

Dear all

It was disappointing, but perhaps not surprising to hear the Prime Minister announce that schools will not now open until at least 8th March. One of the things that I'm trying to get better at is not worrying about the things I cannot change. This announcement definitely falls in to that category, but it hasn't stopped me being anxious about the impact this prolonged closure will have upon us all. However, I have said it before and I will reiterate now: we can and we will close gaps in learning; it's much more difficult to repair fractured wellbeing. Prioritise wellbeing and relationships for you all. Let us take care of missed learning when the children are back. Please do your best with Remote Learning, because your best is good enough.

With wellbeing in mind, I'd like to let you know of an assembly being streamed live on Monday morning at 9am on the subject of children's mental health. It is important that you watch this with your children as it may raise feelings and emotions that they need to share with you. <https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/news/children-s-mental-health-week-assembly-with-bafta-kids-and-oak-national-academy/>

We hope the weekly videos from teachers are helping to create a good start to the week for your children. Instructions on where to find these lovely messages will be included in Mondays Remote Learning messages from year groups.

Teachers tell me that they have loved catching up with children in their class on School Cloud. I hope your children have felt the same way. This week's sessions are shown below. Instructions for how to make an appointment are attached and copied below. 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 29th January:

- Nursery: Wednesday 3rd Feb 2pm to 3.30pm
- RCA: Wednesday 3rd Feb 10am to 11.30am
- RC: Thursday 4th Feb 1pm to 2.30pm
- 3MP: Monday 1st Feb 4pm to 5.30pm
- 3FM: Wednesday 3rd Feb 1.30pm to 3pm
- 4TS: Friday 5th Feb 10am to 11.30am
- 4NS: Friday 5th Feb 1pm to 2.30pm

You can now view our Warrior of the Week assembly for this week on the website. Please navigate as follows: go to 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/video_messages/530886

Lots of children have been doing a great job of earning virtual Green Cards for their efforts with Remote Learning. Starting next week (5th Feb), we will announce the recipients of badges for earning 5, 10, 15 etc Green Cards. Badges will then be sent home in the post. We hope this might be a useful incentive for parents to use where there is some reluctance from your children to keep on going.

Our online workshop for next week is on the new national curriculum for PSHE and how this has been adopted by our school. The letter with details is attached.

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

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCIL

Education Department

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Headteacher: Mrs. C. Pankhania

Dear Parents/Carers,

We would like to invite you to attend a presentation about our new PSHE curriculum (this will incorporate the compulsory Relationships and Health Education) which came into place in September 2020. As declared by the Secretary of State, *"Today's children and young people are growing up in an increasingly complex world and living their lives seamlessly on and offline. This presents many positive and exciting opportunities, but also challenges and risks. In this environment, children and young people need to know how to be safe and healthy, and how to manage their academic, personal and social lives in a positive way. This is why we have made Relationships Education compulsory in all primary schools in England."*

During the presentation we will be looking at our legal obligations on Relationships and Health Education and also how, why, when and what we intend to teach your children. We would like to emphasise how important it is for us to work in partnership with you. The role of parents and carers in the development of your children's understanding about relationships is vital. You have the most significant influence in enabling your children to grow and mature and to form healthy relationships.

Sex Education is not compulsory and we will not be covering this during our presentation. We will invite Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 parents to a separate presentation about Sex Education during the summer term before they are due to cover related topics.

We will be holding two presentations but the content will be the same in each presentation. The first presentation will be on **Monday 1st February via Zoom at 10am** and the second presentation will be on **Tuesday 2nd February via Zoom at 6pm**. Please see the joining instructions for Zoom below.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/93703475291?pwd=eG03YnhFc1hENFN4N0h4NzFHTHN5UT09>

Meeting ID: 937 0347 5291

Passcode: 1C0n8g

When attending the presentation, please make sure that you are on mute. Please type any questions that you have into the chat box and these will be answered at the end of the presentation.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Mrs Day

Inclusion Deputy Headteacher

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
17:10	Mr J Brown	Sci	English
17:10	Mrs A Wheeler	Sci	Mathematics
17:10	Mr J Brown	Maths	French

Step 5a (Automatic): Book Appointments

If you chose the automatic booking mode, you'll see provisional appointments 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 try 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*.

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.