

# Highworth Combined School

Dear all

I'm delighted to report that despite the uncertain times that we live in, the return to school this week has been very successful with good attendance and excellent teaching and learning observed across all year groups. I know you will join me in hoping that this continues for as long as possible.

During Inset day on Monday, staff participated in an online training session on building resilience, both their own and that of their pupils. It was organised some time ago, but was especially useful as we start a potentially tricky term for all. In addition, they spent time developing their subject knowledge for some new curriculum areas so that we can continue teaching a wide and balanced curriculum to all.

We have our first parent teacher meetings of the school year next week. These would be better held in person, but this is just not possible so video calls have been organised instead. I know that this might be off putting for some, but sharing the information about your child's progress at school is so important that I hope you will be prepared to give it a go. If you have not yet booked an appointment, please call Mrs Bennett on 01494 525534 who will be happy to help. Information about to how to use our video call system safely will be sent home on Monday. We will also be sending home a piece of writing, recently completed by your child. Please have this with you when you make the video call as teachers will be using it to discuss your child's progress.

We welcomed 3 new members of staff this week: Wendy Mytom (Parent Support Worker) and Claire Nathan and Sarah Long (Communicators).

Yesterday saw the start of a new phase in the country's response to Corona virus and new guidance was published to ensure that schools continue to operate safely. For primary schools like ours, there was only 1 significant change; we can no longer run extra-curricular sports clubs. Sadly this means that after only 1 week of reintroduction, we have had to stop the after school sports clubs run by Mr Bailey and Mr Hawkes. Letters have been sent to those families affected. We will start clubs again as soon as the guidance allows.

Whilst the options for making the most of this weekend are limited, I do hope that you are able to find some peace and happiness with your children.

My very best wishes

Clare Pankhania

### PTA NEWS

Lots to update you on this week!

We would like to say thank you for all your support in fundraising so far this year.

The last Mufti raised £311.28.

Bags2School raised £180- by collecting 600kg of clothing. As lockdowns continue, we will plan on holding another collection next year, so put all your donations aside and know that you'll have somewhere to donate them to soon!

Have you seen the Body Shop raffle on our Facebook page? £2 per entry- the prize is £50 to spend on Body Shop at home with Mel. Be quick though, there's only 8 tickets left.

Next PTA meeting will be on Monday 16th November on Zoom at 19.30- please contact us via Facebook or email

([highworthfriends@gmail.com](mailto:highworthfriends@gmail.com)) for the link- the more the merrier!