

Highworth Combined School

Dear all

It has been hard coming to terms with the impact that Covid 19 has once again had upon our school community. A number of families have members, young and a little older, who are unwell with this dreadful virus. I know you will join me in wishing them a speedy return to good health. Many more of you have children at home and are having to deal with the 'joys' of Remote Learning once more. And then there is the damaging impact of self-isolation upon children and adults confined to their home at a time when it seems that the country is returning to normal (attendance at football and tennis matches for example). If you follow the news, you will know that this is not by any means just a Highworth problem. It feels a little bit like children, families and schools have been forgotten in the excitement and success of the vaccination programme. The sad fact is that there are no plans to vaccinate primary school age children and therefore it is hard to see how the circumstances in which we find ourselves will change in the near future. Currently, I know of more positive cases amongst the school community than at any time during the course of the pandemic. It is with a heavy heart that I share with you that I think it likely we will experience more disruption before the end of the academic year.

It seems that the government is reviewing its guidance for schools on how to keep children safe from the spread of the virus, which I eagerly await in order to plan for the new academic year meaning, perhaps, less disruption for us all.

On a lighter note, Break the Rules Day has caused much excitement amongst children this week (and a little less amongst adults!). Children in Reception and Year 5, who will not be in school on the 2nd July, will have their turn to break some rules on Friday 9th July.

After careful consideration of the risks involved, we have decided to go ahead with our transition event for children continuing at Highworth next year. On Tuesday 6th July, your child will spend an hour with their

new teacher and class. I will write to you that day (by Eschools) to inform you of the name of your child's new teacher.

Let's hope the football on Saturday evening gives us something to cheer about. The PE team tell me that 'it's coming home!'

As ever, my best wishes for a happy weekend.

Clare Pankhania

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

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