



Highfield Newsletter



Mr. Wilbert Walsh.

A **giant** of a man whose **heart** and **character** are bigger than the school itself.

But after 22 years and 7 months of serving our community, **Mr Walsh** is retiring.

Will doesn't simply work in our school—he has been part of its very heartbeat. He has touched every corner of this place and reached every person who steps inside it. If you don't know Will, let me tell you who he truly is.

Will is the kind of man who sees the good in absolutely everyone. He is the first to offer help, the first to notice when someone is struggling and the first to reach out with genuine care. He carries people through their difficult moments with quiet strength and kindness, always putting others before himself without ever expecting anything in return.

Over the years, he has shared with me parts of his own journey—the challenges he faced, the hardships he overcame and the experiences that shaped him. From his primary school to working the doors, his colourful experiences are equalled by his personality! Hearing those stories has only deepened my admiration and respect for him. His resilience, his warmth and his outlook on life reflect a man of extraordinary character. Will doesn't just make the world around him better. He makes the people in it better.

A few years ago he shared with me a post card with the following dictionary definition:

Difference maker. *Noun*

A dedicated person who can make a big impact, even with just small actions or a few words. Someone who improves the lives of others. One who rallies or encourages others to propel themselves forward and bring about change.

That is you Will. You have made a difference to all our lives.

Well done on everything you have achieved and thank you.

Ciao Ciao for now, but not goodbye.

Mr Feeley

THE SCHOOL CARETAKER

The first time that I met him,
I came up to his knees,
I was in reception class
With stripey dungarees.
He cast a long, tall shadow
And I thought he was a tree,
But then he smiled and cocked his head
And said "hello" to me.
His necklace jingle-jangled
As he bent down to my size,
Then he raised his giant hands
And gave me two high fives.

From then on I would see him,
Every day and every night,
Fixing all the broken stuff
And making things alright.
Sometimes it was windows,
At other times, the plumbing,
Banging nails and drilling holes,
Singing reggae songs and humming.
High up on his ladder,
Cleaning gutters on the roof,
Or down among the stinky drains
In his shiny waterproofs.

In the springtime he'd be mowing,
Planting bulbs and sowing seeds,
And soon there would be daffodils
Disco dancing in the breeze.
In the summer he'd be building,
Nature trails and swings,
Hedgehog homes, and bug hotels
And a thousand other things.
His days were always busy
But whenever I was sad,
He'd wink his eye or wave his hand
Just like he was my dad.



Every single season,
In the classrooms and the grounds,
Mending and repairing,
Stopping ceilings falling down.
Autumn paths got slippery
When the gales shook the trees,
So out would come his blower
Making whirlwinds from the leaves.
And in the winter I would see him
Spreading grit to melt the ice
A fire breathing dragon
But a kind one, who was nice.

He helped me get my football
When it landed in a tree
And he took me for a plaster,
When I fell and grazed my knee
He'd always lift my spirits,
When he saw me round the school,
If I was in a tizzy
He'd smile and say "Cool Cool".
It only took a little grin,
Or one of his high fives
To make me burst out laughing
And forget my teary eyes.

Now I'm off to big school
And heading through the gates
And I think of all the times
That he has kept me safe.
I don't just mean the buildings
The windows and the doors
The heating and the plumbing
And the carpet on the floors.
I know he had a bigger job,
And I was just Plan B,
But every day I spent at school
He took care of me.

Jason Beresford

Year 1 Spring Production



Easter Bonnets!



Easter cards for our local residents from Highfield Wraparound Childcare



Signposting – 4 pages!



Leeds Family Hubs

SEND
Parent Carer
Monthly Drop Ins

We are child friendly Leeds

Are you a parent or carer of a child with special educational needs and/or disabilities or waiting for your child's needs to be assessed? Are you struggling to navigate SEND systems or understand your child's needs and behaviours at home? Do you have questions about your options or where to turn next?

Join us for our monthly drop in at The Reginald Centre to meet our Family Hub SEND Co-Ordinator Amanda . You can access information and advice about the services, support and resources that are available to Families with children with SEND in Leeds

Upcoming dates:

- Tuesday 7th April
- Tuesday 5th May
- Monday 1st June
- Monday 29th June
- Monday 20th July
- Tuesday 1st September
- Monday 5th October
- Monday 2nd November
- Monday 7th December

The drop ins take place at:

The Reginald Centre
Community Hub
263, Chapeltown Road
LS7 3EX

Drop-in times are: 9.30-12pm

Leeds
CITY COUNCIL



SEND Parent Carer Monthly Drop Ins

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Join us for our monthly drop in at The Reginald Centre to meet our Family Hub SEND Co-Ordinator Amanda. You can access information and advice about the services, support and resources that are available to Families with children with SEND in Leeds

Upcoming dates:

- Monday 20th April
- Monday 18thth May
- Monday 15th June
- Monday 13th July
- Monday 14th September
- Monday 12th October
- Monday 16th November
- Monday 14th December

The drop ins take place at:

Moor Allerton Community
Hub
King Lane
LS7 5NY

Drop-in times are: 9.30-12pm



Safeguarding. For child protection concerns you can contact any of our Designated Child Protection Officers: Mr Feeley, Mrs Dalglish, Mrs Bowker, Mr Brassil and Mrs Calvert. There is some useful information on the LSCB website about online safety with some useful tips for parents: <http://www.leedslscb.org.uk/Parents-Carers-Wider-Family/Keeping-children-safe-online>. If you are worried that a child is at risk of harm please contact Leeds Children's Social Work Services on 0113 222 4403.

MindMate[®]

Support Team

NHS

**Leeds Community
Healthcare**
NHS Trust

Who are the Mind mate Support Team?

The MindMate Support Team is an early intervention Mental Health Support Team (MHST). The service is provided by Leeds Community Healthcare Trust and is delivered in partnership with education settings in Leeds.

The service aim is to improve access to support for children and young people, up to the age of 18 in education settings across Leeds, to prevent any emotional wellbeing difficulties becoming harder to manage.

We also work with staff in education settings to build cultures where wellbeing is prioritised for all.



What can the team support my child with?

- Low Mood
- Anxiety/Worry/Panic
- Understanding and Coping with Emotions (Group only)
- Self-esteem and building resilience (Group only)



How can I get support from the MindMate Support Team?

Speak to a staff member in your/your child's education setting and they can contact the team on your behalf using our "Request for Support" form.



MindMate
Support Team**NHS**
Leeds Community
Healthcare

Coffee Morning

Highfield Primary School are holding a **coffee Morning** to give parents and carers the opportunity to meet with the **MindMate Support Team**.

The MindMate Support Team is a new service for education settings to support the emotional and mental health of their students. MindMate work with school's parents/carers and existing services to help young people with mild to moderate mental health needs using evidence-based interventions.

Please come along on the 19th May at 9am to find out more about the service and how they can support you / your child.



Dates for your Diary!

- **Mon 20th April:** Summer Term begins, football fixture Vs Chapel Allerton (a)
- **Tues 21st April:** Year 1 Phonics meeting (3:30-4:00pm)
- **Thurs 23rd April:** football fixture Vs Immaculate Heart (H)