

2023-2024
Autumn Term 1

Welcome Back!

Dear Parents, Carers & Students,

Welcome back to a new school year!

It has been an exciting summer at Highfield with the expansion of Post 16 to the Thornes Park site and works in the school building to refurbish toilets into wet rooms and with some classrooms undergoing a refresh.

The students have all settled in well and there were some tired young people going home on Friday after a busy week in school.

We are looking forward to welcoming families into school and have a variety of events planned so that you can visit school.

Firstly we have the Macmillan Coffee Morning in September which is always well attended.

In November we will be providing opportunities for families to come into school to showcase student work from Interfaith week.

And in December we have the double excitement of the school production of Bussy Malone as well as the ever popular Christmas Fayre.

Please do contact school if you have any questions and concerns.

There are a variety of ways to contact us.

On Dojo there should be a range of staff available to message such as your Child's class teacher, Admin, Learning Mentors and the Medical team.

If you would prefer to call school then the Admin team are very efficient at passing messages across and staff will endeavour to contact you as soon as practical.

We look forward to working with you all in the coming year.



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Friday 22nd September : Jeans for Genes Day

Non-Uniform day

We encourage staff and students to wear jeans for the day. If your child does not wish to then whatever they feel comfortable in is fine.

The normal timetable will be followed so pupils should dress for the playground and being active.



Friday 29th September : Macmillan Coffee Morning

We would like to invite families and friends into school to mark the Macmillan Coffee Morning.

Your child can come and join you in the hall for a drink and a treat!

There will be more details closer to the time.

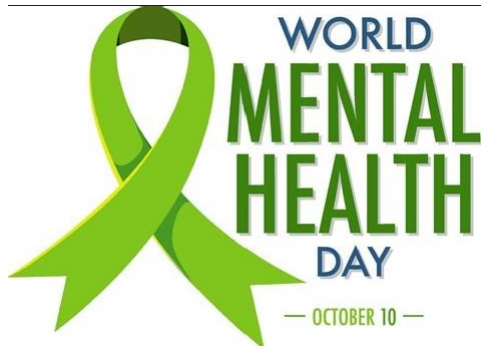
We will be taking donations of biscuits, cakes and treats to sell in the few days before.



Tuesday 10th October : World Mental Health Day

Wear something yellow to school!

We will be looking at how we can help ourselves, others and where to get help if needed.



Half Term—School is closed

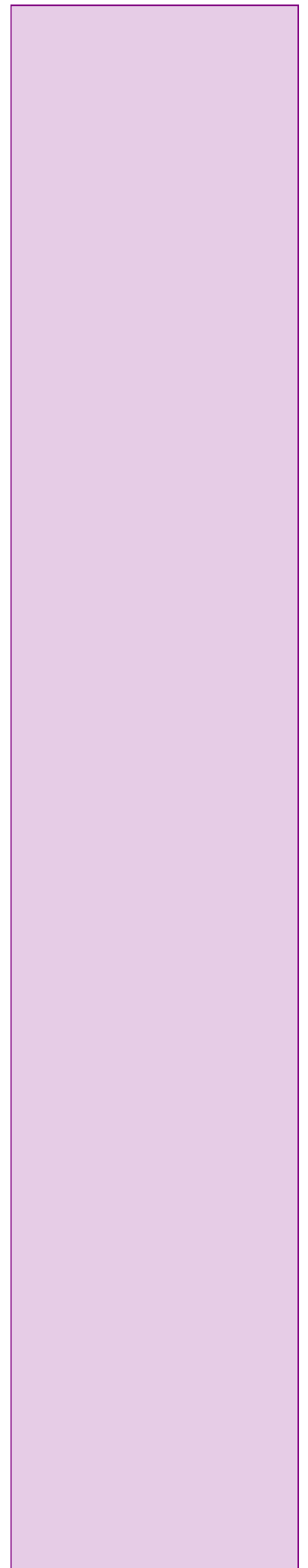
Monday 30th October - Friday 3rd November



29th and 30th of November—Parents Evening

We use an electronic system to book meetings and you will receive a text message after half term to look at booking a meeting.

This meeting will be with your child's form tutor and focus on how they have settled into the new school year.



Help from School

There are many ways in which school can help you if you are feeling in need of some support:

Issues with Parent Pay or Class Dojo

Please contact Admin who will do their best to help you with your queries.

EHCP Questions

The schools SEND team are able to discuss meetings and attendees if required. If you have questions regarding the document and processing times then please direct these to SENART.

Letters to invite you to your child's EHCP will be sent out 2 weeks prior to their meeting.

Transport

Highfield does not run the transport to school but we do work closely with them. Please do take matters up with transport if there are any issues. If these are affecting your child then please do let us know so we can support them in school.

If your child's bus was cancelled and you transported them in then we can countersign the claim form and scan it across to transport.

Family Welfare

We work closely with Hub workers and social care. Please do contact us if your family are having any difficulties as we can signpost to services, provide support to yourselves or your child.

Raising a child with any additional need has its unique challenges and there are many services that we can refer to or signpost you to.

DLA Forms

School are able to fill in the page regarding someone who knows the student well. This may take us a few days to complete so do allow for time for this to happen. It is unlikely it will come home the same day.

Uniform

Uniform and PE Kit—Years 7-11

Please see below details of school uniform.

Please ensure all uniform is labelled including jackets and coats.

From this September we are requesting students wear black or grey bottoms (shorts, leggings or joggers) with a white t-shirt.

Please contact school if you have any questions regarding this.

Students should bring their labelled PE kit in a bag on their PE or Fitness

Uniform

All pupils are required to wear school uniform.

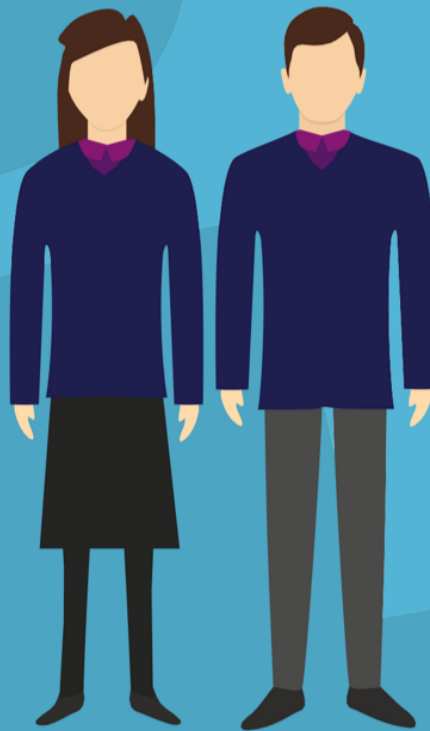
This is: grey or black school trousers or skirts, purple or white polo shirt or white school shirt, navy blue jumper and black shoes.

If a pupil has an identified sensory need then they may wear plain black or blue jogging bottoms with prior agreement with the school.

Students must wear trousers instead of leggings as they are more appropriate for school.

Uniform with the school logo on can be purchased from The Box in Ossett. Please see the leaflet which is included in your welcome pack.

You can also purchase school uniform and shoes in these colours from major supermarkets and High Street shops.



PE Kit

Black or grey shorts / Jogging bottoms or leggings, white t-shirt, trainers & change of socks.

You will be made aware of the days that your child requires PE kit before they start in September.

School Website

Our school website is a wealth of information.

Here are some useful links to look for:

School Dinner Menus:

[School Lunches | Highfield School Ossett \(highfield-school.co.uk\)](https://www.highfield-school.co.uk)

School Calendar with training days: (Please also see Class Dojo calendar)

[Term Date & Events | Highfield School Ossett \(highfield-school.co.uk\)](https://www.highfield-school.co.uk)

We have a detailed area on the website about our school curriculum and the different pathways in school.

[Curriculum | Highfield School Ossett \(highfield-school.co.uk\)](https://www.highfield-school.co.uk)



Class Dojo

If you haven't yet joined school dojo then we will be shortly sending home links to families who we can see aren't on the system.

It is a great way to stay in touch with your child's class team.

We have had some issue in the first few weeks which are still seeking to resolve for some parents.

Internet & Digital Safety

For many of our students using phones or YouTube is a way of life and something they find important.

For some it helps them regulate and for others it is an important way to keep in touch with school friends.

Unfortunately, this also comes with issues.

It is important that parents are monitoring what their children are looking at and engaging with.

Unsupervised access to the internet for our students means they may stumble upon inappropriate content that is placed on YouTube under safer titles and search terms.

Our young people are quick to work out how to use search terms and something they find intriguing may not be safe for them to look at.

Chat rooms on places such as Play Stations, Roblox and Whatsapp are places that predators can lurk looking for vulnerable young people to communicate with.

Some of our young people may engage with sharing images and it is vital they understand the risks associated with this and do not send photos of themselves or others to people. They need to fully understand how easily images and video footage can be shared across media.

We have links to useful guides on the school website and there are some key ones below:

Highfield School Website:

[eSafety | Highfield School Ossett \(highfield-school.co.uk\)](https://www.highfield-school.co.uk)

Internet Matters: Guide on parental controls and also personalised support for parents.

[Information, Advice and Support to Keep Children Safe Online \(internetmatters.org\)](https://www.internetmatters.org)

Smart Social: Lots of guides regarding apps and parental monitoring controls.

[Parental Control Software & Cell Phone Monitoring Comparison Guide \(smartsocial.com\)](https://www.smartsocial.com)

If you are concerned about your child's use. Please contact school for support.



Dates for the Diary
Autumn 1 2023

Monday 4th September Tuesday 5th September Wednesday 6th September	Staff Training Days
Thursday 7th September	Students return to Highfield School and City Futures Sites
Monday 11th September	Post 16 students return to new Thornes Park Site
Friday 22nd September	Jeans for Genes Day (Wear jeans)
Friday 29th September	Macmillan Coffee Morning
Tuesday 10th October	Wear something Yellow World Mental Health Day
Monday 30th October — Friday 3rd November	Half Term—School Closed
Wednesday 29th & Thursday 30th November	Parent’s Evening (by phone or in person)

