

Highworth Combined School

Dear all

We have had a productive week re-establishing relationships and routines, all whilst enjoy the lovely sunshine outside as much as we can. As ever, the children have loved seeing their friends again and have done a great job of settling back into the routines of school work.

I know how important it has been for you to support your children with feeling connected with their friends during the recent lockdown. Some of the platforms available for virtual contact were invaluable when we could not physically be together. Sadly however, we have heard of a number of worrying occasions when these platforms have been used inappropriately, leading to distress and in some cases significant danger. We spend a great deal of time in assemblies and in lessons teaching children about how to be safe on line, but we need your help too. In conversations this week the following have been mentioned: WhatsApp; Discord; House Party; Tik Tok; Instagram; Skype. The age certificate for all of these is 13, with WhatsApp being 16, but it seems that use of some of these is common amongst our pupils (and those at other schools). I believe that the distress and upset that is being caused to many children and families is simply because primary school age children do not have the maturity or understanding to use these platforms safely and appropriately. I am writing to urge you, now that children are back to seeing each other every day at school, to stop allowing your children access. I know that this will not make you (or me) popular, and doing so will not be easy, but being a good parent (and a good teacher) is often like that!

I have been asked to pass on important information from a number of different agencies so please find attachments regarding the following:

- Information on Covid 19 vaccines from Public Health England
- News of a campaign to encourage more respect for School Crossing Patrollers
- A list of courses available to families with children in Nursery and Reception classes

Finally, I know that the decision to return to return to full uniform this term was not universally popular, but I would like to say a big thank you

for all your efforts in sending the children back to school looking so very smart.

My best wishes for a happy weekend in the sunshine.

Clare Pankhania

A message for parents/carers about the COVID-19 vaccine from Buckinghamshire Council's Public Health team

There are lots of questions about the COVID-19 vaccine so we are sharing information about where you can find out more, especially about how safe and effective the current vaccines are.

At the moment the following people can get a COVID-19 vaccine and you should contact your GP to get an appointment if you are in one of the following groups:

- Anyone who is aged 45 and over
- People who work in health and social care
- People who live or work in a care home
- Anyone who is the main carer for someone at high risk from COVID-19
- People with a learning disability
- People with medical conditions meaning they're more at risk from COVID-19

All schools are in close contact with Buckinghamshire Council's Public Health team. The team wants people to be aware of the following facts about the COVID-19 vaccine:

- The COVID-19 vaccine is safe, effective, and offers the best possible protection against COVID-19, which carries significant health risks
- Both vaccines currently in use in the UK have been through rigorous safety checks – the same as all other vaccines and medicines approved for use in the UK
- Adverse reactions to the COVID-19 vaccine are extremely rare. Tens of millions of UK citizens have now had a vaccine dose and there is no evidence to suggest any link to blood clots or any other serious health condition
- The World Health Organisation advocates the use of the AstraZeneca vaccine, as does the European Medicines Agency (EMA), which has said there was 'no indication' the jab causes blood clots
- Sometimes you might see false claims about vaccine safety on social media. Please make sure that any information you read about vaccines is from a reliable source such as the NHS website
- If you need any further reassurance then please read [the latest response from the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency \(MHRA\)](#) which approves all medicines for use in the UK, including the COVID-19 vaccine. You can also read more about the [COVID-19 vaccine on the NHS website.](#)

Please do take up the offer of your vaccine when it's your turn, as the risks presented by COVID-19 are far greater than that of any vaccine.



Press Release from Buckinghamshire Council

19 April 2021

STOP and halt abuse of County's beloved School Crossing Patrollers.

Abuse and dangerous driving at school crossing sites are on the rise say lollipop men and women at Buckinghamshire Council after schools reopened to all pupils in March.

Come rain or shine, the small army of 60 school crossing patrollers are out morning and afternoon with their trusty STOP signs to help children safely reach school as well as assisting adults across the road. However, a small minority of drivers are being increasingly abusive and putting lives at risk with dangerous manoeuvres just because they don't want to stop to let people cross safely.

The Council is so concerned that it is relaunching its 'Respect Me' Campaign in an attempt to protect patrollers from rising levels of abuse, aggression and danger. This includes new coats with the slogan 'Respect Me' on the back and a wider campaign to educate motorists to stop when required.

Recent examples include drivers using abusive language, not stopping when the patroller was already standing in the road and even swerving round the patroller just to get past. There are also other instances where blocked pavements and inconsiderate dropping off or parking by parents, particularly at School Keep Clear markings and at Bus Stops, makes the patroller's job more difficult to maintain safety and hinders the safe route to school.

Corporate Director for Planning, Growth and Sustainability at Buckinghamshire Council, Ian Thompson said it was disappointing that the council was having to take this action but the protection of school crossing patrollers and all those using the crossings must take priority.

"Our lollipop men and women are valuable members of our local school communities and are well-loved and appreciated by the pupils and parents they help.

"It seems some people are not aware of, or simply ignore, the Highway Code on the meaning of the position of the pole and the appropriate response from a driver. We will always have a zero-tolerance approach to behaviour which threatens the physical or mental wellbeing of our crossing patroller staff or which compromises the safety of those crossing the road."

Drivers must stop when they are shown the STOP 'lollipop' sign, failing to do so when requested can lead to a £1,000 fine, three penalty points and disqualification. Vehicles must also stay stationary until the pole has been lowered and the patroller is back on the pavement.

Ian continued: "As the roads inevitably get busier with pandemic restrictions easing, we hope that communities will continue to support their local patrollers to do their job

safely. We need drivers to be patient and considerate - after all it's only asking for a few seconds to ensure everyone crosses safely."

To report any incidents involving School Crossing Patrollers, please contact:

Corinne Randall—Aylesbury Vale and Wycombe (West): Tel: 01296 383432

Georgina Longley—Chiltern & South Bucks and Wycombe (East): Tel: 01494 586639

The Team is also on the lookout for more permanent patrollers as well as relief patrollers who can be available at short notice to stand in if someone is unable to work. Job share are always welcome.

For more information on current vacancies, please visit www.buckscc.gov.uk/scp

In the pictures:

'Respect me' campaign re-launches

Keep your school crossing patroller safe





Buckinghamshire Family Learning



Early Years Family Learning Online Courses April - May 2021

Welcome to Family Learning Online! We hope that you will join us for one of our fun and informative courses. Our Early Years courses involve parents and children enjoying fun activities together, with lots of opportunities for parents to learn about how they can support their child's development. You can still join if your child is not present during the sessions and practise what you have learnt during the week!

For more information on each course please see the contact information below.

If you are unsure whether online learning will work for you and your child, try one of our workshops!

To book onto the courses, please follow the links below for each course or call our enrolment team on 01296 383582

<p>Story Workshop SUPER DUCK</p>	<p>Free online workshop for parents and carers of children aged 2-4 years - Super Duck! Join our workshop on Monday 10 May from 10am - 11.30am to explore the story, make some crafts, sing some songs, and explore family learning. Date: Monday 10 May, 10-11.30am Book online Family Learning For more information on the workshop please contact Wendy: 07768 044813</p>
<p>Fun with Food</p> 	<p>Free online workshop for parents and carers with children aged 2-6 years Bake some easy scones and have fun preparing some fruit treats with your child. Reflect on how to make healthy eating choices for your children and how to involve them in helping in the kitchen. Date: Wednesday 19 May, 12.30-2.30pm Book online Family Learning For more information on the workshop please contact Iva: 07710 145234</p>
<p>Thinking about Volunteering</p>  <p>Volunteering</p>	<p>Free online workshop for parents and carers with school age children Are you thinking of going back into the workplace? Discover the skills you have and how they match the skills you need to work as a volunteer. Look at where to find volunteer opportunities and what are the next steps on your journey. Date: Wednesday 5 May, 12.30-2.30pm Book online Family Learning For more information on the workshop please contact Iva: 07710 145234</p>
<p>Busy Fingers</p>  <p>Sensory</p>	<p>Free online 6-week online course for parents of children aged 2 – 4 years Children learn best by doing. Use things found in your home to support your child's development, through craft, construction, messy play & mark-making. Date: Every Tuesday 10.00 – 11.30 from Tuesday 20 April – Tuesday 25 May – book online Or Every Wednesday 10.00 – 11.30 from Wednesday 21 April – Wednesday 26 May – book online For more information on the course please contact Wendy: 07768 044813</p>
<p>Story Explorers</p>  <p>Reading</p>	<p>Free online 6-week course for parents of children aged 2 – 4 years Each week you will share a story online and, using materials found at home, discover how to support your child to explore their senses in activities inspired by the book. Date: Every Tuesday 10.00 – 11.30 from Tuesday 20 April – Tuesday 25 May – book online Or Every Thursday 10.00 – 11.30 from Thursday 22 April – Thursday 27 May – book online For more information on the course please contact Iva: 07710 145234</p>



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