

Highworth Combined School

Dear all

This week has seen us complete our analysis of 'gaps in learning'. We will be hard at work on Thursday (Inset Day) thoroughly planning for the Summer Term so that we can close many of those gaps.

This will be my final newsletter of this Spring Term as school closes for the Easter Holiday at the end of Wednesday 31st March. I do need to let you know of contact tracing arrangements during the holidays so please expect this information at the beginning of next week.

Some important reminders:

- We break up for the Easter Holiday on Wednesday 31st March. The school day will end for Years R, 1, 3, and 6 at **2.05pm** and for Years N, 2, 4 and 5 at **2.15pm**
- Term starts again on Monday 19th April with the usual staggered start times
- All current arrangements during the pandemic continue after the holidays
- We return to full uniform on the 19th April. We are able to extend the deadline for financial help with uniform. Please email office@highworthcombined.co.uk by the end of Monday 29th March to get further information and to apply for help
- The uniform Swap Shop will take place on Monday 29th March. The letter with more information is posted on this website under the heading Arrangements During the Pandemic – Letters to Parents.

I have some sad news to pass on: Wendy Mytom, our Parent Support Worker will be leaving Highworth later this week. Many of you will have spoken with Wendy on the phone or at the 'gate' in the morning and I know she will be much missed by those she has supported.

A message for you all from Buckinghamshire Council:

As you probably already know, everyone working in primary schools and Early Years settings is testing twice a week for COVID-19 to help keep the school community safe. While nursery and primary school pupils do not have to be tested, other members of their households can access regular testing and we urge you to do so - every case we

can pick up and isolate helps to stop the virus spreading and ultimately keeps us all safer.

Anyone with a child at a primary school can get tested regularly by attending one of the four rapid test sites in Buckinghamshire, or you can go and collect test kits to do yourself at home. If it's hard for you to go to a site, you can have test kits posted out to you – all the details are on the government's website at www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff

Thank you so much for playing your part in the fight against COVID-19. For more local information about COVID-19 and to find the locations of the Buckinghamshire rapid test sites, you can go to the Buckinghamshire Council website at www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/coronavirus

Simon James

Service Director – Education

Buckinghamshire Council

My very best wishes for a happy weekend to you and your families

Clare Pankhania

**Parental agreement for safe return to school of all pupils on
8th March 2021**

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, 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