

Highworth Combined School

Dear all

I have 2 words to sum up this week at school; relief and hope. Like you I am sure, we are all so relieved that this horrid time of absence from school for so many is coming to an end and we cannot wait to welcome your children back. The Government's 'road map' has given us hope that the disruption and restrictions we have lived within are nearing an end and that the 'normal' school we long for will return.

It would also be fair to say that there are also some feelings of anxiety; a lot seems to have changed since we were last all together in December and uncertainty about the impact on us all of the return to school of so many children remains. We know your children may well be feeling a range of emotions too and we are planning accordingly.

Having read the Government's latest guidance, we have written a new risk assessment and reviewed how to run the school in the safest way possible. As a result, I have copied below, and attached, our Parental Agreement which explains everything that you need to know about how the school will operate. Fortunately, this is the same as what we all became used to in the Autumn Term. There will be: different entrances for different year groups; staggered start and end times; modified uniform requirements; PE worn to school on 'PE days'; no mixing between 'bubbles'; social distancing at all times when on site etc. Everything that you need to know is within the agreement so please take time to read and remember the details.

Although children in secondary schools will be required to wear masks, this is not a requirement for primary aged children. However, staff here will be wearing masks in corridors and shared areas, but not classrooms.

I am pleased to say that the popular hot meals menu in place in December will be available again from Monday 8th. Orders can be placed anytime from now up until Thursday 4th March to be available on Monday 8th. A reminder that all hot meals must be ordered by this deadline, even if provided free. The current menu is attached to this message.

The teaching teams have started to prepare for the 8th March by creating detailed plans for how to meet the social and emotional needs of children as well how to identify and start to close gaps in learning. Teams will be working upon these plans throughout next week and consequently, you may not receive feedback emails for Remote Learning as quickly as you have been used to. I hope you will understand why. We will not be providing feedback for Remote Learning set on Friday 5th March, but children may bring work completed on that day into school on Monday 8th March to receive verbal feedback from their teachers.

Next week, School Cloud appointments will be available for all classes, and rather than a catch up session, teachers will be talking to children about the return to school, offering reassurance about what to expect. Please see below for appointment times. Instructions for how to make an appointment are attached. This link gives advice on how to access your booked

appointment: <https://support.parentseveningsystem.co.uk/article/801-video-parents-how-to-attend-appointments-over-video-call>

Please book appointments from Friday 26th February:

- Nursery: Wednesday 3rd March: 2pm-3.30pm
- RCA: Wednesday 3rd March: 10am-11.30am
- RC: Thursday 4th March: 1pm-2.30pm

- 1H: Tuesday 2nd March: 10am-11.30am
- 1HS: Tuesday 2nd March: 1.30pm-3.00pm
- 2C: Thursday 4th March: 10am-11.30am
- 2H: Tuesday 2nd March: 10am-11.30am
- 3FM: Wednesday 3rd March: 1.30pm-3pm
- 3MP: Monday 1st March 4pm-5.30pm
- 4TS: Thursday 4th March: 10am-11.30am
- 4NS: Thursday 4th March: 1pm-2.30pm
- 5K: Wednesday 3rd March: 10am-11.30am
- 5N: Wednesday 3rd March: 10am-11.30am
- 6S: Wednesday 3rd March: 10am-11.30am
- 6K: Tuesday 2nd March: 10am-11.30am

Today's assembly is now available on the website. Many thanks to Tracey Thomas for her support with BSL. Please navigate as follows: go to the Highworth Combined School website; click on the tab 'Arrangements During Pandemic'; click on 'Video Messages'; click on 'Friday Assemblies'; click the play button. Alternatively, try this

link: https://highworth.eschools.co.uk/web/arrangements_during_pandemic/503221

Thursday next week is World Book Day and we have some exciting activities planned for Remote Learning. Please find attached a letter about a virtual Book Fair with some wonderful books available to buy with the added advantage of support for the school's library.

Finally, please find attached some information about parenting webinars being run by the local Family Support Service. The content will be useful for many and they are easy to access from home.

Financial pressures for many are huge right now so please see some information below about qualification for Free School Meals. This is also available on our website.

My very best wishes for a sunny weekend

Clare Pankhania

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

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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

Mrs C. Pankhania

Head Teacher

Arrangements for families who currently qualify to receive Benefits Related
Free School Meals

- Vouchers are sent electronically
- Vouchers are for the value of 1 week's meals for each child; £15
- Vouchers are sent at the beginning of each qualifying week

If you think that you now qualify for Benefits Related Free School Meals:

You may have heard of the Government scheme to support families by providing vouchers for those children who receive Free School Meals. Understandably, this is causing confusion. All children from Reception up to Year 2 receive Universal Infant Free School Meals, regardless of the

financial circumstances of their family. However, vouchers are only being issued to those families who qualify for Benefits Related Free School Meals. Buckinghamshire Council provide the school with a list of children who qualify for this benefit and their families have been sent vouchers accordingly.

I am very aware that many families who did not previously qualify for this benefit, sadly, now do. We would like to start providing vouchers to more families as quickly as possible. If you think that you now qualify for Benefits Related Free School Meals because of a change in your financial circumstances, please urgently email office@highworthcombined.co.uk with the following information:

- Names of children who are pupils at our school
- Full name of the main wage earner
- Date of birth of main wage earner
- National Insurance number of the main wage earner

We will use this information to check for eligibility. If you are eligible, your details will appear on our database of qualifying families and you will start to receive vouchers. Please be aware that there is time lag between you applying for additional benefits and us being notified that you are eligible.

I know that you are juggling a lot of demands right now, but the sooner we get this information the sooner we can start the process.