

# Highworth Combined School

Dear all

Anticipation is my word of the week. Quite simply, we cannot wait to see you all again.

After catching up with you and your children over School Cloud this week, we know that the reality of the return to school is creating a range of emotions (it's the same for adults here too!). Please be assured that we are ready, not only to teach your children and start to close gaps in learning, but to support their emotional wellbeing too. I hope you will get some reassurance from knowing that we will take great care of everyone.

There will be a lot to think about for you and your children this week so I will keep this short and simple:

## Return to school

The parental agreement, with all the information that you need, is copied below and attached (I recommend that you print it or screen shot it now to keep for quick reference)

- School uniform has been modified for the remainder of this term. You may choose to send your children to school in one of the following:
  - Existing school uniform with additional layers to provide extra warmth (PE kit must still be worn on PE days).  
Trainers may be worn with uniform
  - School PE kit, including jogging bottoms, t-shirt and hoody/fleece with additional layers to provide warmth (on any day of the week)
  - Non-uniform jogging bottoms, appropriate t-shirt/long sleeve top and fleece or hoody and trainers with additional layers to provide extra warmth
- School hot lunches are available, but must be ordered in advance. Place orders now for week commencing 15<sup>th</sup> March. If you missed the deadline this week, you must send a packed lunch with your child

- Please do not arrive on the school site before the start time for your child, but within 10 minutes after this time. This will avoid you having to form queues. Likewise at the end of the day
- Water fountains are not in use; you must send a named water bottle every day

### Further information

All staff are working in school today to complete last minute preparation so feedback on Remote Learning completed today will not be sent. If your child would like to bring work completed today to school on Monday, teachers will be happy to give verbal feedback.

The final recorded assembly is now available on the website. Many thanks again 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. Apologies for the fact that links in letters have not worked for navigation to videos. We are investigating to resolve this for the future.

We know that some children will not be able to return to school on Monday because they are self-isolating. It is also inevitable that there will be further absences for individuals needing to self-isolate. Remote Learning will be provided, but the process for receiving and returning work will be a little different. Please expect to hear from us within 2 school days of notification of absence.

It is now possible for families with school age children to order their own Covid Lateral Flow Tests. Test kits can be sent directly to your home. Please see further information from the Government using this link: <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

Did you know that children can learn to read by simply watching television programmes with the subtitles turned on? This is a true fact, backed up by extensive research. Please use this link for further information about an initiative called Turn on the Subtitles: <https://turnonthesubtitles.org/>

Financial pressures 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 happy weekend and... SEE YOU ON MONDAY!

Clare Pankhania

### Parental agreement for safe return to school of all pupils on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021

This document has 2 sides. 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](mailto: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

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 what are called 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](mailto: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.