



Highwood Primary School

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Promoting Resilience, Achieving Potential

Cathy Cox – Head Teacher

Friday 15th May 2020

Newsletter 14

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all enjoyed the 'trailer' for the next Highwood Staff video – this will be available on the Google Classrooms on Monday! A huge thank you to Year 4 for your video; the staff loved it!

Phased Opening Plan

Thank you to all those of you with children in Nursery, Reception, Year One and Year Six who have let us know whether you wish to send your children into school if we are able to expand our provision after June 1st. Many of you have asked for further information about what this provision will look like before you make up your minds. I completely understand this and have been waiting for further information from Hertfordshire County Council (see attached Press Release) before writing this Newsletter. The Department for Education published guidelines on Monday evening and I have been working with my Senior Leadership Team to plan how we can implement what is being asked of us by the government, at Highwood.

I will be completely honest with you all – it will not be possible to be able to guarantee that we can make the school safe for your children. Young children will find social distancing in a school environment almost impossible! We will do our absolute best to be as safe as we can, but at this point, that is all that can be offered.

- Any family where any member of the household has an existing medical condition should **not** be sending children into school.
- We will continue to provide the high quality Home Learning package that we have been providing during Lockdown and we will continue to improve and add different ideas to this. **If you wish to keep your children at home you will be fully supported in this.**
- At the bottom of this letter I have included 3 paragraphs written by the 3 staff teams: Early Years, Year One and Year Six to outline their idea of what the curriculum will look like in school if we re-open. Hopefully this will also help you to make the decision that is right for your family.
- The current provision for Key Workers and other groups specified by the government will continue. We will continue to operate a booking system as we only have capacity for a limited number of children each day. This is because group sizes are limited by the DfE to a maximum of 15 per room and depend on sufficient staff being available to take care of the children. Due to the wide range of ages in these groups it is not possible to provide an age related curriculum.
- School will be closed over half term to allow for deep cleaning, removal of excess furniture, soft furnishings and resources that cannot be easily cleaned from all classrooms in order to prepare for the possible re-opening.
- There will be staggered entry and exit times and the school will be closed on Wednesday afternoons in order to allow the teachers their planning and preparation time.



If you haven't already told us whether you intend to send your child into school, or if you have changed your mind, please could I ask that you respond before the end of the day on **Monday 18th May**. This way we will be able to plan staffing and groupings. I will continue to provide updates at least weekly and you are free to change your minds at any point about whether you wish for your child to be in school or to stay at home.

Annual Reports

Next Friday May 22nd we will be emailing your child's Annual Report to you. The teachers have written these reports based on the learning that took place in school in the Autumn and Spring Terms. The attainment and progress data is also based on the two terms up until the school closed on March 20th.

Random Café

As well as all the hard work that Mr Johnson does for Highwood, he also helps to run the Random Café. The Random Café, part of The Real Junk Food Project in Watford, is a not for profit project. All the food provided is on a pay-as-you-feel (PAYF) basis. They aim to reduce food waste, campaign to make our food system fairer and more sustainable, and support our local community. Their mission is simple – to feed bellies, not bins!! They do this by working with local supermarkets, businesses, shops, food producers and farms – intercepting food that would otherwise be thrown away, reducing needless landfill and feeding hungry bellies with delicious food instead.

Random Café is something really different for our town. It's about inclusion, community and sustainability. During this troubled time Random Café is based at Leavesden Green Hub Community Centre, Clarke Green, off Clarke Way, Watford WD25 0BW.

They are open **Tuesday 10am to 12pm, Thursday 10am to 12pm** and **Saturday 10am to 12pm and 1pm to 3pm**. Please go along and see what food is available and do some shopping. If you are unable to leave your homes and need food, then please contact the Random Café and a food box can be organised and delivered to you. Their contact details are:

website : <https://randomcafewatford.com/>

Telephone: 07961 534275

Email: randomcafeuk@gmail.com

Times Tables Rock Stars

Well done to all the children who have been practising their Times Tables on Times Tables Rockstars. Here is the latest class league table from Mr Marshall:

| Week Beginning 11.5.2020 | Class | Score |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| Winners!  | Poplar 5 | 5899 |
| 2 nd place | Beech 2 | 4239 |
| 3 rd place | Willow 5 | 2583 |
| | Chestnut 6 | 2395 |
| | Hazel 4 | 2204 |
| | Sycamore 6 | 1884 |
| | Hawthorn 4 | 1313 |
| | Maple 3 | 1193 |
| | Cedar 3 | 582 |
| | Birch 2 | 496 |

E-Stars

The staff have also been busy nominating their 'e-stars' – the child in each class who has stood out this week in their engagement in learning from home. Thank you to you as parents and carers who are supporting them so well in this! Congratulations and well done to:

| E-Stars | | |
|----------------|-------------------|--|
| Class | Name | Comments from your teachers |
| Nursery | Lucy | Lucy has been extremely busy with her home learning and has also mastered riding her bike without stabilisers! Lucy painted a beautiful blossom tree from her garden, she has made a set of binoculars which she has been taking on her walks looking for jungle animals. Luckily she hasn't seen any around Bushey yet! She has also been helping to make delicious treats in the kitchen, this week's was Malteser tiffin! 😊 Well done Lucy for great home learning! |
| Ash Reception | David | The e-star this week in Ash Reception is David for working very hard on all tasks, particularly his phonics and cursive writing! I am so proud of him! |
| Oak Reception | Jackson | Jackson has been doing lots of activities from the Google classroom. He has also been finding new activities to do for Busy Fingers including puzzles and Lego. All of this, as well as becoming a big brother! |
| Pine 1 | Stanley | Stanley has been consistently sending in regular emails showing his great home learning. He has been very active with taking part with PE (Joe Wicks and sports in the garden) often involving his brother! We were blown away with Stanley's amazing woodland presentation, naming plants and flowers in his area and developing his interests in reading Roald Dahl. He is starting to explore a possible future career in acting! |
| Elm 1 | Violet | We have been so impressed by the quality and the amount of home learning Violet has been doing especially her fabulous research about VE Day. She created some wonderful decorations and baked cupcakes for her VE Day street party. It looked like lots of fun! |
| Birch 2 | Florence | Florence has had such a positive week of home learning and worked so hard to complete activities, especially doing some superb maths independently. Florence has also made a very impressive space station this week as well as baking some delicious looking ginger biscuits... yum! |
| Beech 2 | Joshua | Joshua shows great participation in the daily learning and has produced a fantastic portrait of himself! Well done Joshua! |
| Maple 3 | Thalisha | Thalisha has thrown herself into the 'Can I build another me?' theme weeks. She has engaged with the challenges making a worry jar and nesting dolls just to name a few. Thalisha has been superb at continually practising her spellings everyday, challenging her family to a game of bananagrams often to apply her knowledge. |
| Cedar 3 | Fajr | My e-star for this week will be Fajr for his fantastic robot. Well done Fajr! |
| Hawthorn 4 | Summer | Summer is the e-star this week for the wonderful work she has done since we have been working from home, especially in her writing and the beautiful letter she wrote to her dance teacher. She has shown a great deal of resilience and perseverance in her learning. |
| Hazel 4 | Flynn and Jessica | The double e-star in Hazel goes to Flynn and Jessica for their amazing baking efforts over the home schooling weeks. I am very much looking forward to testing cakes when we are back to school! |
| Poplar 5 | Ruby | Ruby has consistently shown her creativity and determination over the past few weeks. She has been reading in a variety of extreme places and building a giant robot that was bigger than her! |

| | | |
|------------|-----------|---|
| Willow 5 | Dihein | Well done Dihein. You have been working really hard throughout lockdown and sending in some fantastic work. |
| Sycamore 6 | Charlotte | Charlotte is this week's e-star for her amazing dedication and resilience in home learning. |
| Chestnut 6 | Holly | Holly had a great weekend for VE day. She and her siblings have been baking a lot of bread and tried brioche buns and Iced fingers after being inspired by celebrity bake off. Holly also did a lovely robot poster for the 'Can I build another me?' theme. |

Stay safe and look after each other!

Cathy Cox
Head Teacher

Provision in Early Years on reopening - 9:30am – 2:30pm (12:15 on Wednesdays)

- The EY will be split into three groups consisting of Nursery and Reception children, maximum of fifteen in a group. Each group will be assigned a classroom and a section of the outdoor area with two members of staff who stay with that group. The staff members and classroom may not be the ones they are used to.
- Each room will have limited resources for the children to use. There will be no soft furnishings, dressing-up clothes, books. Most toys will be plastic so that they can easily cleaned at the end of each day.
- Each week we will focus on a different book with a range of learning opportunities that will be reflected in the home-learning which will be continuing online.
- We will do maths and phonics sessions daily to consolidate prior learning. These will be in the groups of fifteen, not differentiated groups.
- They will spend a large chunk of their day outside with limited equipment. Each group will have to stay in their own section and not free-flow across the whole environment as they are used to. The "builders' yard" and mud kitchen will be unavailable.
- We will not be using resources such as sand, water, busy fingers equipment or play-dough to limit cross-contamination.
- There will be lots of opportunities for hand-washing.

Provision in Year One on reopening – 9:20am – 2:45pm (12:30 on Wednesdays)

- Year One will be split into four groups of children with a maximum of fifteen in a group. Each group will be assigned a classroom and a section of the outdoor area. The staff members, classroom and children may not be the ones they are used to.
- The provision will mirror the Home Learning on the Google Classroom so that all pupils will be accessing the same learning opportunities.
- Activities will include daily physio gym, phonics, maths, mindfulness and story time. English and topic will be book based like the recent 'Can I Build Another Me' theme.
- There will be significantly less child-initiated learning / choosing time in school as the resources will be very limited. This is to allow the resources to be easily cleaned at the end of each day
- We will not be sending home reading books and library books during this time.
- A large part of the day will be spent outside with limited equipment, there will be no access to resources such as sand and water to limit cross contamination. Children will need to be dressed suitably for any weather.
- There will be lots of opportunities for hand-washing.

Provision in Year Six on reopening – 9:10am – 3:15pm (12:45 on Wednesdays)

- Year 6 children will be split in to four groups with a maximum of 15. Each group will have a mixture of children from both Sycamore 6 and Chestnut 6. Children will not be able to swap from the group they are allocated to, so that we minimise contact with others. Groups will not interact with other groups and will run independent of each other, similar to the House system in place at some secondary schools.
- Each group will have a timetable that will include regular handwashing, Maths, English, Guided Reading, spelling, grammar and punctuation and PE. We will consolidate learning and cover units of work that are important for their move on to KS3.
- A large portion of the day will be spent outdoors. There will be a rota for each group to make use of the various outdoor facilities such as the basketball court, amphitheatre and field.
- To prepare them for the transition to secondary school, both academically and emotionally, there will be a strong emphasis on mental well-being with lots of opportunities to talk within their groups. We will also be including sessions on what it will be like when they leave Highwood. This may include things like, tying a tie, following a school timetable and getting used to having a larger number of different staff delivering lessons.
- In class, children will be given a table to work from. It is likely to be rows facing the front to ensure that social distancing can be in place. Children will be asked to bring in all of the equipment they need daily that will not be shared with others.
- For the benefit of all children and staff, the children will be expected to follow the Highwood Behaviour Policy. There will be a 'zero tolerance' approach with children being sent home if they cannot follow the adult instructions.
- The provision in school will mirror the Home Learning on the Google Classroom so that all pupils will be accessing similar learning opportunities.

Provision for children of Key Workers in Y2, Y3, Y4 and Y5 on reopening – 8:50am – 3:15pm

- The children will be split into four groups of children with a maximum of fifteen in a group. Each group will be assigned a classroom and a section of the outdoor area. The staff members, classroom and children may not be the ones they are used to.
- Due to the wide range of ages in these groups it is not possible to provide an age related curriculum.
- Activities will include daily physical exercise, spelling, mathematics, mindfulness and story time. English, reading and other subjects will be based around a theme, like the recent 'Can I Build Another Me' concept, with a range of different activities to choose from.
- We will not be sending home reading books and library books during this time.
- There will be lots of opportunities for hand-washing.