

Highworth Combined School

Dear all

We continue to enjoy being back at school with all of the opportunities to spend time together that it affords. However, with the windows and doors open, we would like it to be a little warmer! I am sure that as Eid approaches, with the possibility of seeing friends and family outside to celebrate, many of you feel the same way.

This week, we welcomed some new members to our community: 9 chicks! The eggs were in an incubator in Nursery. On Wednesday morning there was a small crack in one egg; at 2pm that day, the first chick, named Chickpea, crawled out of his shell and by Thursday morning we had nine beautiful fluffy chicks. We have uploaded a video of them to the website for you to share with your children. Very many thanks to Mrs Cox for her expertise and hard work in sourcing and caring for our brood. They have brought much excitement and many learning opportunities across the school as we have all viewed a live stream of their arrival.

New guidance for school operation during the pandemic will be published by the Government in the next few days. Whilst keen to make the most of possible opportunities to reintroduce some aspects of 'normal' school life, there are many benefits to consistency after so much change and disruption. Everyone involved has worked hard to make our current operation effective so that children can learn and progress. I fear that big changes at this stage would be detrimental. More information will follow, but for now, I can give you some information about plans that have already been made:

- Sports Day

Each year group will have their own Sports Day involving all the children from their 'bubble'. This will take place in PE lesson time during week commencing 24th May. Every child will compete in multi sports (just like in our traditional sports day). For older children, there will also be the chance to 'qualify' to take part in competitive track and field races. We are not able to invite you to spectate this year, but we will publish photographs on the website once we have been able to edit them and make them into a presentation.

- Farewell celebrations for Year 6

Our celebrations cannot be as they have been in the past. However, we have made plans to give Year 6 the send-off they deserve. On Monday 19th July, Year 6 pupils will be involved in Camp Highworth: a day of outdoor activities with a barbecue lunch to which parents and carers are invited. We also hope to hold an end of year assembly outside on the field for all pupils, and parents and carers of children in Year 6 on Wednesday 21st July. This is weather dependent for obvious reasons! In the event of poor weather we will revert to a 'virtual' event. More information for parents with children in Year 6 will follow, but please put these dates in your diary.

My best wishes for a happy weekend with your families

Clare Pankhania