



# Highwood Primary School

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Promoting Resilience, Achieving Potential

Head Teacher Cathy Cox

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2020

## Newsletter 20

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for returning your slips about the Transition Days next week; we are all looking forward to welcoming the children even if it is only for a short time. Fingers crossed for good weather – in the event of heavy rain we will have no choice but to cancel the meetings.

### No Place like ....

During our theme week based around Homes and Refugee Week the children were asked to contribute ideas towards a shared Highwood poem to reflect what home means to them. Mrs Nicolas has put together a selection of these ideas to form a beautiful poem. I hope when you read the poem at the end of this Newsletter you will agree that it is a really lovely collection of words that reflect the community of Highwood during this challenging and unusual time.

### Staggered start and finish times for September 2020

The updated Government Guidance has been published which means that we can now plan for the full reopening of Highwood to all the children in September. It is clear that there will still be many challenges to face, especially with the onset of winter. The school will operate in Year Group Bubbles with each year group only interacting with each other and a limited number of staff wherever possible. In order to make this work, start and finish times will need to be staggered and year groups will have to enter and exit from their designated entrance only. The school will not be able to accommodate lateness and it will remain very difficult to have parents on site. The table below sets out the proposed start and finish times for each year group.

Please note that there will be separate information for children starting in Nursery and Reception in September. The children will not be in school full time initially as there will be a staggered transition into school over the first 2 weeks of term.

Year Group Bubble	Entry Time	Exit Time	Entry and Exit Gate
<b>Early Years</b>			
Nursery	8:50 am	11:50 am	Bushey Mill Lane to Early Years Gate
Reception	9:10 am	3:00 pm	Bushey Mill Lane to Early Years Gate
<b>Key Stage One</b>			
Year One	8:50 am	3:00 pm	Mead Way and Main School Entrance
Year Two	9:10 am	3:15 pm	Mead Way and Main School Entrance
<b>Key Stage Two</b>			
Year Six	8:40 am	3:00 pm	Key Stage 2 Gate (on Mead Way)
Year Five	8:50 am	3:10 pm	Key Stage 2 Gate (on Mead Way)
Year Four	9:00 am	3:20 pm	Key Stage 2 Gate (on Mead Way)
Year Three	9:10 am	3:30 pm	Key Stage 2 Gate (on Mead Way)



## Breakfast Club and Tea Time Club

Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic we had to close both Breakfast Club and Tea Time Club on March 20<sup>th</sup>. The updated guidelines mean that we can now plan to open Tea Time Club again in September which I know will be a relief to many of you. If you would like to request a space, please contact Mrs Faulkner in the Office ([reception@highwood.herts.sch.uk](mailto:reception@highwood.herts.sch.uk)). Unfortunately, the opening of Breakfast Club will need to be delayed until a solution as to how this can work safely can be found. We are working hard to find this solution and will keep you updated.

## Home Learning – message from Mrs Harte

What an active week it has been. You have been running, jumping, leaping and bouncing! I have learned a lot about sports personalities from a whole range of sports so thank you for teaching me something this week. We will tally up the points at the end of today and announce the winning house next week. Next week, to tie in with our transition meetings you will be receiving an email from your new teachers on Monday morning. They will be setting you some tasks for the week to help them get to know you all. We are now coming to the end of our home learning journey. On behalf of all the staff at Highwood, I would like to say a big well done to you all for keeping going in really tricky circumstances and a big thank you to all of our parents and carers for working so hard to support your children with home schooling. We can't wait until September when we will hopefully have all the children back in school for our 'welcome back' theme week.

## Times Tables Rock Stars

Well done to all the children who have been practising their Times Tables on Times Tables Rockstars. Here is the current class competition table:

Week Beginning 6.7.2020	Class	Score	Top Scorers
Winners! 	Birch 2	25,463	Milan with 12,069
2 <sup>nd</sup> place	Maple 3	8506	Kian with 4855
3 <sup>rd</sup> place	Beech 2	8358	Joshua with 3443
	Chestnut 6	5776	Chloe with 4271
	Poplar 5	2057	Dale with 1500
	Hawthorn 4	2021	Garv with 912
	Cedar 3	1829	Awais with 1006
	Hazel 4	1583	Isaac with 675
	Willow 5	948	Tahira with 298
	Sycamore 6	158	Thomas with 132
	Pine 1	138	Joshua with 137

**E-Stars:** Our last set of e-stars are nominated below. Well done to everyone who has been nominated during this pandemic – there have been some genuinely amazing Home Learning efforts. A huge well done and congratulations to all of the children (and parents!) nominated below:

E Stars		
Class	Name	Comments from your teachers
Nursery	Ivor and Emmy	We have been a little cheeky this week and have chosen two e-stars for our final week. Firstly, <b>Ivor</b> because he has been such an enthusiastic learner, always having a go at everything. He has tried really hard in his phonics, always thinking of his own words and has taken part in all the Sports week activities. Our second e-star is <b>Emmy</b> . She has been such a busy girl at home trying out various home learning activities and she has also done really well orally segmenting words using her Metal Mike robot.

Ash Reception	Arayah	The final e-star in Ash class is Arayah! Every week she has sent in some amazing work. She has worked hard on her counting, her letter formation, her Phonics as well as a wide variety of other subjects. She has done all of this with a huge smile on her face and I am so proud of all of the hard work she has put in over the past few months. Well done Arayah!
Oak Reception	Demir	We would like to choose Demir as our e-star this week. He has been doing lots of lovely activities at home including learning new games to play with his brother. Demir has also been trying very hard with his handwriting since he has been learning at home. Well done Demir, we are very proud of you!
Pine 1	Joshua	Pine's e-star is Joshua. It was clear to see that Joshua loved the dragon theme and got the whole family involved in writing a dragon poem. He created a super dragon den in the sea, in the moon light. Well done Joshua!
Elm 1	Anya	The e-star for Elm 1 is Anya. She has worked very hard on her home learning since the start of lockdown, always sending us pictures of her super phonics, writing and maths. Well done Anya!
Birch 2	Skylar	My e-star this week is Skylar. She continues to work so hard at everything she does. She has worked on her Maths and practising her four operations, even learning new mathematical words to help her solve the questions. Skylar showed such a great interest in her heartbeat investigation too. Well done Skylar!
Beech 2	Emily	Our e-star is Emily. She has been working hard at home going above and beyond in all subjects. She has also been a keen gardener too. We were particularly impressed with her dragon design work, it would be a spectacular sight if it were real! Well done Emily.
Maple 3	Jorja	This week I would like to nominate Jorja as Maple 3's e-star of the week. Jorja has been working hard on her maths, spelling and French at home. Well done Jorja!
Cedar 3	Millie	This week's Cedar 3 e-star is Millie. In her home learning she has been particularly interested in using PowerPoint as one of her tools to make Home Learning more interesting. In her mum's words, she is going to be a 'PowerPoint Wizz' (Good luck Millie). She has also made a huge fort, a fantastic, brightly coloured dragon and done some good writing. Well Done!
Hawthorn 4	Daisy	My e-star of the week is Daisy. Daisy has worked hard every week since lockdown started. Even when she took a break for her birthday she still managed to go on a dragon hunt! This week she has designed a fantastic medal for our Highwood sports week and completed some really interesting research about Serena Williams. Well done Daisy.
Hazel 4	Imogen	My e-star this week is Imogen. She produced some wonderful work on dragons last week - drawings, a video, a dragon model and a poem. She has also worked extremely hard with all her maths tasks, completing all the challenges set.
Poplar 5	Lasali	Lasali's medal and poster this week have been so powerful and inspirational that they feature on our Google Classroom for everyone to enjoy. Lasali's home learning over the last few months has been methodical, well-presented and always of great quality. Well done Lasali, this week you are our e-star!
Willow 5	Tahira	Tahira has really enjoyed our sport theme this week. She has embraced doing the shuttle runs and standing long jumps; she has researched inspirational athletes, conducted a great science investigation and even designed a lovely medal! Well done Tahira, you are our e-star this week!

Sycamore 6	Hayden	Hayden has always completed the work set for him and puts great effort into completing it. He has continued to do Joe Wicks every day and completes TTRS regularly to beat his previous score.
Chestnut 6	Nithulan	Nithulan created a lovely Video Blog (Vlog) for the Puppet Project. He learnt the skills of how to move the puppet and recorded the vlog. It was used as an example to the other Year 6 children as an example of good work. Well done!

Stay safe and look after each other!

Cathy Cox  
Head Teacher

## **No Place Like...**

**A Lockdown Poem by the Children of Highwood Primary School**  
(collated and edited by Mrs Nicolas)

I was born -  
In Watford Hospital,  
In Lancashire hospital,  
At home.  
I am from Bushey,  
Africa,  
Romania,  
England,  
Japan,  
Ireland,  
India,  
Pakistan,  
Afghanistan.  
I am from my Mummy's tummy,  
In a town called Watford,  
In a county called Hertfordshire,  
On a planet called Earth.  
Our Dad's hometown is in Tanzania. When we go there it feels like home.  
But we are all from the 3<sup>rd</sup> planet from the sun.

My hometown has got a park  
And a swimming pool.  
My hometown is busy  
And friendly.  
My hometown is small  
But it is great!

I can play football in the park,  
Walk my dog to the park -  
(Picking up the poo and hoping others do too!)  
Going to Cassiobury but no Wi-fi.  
Paddling pools and a little train,  
The Cha-Cha Cafe in the rain.  
Playing 'Pooh Sticks' on the bridge,  
Teenage circles on the grass,  
Texting friends - 2m apart.

Garston Ladies' - football training,  
Pump House puts on plays and shows,  
Training hard at Bushey Cricket Club.  
Back in the car past Watford FC,  
Collecting kids from school for tea,  
Football chants echo round the stadium,  
Watford lose.....again!

In my hometown is my school.  
When I am at school -  
Sometimes I feel cross,  
I feel happy,  
I feel good, like I should,  
I feel interested.  
I can see the vast blue sky  
And hear the wind rustling in the trees.  
Birds singing,  
Dogs barking,  
A lawnmower,  
Bells ringing,  
Cars racing,  
And children laughing and shouting.

My home is big.  
It is near a golf course where monsters hide.  
My home has lots of people and is messy and loud.  
One day is peaceful another is noisy -  
But, it's my home, it's my heart.  
My home is funny because my Mum tickles me!  
It has a comfy sofa and an annoying brother!  
I am grateful for my home which is warm and cosy.  
My home is happy.  
My home is noisy.  
Siblings squabbling,  
Sisters shrieking and brothers bothering.  
Dad doing DIY and trying not to swear,  
(But not being very good at either!)  
Home is a place where I am safe.  
Home is where the love is; the fun is -  
Making lollipop stick houses,  
Junk model buildings,  
Lego scattered on the floor,  
Mum drinking coffee from her cup.  
Pop in the kitchen to make some cake,  
Exploding food blenders spray cake mix on the wall!  
Going to the Chinese for a takeaway, late.  
Cycling to McDonalds and back  
Or seven wings from KFC.  
I love to race -  
and to eat cake!  
Home is where the games start,  
The movie nights happen and where hearts spread.  
My home is very special because of who I share it with,  
And when I need help there is always Mum.

The best thing about home is -  
Chilling and watching TV,  
Netflix, YouTube, Amazon Prime,  
Disney Plus, Google and Googly-eyes!  
X-box, PS4 and soon to be 5,  
Nintendo - Wii and Switch,  
Mobiles, iPads, computers, and cameras too.  
The best thing about home is my brother,  
Sister,  
Mummy,  
Daddy,  
Dog,  
Xbox!  
My family are amazing,  
They're incredible.  
I love my garden, my feet on the garden tiles,  
And playing with my toys.  
Now its dinner time at the table,  
Cooking on the BBQ  
The smell of sweetcorn.

I always feel safe in my house.  
I snuggle and tumble in my own bed,  
It is colourful and full of Pokémon  
And fairy tale houses.  
Sometimes I am grumpy,  
But I never, ever lose my patience here.  
I always feel calm and happy and it feels like my own life.  
I love Sundays,  
Monday mornings,  
Tuesday afternoons,  
And Wednesdays when we buy ice cream  
From the ice cream van, with a wafer cone.

We are lucky and have everything in the world.  
We need to keep it safe,  
Keep it clean,  
Keep it tidy,  
Keep it for everyone to live in.

My home is a magical place,  
Full of annoying people  
who I love anyway!

**There is no place like home.**