

Highworth Combined School

Dear all

My word for this week is weary as it sums up what people from across our community have been feeling. December and the happy times when children were in school seem such a long time ago. The possibility of wider opening on the 8th March seems a long way off yet, and all children returning to school on that day is by no means a certainty. As you will see in my weekly assembly, I have been turning to the wise and reassuring words of Charlie Mackesey to help me cope with the weariness. I hope this example of his work might help you too. I have attached a copy which your children could colour in and keep.



For a good start to the final week of half term we highly recommend the video messages from teachers available on the school website each Monday morning. Instructions on where to find these messages are included in Mondays Remote Learning messages from year groups.

Thank you for booking appointments for your children to catch up with their teachers; It's good to see the popularity of these meetings increasing. This week's sessions are shown below. Instructions for how to make an appointment are attached. This link gives advice on how to access your booked

appointment: <https://support.parentseveningsystem.co.uk/article/801-video-parents-how-to-attend-appointments-over-video-call>

Please book appointments for the classes listed here from Friday 5th February:

- 2H: Tuesday 9th Feb: 10am to 11.30am
- 1H: Tuesday 9th Feb: 1.30pm to 3pm
- 1HS: Tuesday 9th Feb: 1.30pm to 3pm
- 5N: Wednesday 10th Feb: 10am to 11.30am
- 5K: Wednesday 10th Feb: 10am to 11.30am
- 2C: Thursday 11th Feb: 10am to 11.30am
- 6K: Thursday 11th Feb: 10am to 11.30am
- 6S: Friday 12th Feb: 10am to 11.30am

The latest Warrior of the Week assembly, with additional announcements about green card and badge recipients, is now on the website. Clare Dimishky, the producer of these videos, is becoming more and more skilled so this week, as well as photographs of our Warriors, you will find British Sign Language interpretation (with many thanks to Fiona Robertson). 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. Alternatively, try this

link: https://highworth.eschools.co.uk/web/arrangements_during_pandemic/503221

I have been asked by the Local Education Authority to send you this information:

UK Disability Survey

The Cabinet Office Disability Unit has launched the UK Disability

Survey: <https://disabilityunit.citizenspace.com/cabinet-office/ukdisabilitysurvey/>.

We want to hear from as many people as possible. We are particularly keen to hear from disabled people, their carers, friends and family; but views from the wider public are also very welcome. The survey will remain open until 23 April. All views will be used to shape the delivery of the plans we set out in the forthcoming Strategy, with those that we receive by 13 February informing the development of the Strategy.

We've tried to make sure the survey, which is hosted on Citizen Space, is as accessible as possible. It is available in Easy Read and BSL. Written responses can be sent

to: DUCitizenspace@cabinetoffice.gov.uk. A braille version is available on request and blind or partially sighted people who are having difficulty filling in the online survey can email RNIB for advice or support at: campaigns@rnib.org.uk.

Financial pressures for many 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 the weekend

Clare Pankhania

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 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.

Parents' Guide for Booking Appointments



Browse to <https://highworth.schoolcloud.co.uk/>



Step 1: Login

Fill out the details on the page then click the *Log In* button.

A confirmation of your appointments will be sent to the email address you provide.

Step 2: Select Parents' Evening

Click on the date you wish to book.

Unable to make all of the dates listed? Click *I'm unable to attend*.

Step 3: Select Booking Mode

Choose *Automatic* if you'd like the system to suggest the shortest possible appointment schedule based on the times you're available to attend. To pick the times to book with each teacher, choose *Manual*. Then press *Next*.

We recommend choosing the automatic booking mode when browsing on a mobile device.

Step 4: Choose Teachers

If you chose the automatic booking mode, drag the sliders at the top of the screen to indicate the earliest and latest you can attend.

Select the teachers you'd like to book appointments with. A green tick indicates they're selected. To de-select, click on their name.

Teacher	Student	Subject	Room
Mr J Brown	Ben	English	5A
Mrs A Wheeler	Ben	Mathematics	5A
Mr J Brown	Ben	French	5A

Step 5a (Automatic): Book Appointments

If you chose the automatic booking mode, you'll see provisional appointment which are held for 2 minutes. To keep them, choose *Accept* at the bottom left

If it wasn't possible to book every selected teacher during the times you are able to attend, you can either adjust the teachers you wish to meet with and I again, or switch to manual booking mode (Step 5b).

Step 5b (Manual): Book Appointments

Click any of the green cells to make an appointment. Blue cells signify where you already have an appointment. Grey cells are unavailable.

To change an appointment, delete the original by hovering over the blue box and clicking *Delete*. Then choose an alternate time.

Once you're finished booking all appointments, at the top of the page in the alert box, press *click here* to finish the booking process.

Step 6: Finished

All your bookings now appear on the My Bookings page. An email confirmation has been sent and you can also print appointments by pressing *Print*. Click *Subscribe to Calendar* to add these and any future bookings to your calendar.

To change your appointments, click on *Amend Bookings*.