



Highwood Primary School

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Promoting Resilience, Achieving Potential

Cathy Cox – Head Teacher

Friday 13th December 2019

Newsletter 5

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Christmas holidays are not far away now – the school looks and feels more Christmassy as each day goes by!

Christmas Productions

This week has seen parents, carers and wider family enjoying the Nursery, Reception and Key Stage One Christmas Productions. This is always a memorable time for our youngest children – a huge thank you to the staff for all their hard work in putting together these fabulous performances. We are all looking forward to the Key Stage Two Christmas Carol Concert which parents and carers are most welcome to attend, next week on Tuesday at 9:15am.

Parent Helpers

On behalf of the staff and children, I would like to thank our dedicated parent helpers who have given up their time on a regular basis over this Autumn Term to come in to school, to help out with activities such as the Puppet Project in Year 6 and with hearing children read. Thank you also to those parents who have taken on the role of 'WhatsApp Rep' for their child's class as this is providing another way for us all to communicate effectively.

Friends of Highwood

The Christmas Fair on Saturday 30th November was a huge success - look out for photos and quotes from the children in the December Round Up! This event is one of the most challenging to organise but most rewarding on the day and this year's fair was no exception. Everyone at Highwood appreciates the time and effort given by the members of the Friends Committee at this time of year and I know they too will join with me in thanking the staff and parents for supporting and working hard before, during and after the fair to make it all possible. The amount raised was an amazing £4000 which will go towards continuing to subsidise enrichment events to make them more affordable for everyone. (Last year, Friends donated £1600 towards trips and activity days along with £599 for the pantomime, which the children enjoyed last January.



Parent and Carer Questionnaires

Thank you to those of you who took the time to complete our questionnaires this term. The feedback from these will help us plan and implement changes that we hope will benefit as many families as possible. You will find a summary of the Annual Ofsted Questionnaire (available for completion at Parent Consultations at the end of October) and a summary of the recent 'Survey Monkey' with questions set specifically by us below.

Ofsted Parent Questionnaire Responses - November 2019 (168 responses across the school).							
		Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know	N/A
1	My child is happy at this school.	120	46	1	0	1	0
	Percentage	71%	27%	1%	0%	1%	0%
2	My child feels safe at this school.	120	45		1	2	0
	Percentage	71%	27%	0%	1%	1%	0%
3	The school makes sure its pupils are well behaved.	93	65	4	4	2	0
	Percentage	56%	39%	2%	2%	1%	0%
4	My child has been bullied and the school dealt with the bullying quickly and effectively.	14	24	9	12	109	0
	Percentage	9%	14%	5%	7%	65%	0%
5	The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year.	105	55	1	1	6	0
	Percentage	62%	32%	1%	1%	4%	0%
6	When I have raised concerns with the school they have been dealt with properly.	63	67	5	6	27	0
	Percentage	38%	39%	3%	4%	16%	0%
7	Does your child have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND)? (yes or no) If Yes: My child has SEND, and the school gives them the support they need to succeed.	3	9	1	3	0	152
	Percentage	2%	5%	1%	2%	0%	90%
8	The school has high expectations for my child.	80	59	11	1	17	0
	Percentage	48%	35%	6%	1%	10%	0%
9	My child does well at this school.	95	66	2	1	4	0
	Percentage	57%	39%	1%	1%	2%	0%
10	The school lets me know how my child is doing.	86	72	4	1	5	0
	Percentage	51%	43%	2%	1%	3%	0%
11	There is a good range of subjects available to my child at this school.	95	66	1	1	5	0
	Percentage	56%	39%	1%	1%	3%	0%

12	My child can take part in clubs and activities at this school.	81	61	10	16	0	0
	Percentage	48%	36%	6%	10%	0%	0%
13	The school supports my child's wider personal development.	86	57	11	2	12	0
	Percentage	51%	34%	7%	1%	7%	0%
14	I would recommend this school to another parent (yes or no).	119	40	3	2	4	0
	Percentage	71%	24%	2%	1%	2%	0%

**Survey Monkey November 2019
(97 responses across the school)**

You said:

74% would prefer to keep the current system of paying for trips as they come up but with at least two weeks notice.

26% would like a yearly total with the option to pay upfront or in instalments.

We did:

The current system will stay in place. For those who wish to pay in instalments, the facility can be made available on School Gateway (please talk to a member of the Office Team).

You said:

69% would like a rough outline of trips at the beginning of the year with an estimate of costs.

31% would like 2 weeks notice of trips.

We did:

Staff will plan ahead and provide the Curriculum Map with planned enrichment trips and visits in September each year. We will continue to take advantage of other opportunities as they arise during the year and provide as much notice of these as possible.

You said:

67% prefer email as the main form of communication

20% prefer text as the main form of communication

5% prefer paper as the main form of communication

8% prefer WhatsApp as the main form of communication

We did:

We will continue to use email as the **main** form of communication but will use the other methods to supplement this. Paper will only be used where there is no alternative or if there is a slip to return.

You said:

61% would prefer school meetings at 6:00pm

23% would prefer school meetings at 9:15 am

22% would prefer school meetings at 2:30pm

We did:

We will put meetings for parents at 6:00pm wherever possible alongside earlier meetings

You said:

75% felt that they received an acceptable amount of communication from the school.

22% felt that they receive too much communication from the school

3% felt that they receive too little communication from the school

We did:

We will continue to provide the current level of communication but in response to additional comments we will try to give more notice of dates and events to supplement the diary provided on the Newsletter.

Anti-Bullying Charter

In response to Question 4 on the Ofsted Questionnaire, we have been working with the children this term to increase their understanding of what bullying is, how to prevent and report it and how to help others. Our Family Group sessions have centered around this theme along with assemblies and some class Circle Times. The children have an understanding that bullying is about hurting someone with words or actions on purpose and that it happens more than once. The School Council are putting together an Anti-Bullying Charter to remind everyone of the kind of school we aim to be with strategies the children can use. The ideas collected by the children are set out below:

Preventing	Strategies
Being kind to everyone Making friends with people you don't know well Finding our similarities Thinking before we speak Thinking before we act Including people who may feel left out Inviting people over to play	Have calm conversations Talk about feelings Help others who are struggling Be brave Listen to all sides of the story Know when to say sorry
Highwood Anti – Bullying Charter	
Support	Stopping Cyber Bullying
Tell someone you trust Take a seat on the friendship bench Look out for adults on the playground	Block, ignore Report, tell a trusted adult

Please remember to look at the 'Dates for your Diary' section below

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas,

Mrs Cathy Cox
Head Teacher

Head Teacher's Awards

The following children have earned and celebrated their Headteacher's Awards since the last newsletter. Congratulations to them for all their hard work and perseverance.

Beech 2	Indie, Sienna, Kaya
Maple 3	Bianca
Hawthorn 4	Garv, Georgie, Mary, Summer, Yasmeen
Hazel 4	Laraib, Asher, Chloe, Olaf
Willow 5	Siri
Poplar 5	Victoria, Jack
Chestnut 6	Yasir

Dates for your diary

Week 15	
Monday 16 December	Visit to North Bushey Baptist Church (Y1 – Y6)
Tuesday 17 December	KS2 Christmas carols for parents 9:10am
Wednesday 18 December	Christmas lunch & Christmas Jumper Day (no charge for wearing Christmas jumper!)
Thursday 19 December	Christmas Parties
Friday 20 December	No Sharing Assembly End of term 2:00pm

Christmas Holiday Monday 23rd December 2019 – Monday 6th January 2020**Start of Spring term – Tuesday 7th January 2020****Week 1**

Monday 6 January	School Closed – INSET Day for Staff
Tuesday 7 January	Term Starts for pupils
Thursday 9 January	Prospective Parents Tour of the School – Please ring the Office to book 01923 256210

Week 2

Monday 13 January	Book Look after school for parents and carers 3.40pm
Tuesday 14 January	9:00 Nursery Parent Meeting: Reading
Wednesday 15 January	Applications for Reception for September 2020 close
Thursday 16 January	School Census Day: please encourage your children to have a school meal on this day!
Friday 17 January	Sharing Assembly: Maple 3

Week 3

Thursday 23 January	Friends Discos: 5:00 – 6:00 YR + KS1, 6:15 – 7:30 KS2
Friday 24 January	Sharing Assembly: Cedar 3

Week 4

Friday 31 January	Sharing Assembly: Poplar 5
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Week 5

Monday 3 rd February	Book Look after school for parents and carers 3.40pm
Friday 7 February	Sharing Assembly: Birch 2

Week 6**Monday 17th – Friday 21st February: Half Term**