

Highworth Combined School

July 2018 NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents and Carers

It's hard to believe that it is only 6 school days now until the Summer Holiday starts. Time certainly does fly when there's a lot going on as there is right now at Highworth! Below you will find a round- up of the events that have taken place so far this half term along with prior warning of what to expect before we close on the 24th July at 2.15. Further information about all of this, along with photographs and important dates for the Autumn Term, is on the school website which I would encourage you to visit on a regular basis.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very enjoyable summer with your families in what I hope will be continued good weather!

Staffing changes

We will be welcoming some new members of staff next term. The table below shows all the classroom teachers.

| NAME | Year Group | Class Name | NOTES / RESPONSIBILITIES |
|---|---------------------------------------|-------------------|--|
| Liz Ward | Nursery | | Early Years Co-ordinator |
| Emma Robertson | Nursery | | |
| Donna Griffiths | Reception | RG | New member of staff |
| Tina Lawrence | Reception | RL | |
| Shelley Hawes | Year 1 | 1H | New member of staff |
| Maryame Bi | Year 1 | 1B | New member of staff |
| Julia Makohon | Year 2 | 2M | Mrs Sturgeon and Mrs Hastie on Fridays each week |
| Katrina Barr | Year 2 | 2B | |
| Fiona McCallum | Year 3 | 3FM | |
| Alana Moore & Marie Phillips | Year 3 | 3MP | |
| Nina Sparkes | Year 4 | 4S | New member of staff |
| Katie Milner | Year 4 | 4M | |
| Yvonne Kern | Year 5 | 5K | |
| Dorsheena Naidoo | Year 5 | 5N | |
| Rebecca Dowling | Year 6 | 6D | New member of staff Upper School Co-ordinator |
| Ash Smith | Year 6 | 6S | New member of staff |
| Megan Broadhurst | Acting Deputy Head (Inclusion) | | Lower School Phase Leader |

In addition we will be welcoming some additional support staff, some of them to new roles within the school. Karl Bailey will be joining us as Sports Coach in order to support Angie Sturgeon in her drive to deliver exceptional sporting opportunities to our pupils. Lorraine Galley will join us as Learning Mentor, helping to run our Nurture group and providing social and emotional support to pupils who would benefit. Finally, Becky Hatch will have a change of roles to become Parent Support Worker, identifying and implementing strategies to help parents engage with and support their child's education.

We are currently recruiting some additional Learning Support Assistants and will advise you of successful appointments in September.

Summer Music Concert

As usual, this event was a fabulous show case for the amazing musical accomplishments of so many of our pupils. As we focus more at school upon our 4 core values of Curiosity, Achievement, Resilience and Relationships, it was very pleasing to be able to recognise achievement within Music in such a way. It is also worth acknowledging that at a time of pressure upon funding, Highworth continues to be able to offer a wide range of musical opportunities to our pupils. This is due to your support, the enthusiasm of our children and the commitment and dedication of a number of members of staff, principle among them, Mrs Martin. Thank you one and all.

Summer Fun Day

Once again this year, the sun shone and we were able to make the most of the terrific outside space that we have at Highworth by holding this event entirely upon the field. Thank you to the small army of helpers who completed a very effective set up and came forward to help run stalls. It was lovely to see so many of you come along to the event with your hard earned money to spend; thank you also. The clear up operation took a little longer than we had hoped as assistance at this point was a little hard to come by. We will be thinking about how to address this before the next PTA event.

Sports Days

Our 2 sports days, although held in blazing heat, were a great success with an amazing level of support from families and friends. You have received information separately about how to obtain photographs taken on the day as a memento of the occasion. The competitive element of the day was an excellent way in which to acknowledge sporting achievement. Very many thanks to Mrs Sturgeon and Mrs Keating for organising such an enjoyable event.

Upper School Play

Having celebrated musical and sporting achievement, it was lovely to have the opportunity to see the dramatic achievement of all of our Year 6 pupils. The confidence with which they performed made us very proud. I'm convinced that the number of opportunities children here have to perform to an audience is what helps build this confidence and resilience.

Support for One Can Trust

Your generosity never ceases to amaze us. The contributions received yesterday will go a long way to supporting vulnerable families during the next 6 weeks when schools are closed. Thank you. I'm pleased to say that we also had a lot of fun finding the winning class of the challenge to donate. Please see the website for some photographs of the event.

School Reports

Reports will be sent home to all school and Nursery parents on Friday 13th July. Please use the "Parents Page" to share any comments that you have about the report. It is important that parents sign and return these, even if they contain no comments, since it is our only way of ensuring that your child delivered their report to you!

Parent Consultation

There will be an opportunity for parents of all pupils to discuss the report with their child's teacher at our termly parent consultation. However, there will be little value in meeting with the teacher if all that occurs is the teacher repeats verbally all the points which they have already made in the written pupil report. This repetition is of questionable value - particularly since the children will be taught by a different teacher next term. However, I believe it is important that parents have the opportunity to discuss any issues which are not covered in the pupil report, or problems which have been newly identified in the report. If you wish to take advantage of this opportunity, staff will be available between 5:00pm and 6:00pm on Monday, 23rd July for discussions. Please phone the school before 1pm on Friday 20th July to make an appointment if you would like to see your child's teacher.

End of term Disco

This is one event which for many pupils symbolises the end of the school year and it has certainly generated lasting memories - not just in the minds of pupils about to leave our school - but for pupils of all ages, parents and staff! I look forward to seeing pupils, ex-pupils and parents on Thursday, 20th July at 6:30pm - the penultimate evening of term. To ensure the safety of the event, can I please emphasise that EVERY child who does attend the disco MUST be supervised by an adult who has agreed to take responsibility for their behaviour. We will refuse admission to unaccompanied children. We will also expect children attending the disco to remain in the hall, or with their adult.

Holiday Homework

Your children work incredibly hard during term time and the holidays are an opportunity for them to take a break from academic tasks. Please encourage them to go outside, play with toys and have fun with friends! However, if you would like your child to do a little work to keep their skills "honed" over the break, we have put a section on our school website where there are lots of activities for all our year groups. The direct link is:

https://highworth.eschools.co.uk/web/home_learning/295831

Pupils who work hard and impress their new teacher by handing in completed tasks from the website may receive a certificate in September and possibly even a green card or two.

School Uniform

PMG, our school uniform suppliers have asked us to make parents aware that although they carry our uniform throughout the year, there tends to be a significant increase in sales just before the start of the autumn term which can lead to some sizes selling out. They can only guarantee delivery in time for the start of next term of items which are ordered by Friday 10th August.

Hot meals menu

A reminder that if you want your child to eat a hot school meal during the first week of next term, the deadline for placing orders is Thursday 31st August.

End of Term

Finally, a reminder that the school closes for the summer holiday at **2:15pm** on **Tuesday, 24th July**. The school re-opens for pupils at **8.45am on Monday, 10th September***. The staff will be involved with in-service training on Wednesday, 5th, Thursday, 6th and Friday, 7th September. All dates of terms, along with INSET days, for the next academic year are already on our web site.

****Reception and Nursery stagger their intake.
Parents have been notified of individual start days.***