

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL  
Education Department

# Highworth Combined School & Nursery

HIGHWORTH CLOSE HIGH WYCOMBE BUCKS. HP13 7PH

Tel. (01494) 525534

Email [office@highworthcombined.co.uk](mailto:office@highworthcombined.co.uk)



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**Letters sent home & e-School messages this week:** Netball Tournament, National Road Safety Week, Children in Need

Dear all

Thank you for your generous support of Children in Need day. The colourful variety of pyjamas and onesies has been a joy to see.

There has been much to think about this week as in addition to Children in Need, we have also supported Anti-Bullying Week and Road Safety Week. I hope it goes without saying that we include teaching about these topics, and kindness to others through charity, throughout the year, but the occasional extra emphasis is beneficial.

We aim to be as responsive as possible to the needs of children and parents. If you need to contact your child's class teacher, it would be helpful if you would please note the following:

1. The best time to do this is at the end of the school day. Out of respect to other parents waiting to collect their children, it would be appreciated if you could make the teacher aware that you need to speak to them and then wait a few moments until the teacher is free to speak.
2. If you do not come to school to pick up your child or if your query cannot wait until the end of the day, please do one of the following:
  - a. Phone the school to pass on a message; the teacher will let you know in person, or with a call, that they have received this information as soon as they are able to
  - b. Phone the school to ask for the teacher to phone you back when they are not teaching
  - c. Email the school with a contact number so that the teacher can call you back when they are not teaching

Better late than never... I have at last been able to upload some photos of the Year 6 residential trip to Marchants Hill to the website. I hope you enjoy looking at them and apologise for the delay in sharing them. Link here: <https://www.highworth.bucks.sch.uk/web/news/189861>

My very best wishes for a happy weekend.

Clare Pankhania

## **ATTENDANCE**

The display board at the front of the school shows each year group's weekly attendance.

**SCHOOL ATTENDANCE TARGET IS 96%**

**BEST ATTENDANCE: 98% (CLASS 5K)**

**WELL DONE**

**OUR WHOLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE IS  
TARGET AT 93.5%**

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES THIS WEEK:**

**Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November – 7.30pm**

PTA Virtual Committee Meeting – all welcome (see link below to join)

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November**

Sports Hub Gymnastics Event – Reception Class

## **PARENT ZONE**

### **PTA**

Hi everyone,

We hope you all had fun at our Halloween events! Thanks to everyone who took part, we raised over £485 from the Halloween trail and the special Mufti day.

We've got our next meeting on Tuesday 23rd at 19:30 (via Zoom) if you'd like to join, everyone is welcome. We'll be talking about our plans for Christmas and how to help the children feel festive before the holidays :)

Here's the Zoom link you'll need:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87488465086?pwd=TWJra1FCbFJudkRpZGN2YUsvRERDZz09>

Meeting ID: 874 8846 5086

Passcode: 6ntqCi

If you have any questions or would like to know more about Highworth Friends PTA, please send us an email to [highworthfriends@gmail.com](mailto:highworthfriends@gmail.com)

Thanks very much

### **Information for Parents**

#### **COVID-19 Testing**

Twice weekly testing using Lateral Flow Devices (LFDs) remains recommended for the families of school-aged children. These are available for free, see this link to order: [Order coronavirus \(COVID-19\) rapid lateral flow tests - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

This helps to identify if you or your child is infected so that others in the school and wider community can be protected. Please note that this type of testing is only for people without symptoms of COVID-19 and if you test positive, you need to self-isolate and arrange for a free confirmatory PCR test via this link:

[Get a free PCR test to check if you have coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

#### **COVID-19 Vaccination**

People aged 16 and over, including adults, can book a vaccination appointment through the National Booking System or attend a walk-in clinic:

- [Book or manage a 1st or 2nd dose of the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccination - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)
- [Find a walk-in coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccination site - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)

Severe illness and death from COVID-19 infection are more likely with increasing age. Therefore, adults are more vulnerable than children and it is important that you are vaccinated as well as any of your eligible children to protect your and your family's health.

If you are eligible for a COVID-19 booster vaccination (people aged 50 and over, or anyone aged 16 and over with a high-risk health condition) then you can book an appointment to have it [here](#), although please note that it must be at least 6 months since your second dose of the vaccine. This will help to top-up your protection against COVID during the Winter months.

### **Flu and other winter viruses**

As we move into winter, other viruses may start to spread, causing flu and colds. The symptoms from these infections can be similar to those of COVID-19.

It is important to get a free PCR test for COVID-19 first if you or your child develops any of the following: a new continuous cough; a raised temperature; a change in taste or smell. If this test is negative, it is still important to continue testing twice-weekly using LFDs as you or your child might go on to become infected with COVID-19 later.

People who are eligible, including children aged 2-15 years old and anyone between the ages of 6 months and 50 years old who is clinically vulnerable can have a free NHS flu vaccine this year, which is the best way of protecting ourselves and those around.