

Highworth Combined School

Dear all

If I had to choose 1 word to sum up this week, it would be magical. The school seems to have come back to life with the sound of happy voices heard once more across the site. A highlight for me has been lunchtimes on the playground where it has been a joy to see children reunited, playing happily with their friends. I know that the return will not have been without it's difficulties for some children, but please know that we are keeping a close eye on everyone, ready to support where it's needed.

Once again, the parental agreement, with all the information that you need, is copied below and attached (I recommend that you print it or screen shot it now to keep for quick reference)

- School uniform has been modified for the remainder of this term. You may choose to send your children to school in one of the following:
 - Existing school uniform with additional layers to provide extra warmth (PE kit must still be worn on PE days). Trainers may be worn with uniform
 - School PE kit, including jogging bottoms, t-shirt and hoody/fleece with additional layers to provide warmth (on any day of the week)
 - Non-uniform jogging bottoms, appropriate t-shirt/long sleeve top and fleece or hoody and trainers with additional layers to provide extra warmth
- School uniform will be compulsory again from the start of the Summer Term on 19th April. However, children will be able to wear trainers every day, with their uniform, until the end of the Summer Term. We will continue to ask that you send your children in their PE kit on 'PE Days'

- School hot lunches are available, but must be ordered in advance. Place orders now for week commencing 22nd March. If you missed the deadline this week, you must send a packed lunch with your child
- Please do not arrive on the school site before the start time for your child, but within 10 minutes after this time. This will avoid you having to form queues. Likewise at the end of the day

Please see a letter from Test and Trace about regular rapid Covid 19 testing for families of primary school children. You can now order test kits for use by adults in your home; all details are in the letter. A copy of this letter can be found on our school website in **Letters to Parents** under the heading **Arrangements During the Pandemic**

Buckinghamshire Council would very much like to appoint a second Crossing Patroller to support Mr Ryan with keeping children safe when they cross Totteridge Lane. If you know anyone who might be interested in this position (which could be filled by 2 or more people 'job sharing') please use these contact details:

Georgina Longley

School Crossing Patrol Supervisor

01494 586639/07734 481586

Georgina.Longley@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

You will already have received our message to let you know that next Friday we are celebrating and raising money for Comic Relief. For a small donation, children may come to school dressed as Super Heroes if they wish to.

The virtual book fair organised for us by our local Osborne Book representative is still live if you wish to purchase one of their fabulous books. (see details at the bottom of this Newsletter).

I know that your children are looking forward to the weekend and a well-earned rest after all their efforts this week, and so are we!

Clare Pankhania

Parental agreement for safe return to school of all pupils on 8th March 2021

This document has 2 sides. You must read, understand and agree every point before sending your child to school

The safe opening of school is dependent upon avoiding all contact with anyone who is, or could be, infected with coronavirus. The safety of our whole community is dependent on all of us following these rules. They must be followed:

- I will never enter any part of the school site if my child or anyone in my household has any of the symptoms of Covid 19

Symptoms of Coronavirus

- high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
 - new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
 - loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal
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- My whole household will self-isolate for 14 days if anyone in the household has any of these symptoms, no matter how mild or whatever I think might be the cause
 - I will follow the 'Stay At Home...' guidance found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>
 - I will immediately inform Highworth School if my household needs to self-isolate
 - I will ensure that my child and the members of my household are tested for Coronavirus if necessary. I can use this link to book a test: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

- I will immediately inform the school if my child has received a positive test result for Coronavirus
- I will contact the school before sending my child back if my child or anyone in my household has been ill with Covid 19

In addition, I know that in sending my child to school I am agreeing that everyone in my household will follow every one of these steps. I know that this is essential to ensure the safety of my child, Highworth staff and our community.

- I know that if my child is unable to follow the rules to keep everyone safe, even if supported by staff to do so, I will have to collect them from school
- I know that I should seek medical advice before sending my child to school if they are classed as being clinically extremely vulnerable
- I know that if my child is unable to attend school, I need to email reception@highworthcombined.co.uk, giving the following information: child's name and class; likely length of absence; Reason for absence. Please specify whether this is due to:
 - Illness and that this is unrelated to Covid 19
 - Self-isolation due to symptoms of Covid 19, or contact with a positive case
- I know that whilst school staff will encourage social distancing where they can, my child will come in to close contact with other children and adults within their year group bubble
- I will ensure that my child arrives at school within 10 minutes of the start time allocated for their class:
 - Group A: Years R, 1, 3 and 6 start at 8.35am
 - Group B: Years N, 2, 4, 5 start at 8.45am
- If possible, I will walk with my child to school
- If possible, I will allow my Year 6 child to walk to school on their own. If this is not possible, I allow my Year 6 child to walk from the school entrance to their classroom on their own
- I will not allow my Year 6 to walk with friends as they will find it hard to socially distance
- I will use the appropriate entrance to come on to the school site:
 - Year N: use the 'staff only' wooden gate from the car park
 - Year R: use the large metal double gates from the car park
 - Years 1, 2, 3 and 4: use the usual pedestrian entrance
 - Year 5 and 6: use the large metal double gates from the car park
 - All children and parents may use the back entrances to the field, but must remain 2 metres apart from other families at all times
- I will use the same gate to collect my child and arrive promptly at the time allocated for their class:
 - Group A: Years R, 1, 3 and 6 at 3.10pm
 - Group B: Years N, 2, 4, 5 start at 3.20pm
- I will take my child to the external door for their classroom and collect them from the same place (the gates to the quadrangle will be open to allow parents to do this).

- When dropping off and collecting my child, I will stand 2 metres away from the door using the yellow lines in place. I will not go beyond the yellow line
- I understand that my child will need to walk alone, the 2 metres, from me to the adult waiting to receive them and will ensure that if this not possible, that my child returns home with me
- I will only remain upon the school site for enough time to drop off or collect my child and I will ensure that my children and I remain 2 metres away from any other family group for the whole of the time that I am on the site
- I will send my child to school every day with a bottle of water with their name written clearly on it as I know that the school drinking fountains will not be available
- I will send my child to school with their lunchbox if needed
- If my child is in Nursery, I will send them to school with a change of clothes in a named bag
- I will send my child to school in their school uniform, except when they have a PE lesson
- I will send my child to school in their PE kit one day a week, when their class has a PE lesson:
 - Monday: Year 4 and Year 6; Tuesday: Year 3; Wednesday: Year R and Year 1; Thursday: Year 2; Friday: Year 5
- If my child is having a school packed lunch, I will order it on line before Thursday each week for the following week (for all year groups including Nursery and Reception). I will do this even if my child qualifies for a free school meal.
- I will not send hand sanitiser to school with my child as I know that they will wash their hands many times during the day
- I will ensure that I have given my child any required medication and applied sun protection or lotions before they come to school
- I know that I will not be able to enter the school building unless there is an emergency involving my child or if I have a prearranged meeting. I will use the intercom, the phone or email to communicate instead

Book Fair

I am delighted to tell you that we will be holding a Virtual Book Fair with Usborne Books.

We have chosen Usborne Books, not only because the books are excellent, but also because of their generous free book package. If a total of £600 is spent, we will have £360 in free books for our library! So please use this opportunity to stock up on books, not only for your family bookshelf, but also for birthdays, new babies or other gifts!

To view the Virtual Book Fair -

www.youtube.com/channel/UCrc1RU7c1lbWCvKF2Q4Tz7Q

To join the Virtual Book Fair Facebook Group -

www.facebook.com/groups/126780505998102

To place your order and browse the online catalogue -
<https://forms.gle/Dai8h7iW6s2JKaG99>

Payment will be organised shortly after submitting the order form. Please ensure all orders are placed by **Sunday 7th March**. Books will be delivered to school within 2 weeks.

I hope you will feel able to support this event and encourage your children to be lovers of books and reading.