes, led by our pupil Sports and Play Leaders. In this article, we want to tell you more about how we include movement in our 'normal lessons' throughout the day.

Here at Higher Failsworth, we try and incorporate being active and movement into lessons across all of our curriculum subjects, not just in our PE lessons. We do this by trying to create 'Active Lessons'.

Active lessons aim to actively involve pupils in the learning process. Children are active participants in the process of learning through a physical activity, rather than passive learners listening to teacher talk. Active lessons are an engaging and fun way for all ages to learn and consolidate their knowledge.

In Early Years, this is much easier as learning often takes place through play, but we try to continue to learn actively throughout the school. Classes are encouraged to do at least one active maths lesson a week, as well as movement through other subjects such as drama, science and other areas of the curriculum.





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Sporting Achievements at HFPS

We've had another super successful half term of sporting achievements between October and Christmas. Here's a round up of all our successes!

4 November 2022 – Intermediate Cross Country

- Bronze - Yr 2 Boys - Archie M
- Gold – Yr 2 Girls - Winter G
- Bronze – Yr 5 & 6 Girls – Araiah H
- Bronze – Yr 5 & Boys – Jacob M



15 November 2022- Sports Hall Athletics

- Team Silver – Lily C, Poppy A, Araiah H, Erica B, Evie-Mae P, Isabelle L, Millie J, Scarlett S, Faezah A, Katie H, Jenson W, Rory P, Messie H, Luke R, Jackson G, Ben W, Luca M, Keaton P, Jacob M

17 November 2022 – Pentathlon Ten Pin Bowling

- Team Silver – Jacob S, Jaxon N, Adam W, Grace N, Riley S, Jack R

22 November 2022 – Year 3/4 Multi Skills

- Winner of the Award for Amazing Participation – Harrison B

29 November 2022 – Year 2 Multi Skills

- Winner – Isaac O

1 December 2022 – Gamers Event

- Silver – Maqades K, Destiny H
- Gold – Reuben S, Thomas S, Curtis L, Owen O, Riley O'R, Gabriel C

2 December 2022 – Oldham Cross Country Championships

- Silver – Year 3/4 Boys Race - Kayden S
- Gold - Year 5/6 Boys Race – Luke R

7 December 2022 - Pentathlon Ten Pin Bowling

- Team Gold - Jacob S, Jaxon N, Adam W, Jack R, Harrison B

We're sure you'll agree that this is a quite a list of honours and we'd like to say a huge well done to everyone, not only for their wins, but also for the fantastic sportsmanship that our pupils always display when out representing HFPS!

Our latest team Gold in the Pentathlon Ten Pin Bowling means that we are now Greater Manchester Champions and the HFPS team will represent the whole of Greater Manchester in the North West Finals in Feb 2023! What a fantastic achievement! We're all rooting for them for February and we'll let you know how they get on.



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Arriving on time

We've noticed that there has been an increase in lateness this term. Whilst we understand it's difficult to get up in the morning at this time of year, when it's cold and dark, it really is important to arrive at school on time each day.

Late arrivals are very disruptive to children's learning. What might seem only a couple of minutes in the morning, can result in your child missing a significant amount of learning, especially if it is happening often.

The first part of the morning is so important for children as the teachers settle and prepare them to ensure that they get the best out of their day at school.

So remember, get your school things ready the night before, set your alarm clocks in plenty of time, and don't hit that snooze button!

Do you follow and like us?

We're building our social profiles and you can now follow us on three different platforms.

Check us out online!



@higherfailsworth



@HigherFPschool



@HigherFPschool

There's also lots of information about school on our website:
www.higher-failsworth.oldham.sch.uk

ParentPay Accounts

Please ensure that your accounts are brought up to date as far as possible as we head into the Christmas Break.

All accounts should be settled and up to date where possible before we start back in January.

If you are having difficulties paying an outstanding debt, please contact the office who will be happy to help and discuss any issues with you to agree a solution.

Christmas Fair

We'd like to say a great big thank-you for everyone who came to our Christmas Fair this year, and also to everyone for the donations that help to make the event a success.

We know it's a challenging time for many of our families at the moment, but we are so very grateful for every donation and penny spent.

We raised a brilliant £xxx for our school funds. We're planning on extending our outdoor provision across school over the next 12 months. We place a high value on children being active throughout the day at HFPS, and these funds will be a great contribution towards developing our playgrounds to make them more exciting for the children at break and lunch.





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Diary Dates

Date	Year/Class	Event
12 Dec	Year 3 / 4	LKS2 Party - Bring change of clothes (No crop tops and sensible shoes please)
12 Dec	KS2 Dance Club	KS2 Dance performance for children who attend this club only Start 4pm, sign in at the school office
13 Dec	Amethyst & selected 5/6	Clarinet Performance for parents at 2.30 Sign in at 2.15- KS2 Playground (via Minor Street) via the blue door
14 Dec	Emerald & selected Y5	Brass Performance for parents at 11.45 Sign in at 11.30- KS2 Playground (via Minor Street) via the blue door
14 Dec	Year 5 / 6	UKS2 Party - Bring change of clothes (No crop tops and sensible shoes please)
14 Dec	KS1 Dance Club	KS1 Dance performance for children who attend this club only Start 4pm, sign in at the school office
15 Dec	Y3-6 Opted In	Robin Hood Pantomime at Oldham Coliseum (am) Pre-booked tickets only
15 Dec	EYFS/KS1	Aladdin Pantomime in school (Nursery, Reception, Year 1 & Year 2) £3.50 voluntary contribution requested for this event, pay via parent pay or barcode from the school office.
16 Dec	Nursery Parents	Nursery Singalong - 11.00am to 11.30am (pm nursery children also invited) Sign in at KS2 Playground (via Minor Street) via the blue door
16 Dec	Opal Class	Nursery Christmas Party - Wear party clothes (sensible shoes to be worn)
16 Dec	Reception Classes	Reception Party (Sunstone & Moonstone) - Wear party clothes (sensible shoes to be worn)
16 Dec	Year 1 / 2	KS1 Party - Wear party clothes (sensible shoes to be worn)
16 Dec	KS2 House TBC on ClassDojo	Last day of term - break up for Christmas Non-uniform day for winning house team. (no crop tops and sensible shoes please)

**School restarts after Christmas Break on Wednesday 4 January 2023.
Breakfast Club from 8.00am, Doors for school at 8.50am.**