



Highwood Primary School

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Promoting Resilience, Achieving Potential

Co-Headteachers Ms M Green and Mrs D Harte

Friday 12th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Somehow, some way we have made it to today! Thank you to every parent and carer for your support and resilience in persevering with online learning. It has been a tough road to travel, full of many ups and downs and we understand how difficult it has been. We have appreciated the many messages of support for the staff who have also been attempting to juggle the complexities of working at school and from home, whilst still spinning the plate of homeschooling. Over half term, if your family needs the support of a food bank, please see attached flyer from local charity, sewa day.

Online Learning

During the half term week, the Google Classrooms and class emails will not be monitored so that the staff (and children!) can have a well deserved rest! We reopen Rainbow School only on Monday 22nd February for the children of Critical Workers. Please be kind to yourselves (teaching is not as easy as it looks!) and try to have a timetable in place. We do not want anyone to feel under pressure to do everything that is suggested on the Google Classroom. Until the government confirms the details for Highwood to reopen fully, the latest support, advice and useful links for parents to support their child's home learning can be found [here](#).

Covid-19 Reporting of Positive Cases

As was the case at Christmas, the government has requested that the school continues to report any positive Covid-19 cases during the half term holiday so that we can identify and self isolate close contacts. The dates that will need to be reported for any positive cases are from Friday 12th February through to Sunday 22nd February. Please email any positive case to covidcase@highwood.herts.sch.uk.

Keeping Safe

Over the half term, it is still vital that our school community continues to follow the Government Guidelines. This means that sleepovers and playdates have to be on hold for a while longer to control the spread of the virus. For the latest guidance for parents during lockdown, please see the advice of the restrictions on the [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) website. Hertfordshire County Council have asked schools to include this message:

"Thank you for playing your part and helping to keep our school safe by following current Government guidelines during the national lockdown.



It's so important that we don't become complacent during half-term so that we can all enjoy the break and hopefully come back to either remote, or face to face learning (for children considered vulnerable or children of critical workers) safely.

Hertfordshire County Council have asked us to share the attached link with you as a reminder of what we all can and cannot do during the lockdown restrictions. Please do take the time to read it and remind your children that for now, we all have to play our part to protect ourselves, our families and our friends."

<http://www.intra.thegrid.org.uk/info/coronavirus/documents/resources/do's-and-don'ts-leaflet-for-parents-feb21.pdf>

Half Term Holidays

The children would benefit from a break away from Google Classrooms. Try to do some fun activities together and have lots of screen free time. Some of our suggestions are attached to this newsletter but we hope that you might:

Get Cooking - On Tuesday 16th February it is Shrove Tuesday (also known as Pancake Day!). Why not see if you can make funny faces with your pancakes or even animals.



Get Active - Some of the staff have been trying to keep fit and healthy by taking up running. Going outdoors and getting fresh air is a great way to look after your mental health and to relieve boredom. Attached is a flyer from Game On to keep you busy.

Get Reading - Pick up a book and get stuck in. You could try out some of the great books on Reading Eggs and Accelerated Reader. Be book worms!

Get Creative - We love seeing your Art and Design Technology efforts on the Wow Work sections of the Google Classrooms. Remember to let your creative juices flow and to send in your masterpieces to your classroom. Mindfulness colouring is also a way of relaxing you and keeping you calm.

Chinese New Year

Today is Chinese new year! Thank you for the generous donations that we have been kindly given by thechinese-giftshop.com. They have brightened up the classrooms and the 'Travel Around the World' assembly has taught everyone more about this wonderful country.



Highwood's Got Talent

By now you've heard the news...yes, yes, yes! Friends of Highwood are relaunching the incredible, amazing talent show for our school. Every classroom is full of very talented individuals and this is your chance to be the star you are. All of the staff love it when you do us proud so remember to rehearse lots and to submit your videos on time.



On that note of how many exceptionally talented children we have at Highwood, please join us in celebrating our star children's achievements by taking the time to look at our Rainbow and E-stars of the week on a separate document attached with this newsletter.

Have a safe and restful half term.

Ms Green and Mrs Harte
Interim Co-Headteachers