

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCIL
Education Department

Highworth Combined School & Nursery

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Newsletter: Friday 5th November Issue: 8

Letters sent home & eSchool messages this week: Mind Peer Support Service, Virtual Parents Evening (YR-Y6), Poppy Appeal, Knowledge Organiser – Transport (YR), Parent Governor Vacancy, Netball Event (Y4), Nursery Virtual Parents Meetings, School Crossing Patroller

Dear all

It's definitely feeling more wintery this week, with darker evenings and a chill in the air. As you know, the doors and windows remain open here so please do send in those extra layers to keep children warm.

We have updated the Home Learning Matrices on the website. Link here:

https://www.highworth.bucks.sch.uk/web/home_learning_matrices/570245

Sadly, I have to tell you that our wonderful Parent Support Worker, Ellie Baskerville, is no longer able to work at Highworth. Her family have unexpectedly relocated to Somerset, which isn't really commuting distance! I know how helpful Ellie was to so many of you; she will be much missed. I will write to introduce our new Parent Support Worker as soon as possible, but in the meantime, please let Caroline Day or I know if you need our help. Please leave a message for us at the front office or email:

office@highworthcombined.co.uk

As today is 5th November, many of you will be enjoying celebrations with fireworks this weekend. I send my best wishes for a safe and happy time.

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: 98.6% (CLASS 4S)

WELL DONE

OUR WHOLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE IS

WELL BELOW TARGET AT 93.2%

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES THIS WEEK:

Tues 9th November - 5pm to 7pm

Virtual Parents Evening Appointments

Thurs 11th November – 4pm to 6pm

Virtual Parents Evening Appointments

Friday 12th November – pm

Y4 Netball Event – Holmer Green

Senior School

PARENT ZONE

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 \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-covid-19-rapid-lateral-flow-tests)

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 \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/get-a-free-pcr-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus-covid-19)

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 \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/booking/coronavirus-covid-19-vaccination)
- [Find a walk-in coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccination site - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/booking/coronavirus-covid-19-vaccination-site)

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.