

Highworth Combined School

NOVEMBER 2017

NEWSLETTER

Dear Parent,

With a new half term underway, this newsletter will bring you up to date on all current issues and provide you with details of all the activities which we have planned for the next few weeks.



Harvest Celebration

It seems like a long time ago now, but I'd like to reiterate my thanks for the generous contributions of food for Harvest Festival. The One Can Trust were incredibly grateful for our donations which enabled them to support local families in need.

School Crossing Patrol

Many of you will remember that in the past we have benefited from a School Crossing Patroller located on Totteridge Lane. Sadly the position has been vacant for some time so I am hoping to enlist your help. Do you know anyone who might be interested in taking up this position? Buckinghamshire County Council are prepared to make the position as flexible as possible with up to 3 people sharing the role. There is also the possibility for one person to work in the morning and one in the afternoon. Please spread the word to anyone you know who might be interested and pass on the following details.



School Crossing Patroller needed for Highworth Combined School & Nursery

Buckinghamshire County Council are looking for someone reliable who enjoys working with children to help them with their journeys to and from school (job share considered)

If you are interested in this role or know someone who would be, please contact the School Crossing Patrol Supervisor on 01494 586639 to find out more about the role.

Christmas Bazaar

This will be held on Saturday 2nd December. The PTA will send further details about the selection of stalls and activities available, although one thing is for certain, an older gentleman in red and white will attend! To be a success we need the support of as many people as possible to both help run stalls and simply to come along with a little 'pocket money' so please try to join us between 11:30 am and 1:30 pm. In addition to Santa and his elves, there will be lots of stalls and games - it will be an ideal place to pick up Christmas bargains.

Mufti Day

The last mufti day this term will be held next Tuesday, 28th November. Pupils will not have to pay money to wear casual clothes, but instead will have to bring in a "gift" which can be used to help fill a Christmas Hamper for the Christmas Bazaar.

Fun into Food

A big thank you to Anne Dilinchev, one of our parents and also area manager for our caterers, Chartwells, for arranging for us to participate in a fabulous 'Ready Steady Cook' type event here at the school. 'Fun into Food' involved 2 competing teams of children and staff from Upper School preparing healthy meals. The audience were very much involved and voted on their favourite in a very enthusiastic fashion.

Fireworks

This long established annual event was once again a great success with 500 members of our school community coming along to join in with the fun and excitement of the evening, as well as taking the chance to see examples of some of the work which had been undertaken by the different year groups as they went in search of clues for the "Treasure Hunt". Many congratulations to Shoaib who won the competition to start the fireworks display. A huge thank you to our PTA who organised the event, and to all the staff for their support - without which the evening would not have been possible. We were delighted that we raised nearly £600 – all of which will benefit our pupils.

Lower School Christmas Performances

Pupils in Years 1, 2 and 3 will be performing their Christmas play "Super Star" - on the afternoons of Tuesday, 5th and Wednesday, 6th of December. Tickets for this

will be available later this month. They will cost £1 each and initially will be limited to 2 tickets per family.

Early Years' Performances

Nursery and Reception pupils will be performing their Christmas play, "Whoopsydaisy Angel" on Monday, 11th December. There will be both a morning and an afternoon performance, and the table below shows which pupils will be participating in each one.

Monday, 12th December	
10.45am	2:00pm
Morning Nursery pupils	Afternoon Nursery Pupils
Class RM	Class RJ

Admissions for Next Year

Parents with children who will join a Reception class in September 2018 need to formally apply for a place at their chosen school before 3pm on **16th January 2018**. This applies to ALL children who were born between 1.09.2013 and 31.08.2014 and will include EVERY child who attends our Nursery. Most of these children will currently be only three years old and it is very important that if you know anyone with a child of this age you let them know of the January deadline. Applying for a Reception class place is a totally separate process than applying for a Nursery place because children in Nurseries have no automatic right to transfer into Reception classes - even if they are located at the same school. The whole procedure is explained on the county's web site at www.buckscc.gov.uk/admissions

Nursery Spaces

We currently still have a few spaces in our Nursery for up to 30 hours per week. In September 2017 the government doubled the amount of FREE nursery provision from 15 hours per week to 30 hours per week. If you know of a family who are looking for either 15 hours of nursery provision in January, or who need up to 30 hours per week (this could be extended even more by making use of Highworth's Breakfast club and /or After school club) please ask them to contact us.

Polling Station

Shortly after starting as Headteacher, I was disappointed to have to inform you that the school would be closed for a General Election. I promised to look into removing our school from the list of local polling stations and have been doing just that.

However, even with the help of 2 of our Governors, both Local Councillors, this has been more difficult than I anticipated! We cannot be removed at present, but our request has been noted and when the next review of polling stations takes place, will be investigated. Once the new community centre on Totteridge Recreation Ground has been built, it is possible that this could take our place. In the meantime, wherever possible, if there is sufficient notice, we will use election days as INSET days to minimise the impact of school closure.

Diary Dates

NOVEMBER 2017

Thur	2 nd	Parent Forum 7.00pm
Wed	8 th	Parent Forum 7.00pm
Fri	10 th	Y4 class assembly
Tue	14 th	Parent Forum 2.20pm HID Open Day
Tue	14 th	Parents' Evening 5.30pm
Thur	16 th	Parent Forum 9.00am Parents' Evening 3.30pm
Fri	17 th	Y4 class assembly
Wed	29 th	Flu vaccinations YR – Y4

DECEMBER 2017

Sat	2 nd	Christmas Bazaar
Tue	5 th	Lower School Nativity
Wed	6 th	Lower School Nativity
Mon	11 th	Early Years' Nativity AM and PM
Tues	12 th	Carol Concert
Wed	13 th	Christmas Lunch
Fri	15 th	Christmas Jumper Day
Mon	18 th	Mr Marvel and Christmas parties
Tues	19 th	School closes 2.15pm

JANUARY 2018

Fri	12 th	3MP Class Assembly
Fri	19 th	3JP Class Assembly
Fri	26 th	PTA quiz night

FEBRUARY 2018

Mon 5th Energize Rehearsal - all day
Tue 27th Energize Rehearsal - all day

MARCH 2018

Thur 1st World Book Day – visiting author
Fri 2nd 2M class assembly
Fri 9th 2B class assembly
Tue 13th Y4 trip to Natural History Museum
Tue 20th Parents’ Evening 5.30-8.pm
Thur 22nd Parents’ Evening 3.30-6.00pm
Thur 29th School closes 2.15pm

APRIL 2018

Mon 16th School re-opens 8.45am

2017/2018 Academic Year

	<u>School opens</u>	<u>School closes</u>
Autumn Term 2017	7 th September 30 th October	20 th October 19 th December
Spring Term 2018	4 th January 19 th February	9 th February 29 th March
Summer Term 2018	16 th April 4 th June	25 th May 24 th July

The above take account of all school closures except one – which will occur during the next school year but has still to be decided.