

Highworth Combined School

Dear all

We know that many (ourselves included) are still adapting to being back at school full time, but our focus this week has turned towards understanding in detail where children have gaps in learning. We do this using a combination of methods of assessment, including observations, analysis of children's work and some 'low stakes' tests. We will always focus on relationships and wellbeing, but it feels good to be getting to grips with teaching and learning and children's progress after all of the recent difficulties.

I am aware that some parents have understandable concerns about our temporary modification of school uniform coming to an end soon. Whilst this change will give many of you the opportunity to once again make use of uniform purchased last summer for the full academic year ahead, I know that it could also mean some families having to make new purchases at a time when many have financial worries. The Full Governing Body met this week and we had a long discussion about the pros and cons of returning to uniform. In the end, there was a unanimous decision to continue with the plan to re-instate our original uniform from 19th April. Some (but not all) of the points listed below were used to make this decision:

- Modification of uniform was put in place to enable children to stay warm. With the better weather, this is no longer necessary
- Government Guidance issued for the return to school on the 8th March was for uniform to be re-instated immediately. We decided to postpone until 19th April so that the colder weather could pass. It is important for compliance with this guidance, and for the ethos and identity of the school that we now return to full uniform
- We have reduced the cost of return to uniform by not requiring school shoes
- Wearing uniform reduces both the anxiety from comparison with others experienced by many (especially older) children and the associated pressure upon parents to provide particular clothing

- In the event that children need new clothes this summer, because the uniform purchased prior to September no longer fits, we know that school uniform is often the cheapest and most practical solution
- We do not expect children to wear uniform with the Highworth logo. Any generic uniform of the right colour is acceptable

I know that this decision will not be popular with all so have made the following arrangements to try to help:

- We will be running a uniform 'Swap Shop'. More information will follow, but you will be able to bring a piece of uniform that no longer fits to exchange for a piece of a different size
- We have set aside a small sum of money to support families where having to buy new uniform would cause significant financial difficulty. If you need to make use of this fund, please email office@highworthcombined.co.uk by Wednesday 24th March for more information about what is available and how to apply for it
- At the bottom of this Newsletter are links to suggestions for inexpensive uniform which can be purchased on line

Ailis McNeala, the Chair of Highworth Friends has asked me to include this message:

The PTA would like to thank the staff, parents, guardians and children for working together so well over the past few months. The happy children we see running in to school in the morning is a testament to how well they have been supported over the past few months, you should all be proud of yourselves.

The PTA will be holding a meeting at 19:30 on Wednesday 24th March via Zoom. If you would like to attend please contact the PTA via our Facebook page or email (highworthfriends@gmail.com) and we can provide the log in details.

Please take a look at the attached 2 flyers from the Family Support Service for Buckinghamshire which provide information about:

- 'Healthy Start' which offers vouchers to new mums

- family learning courses which can be accessed from home

Buckinghamshire Council believe that they have been able to recruit a second Crossing Patroller to support Mr Ryan with keeping children safe when they cross Totteridge Lane each afternoon, but are still looking for someone who might be able to take on this role each morning. If you know anyone who might be interested in this position please use these contact details:

Georgina Longley; School Crossing Patrol Supervisor; 01494 586639/07734 481586

Georgina.Longley@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

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

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This document has 2 sides. You must read, understand and agree every point before sending your child to school

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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

- 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

Mrs C. Pankhania
Head Teacher

_ School Uniform suggestions:

Polo shirts:

3 pack; from £3.50:

<https://tuclothing.sainsburys.co.uk/p/White-Unisex-Polo-Shirts-3-Pack-%283-16-years%29/128753061-White?searchTerm=:newArrivals&searchProduct=>

Shorts:

2 pack; from £6:

<https://tuclothing.sainsburys.co.uk/p/Grey-Classic-School-Shorts-2-Pack/136252936-Grey?searchTerm=:newArrivals&searchProduct=>

Sweat Shirts:

From £4:

<https://tuclothing.sainsburys.co.uk/p/Red-Crew-Neck-Sweatshirts-2-Pack-%283-12-years%29/129090289-Red>

Skirts:

2 pack; from £6:

<https://tuclothing.sainsburys.co.uk/p/Grey-Jersey-Skater-Skirts-2-Pack-%283-12-years%29/128784975-Grey?searchTerm=:newArrivals&searchProduct=>

Dress:

From £4.50:

<https://tuclothing.sainsburys.co.uk/p/Red-Classic-Gingham-School-Dress-%283-12-Years%29/136140598-Red>

Cardigan:

From £5:

<https://tuclothing.sainsburys.co.uk/p/Red-Pointelle-Cardigan-%283-12-Years%29/134293056-Red>