



Highwood Primary School
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Promoting Resilience, Achieving Potential
 Headteacher Mrs B Rai

Monday 26th February 2024

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome back to the second part of the spring term. We hope you had an enjoyable half term break. We hope all our families marking the start of Lent and those celebrating Lunar New Year spent quality family time together. We also extend our warm wishes to our Muslim families who are preparing for the holy month of fasting, reflection and community togetherness. We wish you a Happy Ramadan.

We have various events to look forward to and there are some workshops organised for some of you to attend. Please see the diary dates in the newsletter.

Therapeutic Approach to Behaviour

I start by sharing information about the recent staff training the school team has been involved with. As you know we are a Thrive school and we follow the Hertfordshire Steps model to support pupils who display behaviour concerns.

Mrs Kenny and Miss Dodwell have been delivering training to update and enhance staff awareness of positive behaviour management.

The approach allows opportunities for pupils to self-reflect and make amends when they have made poor choices. It allows them time to think about how they have acted, even by being a bystander to a negative incident. Therapeutic Thinking encourages empathy and a shared way of speaking to one another so that unwanted behaviours are de-escalated as we carefully choose a resolution, facilitated by an adult.

Please continue to support the work we do in school by talking to your child about embracing the values of the Golden Rules so that we can aim to have Ready to Learn and Respectful times at school.

Restorative Justice – Chat Script	Restorative Justice - Choices
What happened?	What choices did you have?
What were you thinking?	What choice did you make?
What do you think now?	How did that choice affect you and others?
Who has been affected by this?	What choice could you make next time so it can be resolved without you upsetting others/feeling upset?
What needs to happen to put this right?	
What will you do differently next time?	

Golden Rules

In Highwood Primary School we implement Golden Rules as a reminder to all children. The Golden Rules are used as the guidelines for behaviour and discipline in school.

- Do be gentle.
- Do be kind and helpful.
- Do be honest.
- Do work hard.
- Do look after property.
- Do listen to others.



Planning and managing children's behaviour creates a link between children's mental health and behaviour. (See DfE White Paper: Mental Health and Behaviour in Schools November 2018).

By working in partnership together we will ensure through pro-social behaviours:

- **We all have the right to feel safe**
- **We all have the right to work and learn**
- **We all have the right to be respected**
- **We all are responsible members of our school community**

We will continue to bring children's attention to ways to self-regulate and keep calm. Please look at the following resources that we use in school. This link, [Resources for parents and carers](#), leads to ideas and resources that can be used at home for ways to talk to children about how they feel. We hope you find them useful.

During February it was Safer Internet Awareness week. We know that poor communication through online chats, games and phones can lead to friendship fallouts and misunderstandings.

We would like to remind you of how to keep your child safe online.

Please look at the resources with your child and discuss the issues and some strategies to work through as a family. These links from the NSPCC are also excellent in supporting families:

[Keeping children safe online | NSPCC](#)

From parental controls to how to talk to your children about keeping safe and setting boundaries, there is a lot of great support here.



Attendance

We are sure that you will have seen that school attendance is in the national news headlines. Schools are responsible for working with families to set clear expectations regarding attendance and for working with families to reduce any barriers to non-attendance.

In the coming weeks, Mrs Edmunds and I will be holding a meeting with the Hertfordshire Attendance Improvement Officer to discuss the school data on attendance and punctuality. There will be a discussion about holidays taken during term time. We will need to discuss how many

children are away from school on the last few days of each term and / or the first few days of each new term. Our Attendance Improvement Officer is the expert in this area, and she will offer further support when attendance or punctuality falls significantly. Hertfordshire Attendance officers are also giving more guidance to schools about the use of fines in some circumstances where reasons for absence straddling holidays cannot be verified.

Current Attendance Data from 01.09.23 – 17.02.24.

	School %	National %
Whole School Attendance	94.01	93.10
Unauthorised Absence	0.62	2.2
Authorised Absence	5.08	4.6

Although our attendance figure is slightly above the national figure currently, we still remain aspirational. Our improvement actions are:


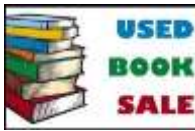

Develop a strong focus on attendance so that all learners have above-average attendance, aiming for the aspirational target of 97%.

Develop a strong focus on punctuality so that persistent lateness is less than 10% for all learners.

Yours sincerely,

Bindu Rai
Headteacher

Diary Dates : Spring term 2 - 2024

w/c 26/02/24 	Friends of Highwood will be holding a World Book Day costume sale and pre-loved Book Sale on Friday 1st March. This week, please donate any books or costumes that you no longer need. Enjoy giving and sharing with others!	
Thursday 29/02/24	Early Years Maths workshops (Nursery and Reception) 2:30pm and repeated at 5:30pm	
March and April	Waste Week led by Eco Committee and School Council – details will be shared nearer the time. It's a great way to get the whole school working together, behind an environmental caring project. We will be discussing and checking the food waste created at snack time and lunchtime. We will be involved in getting our school grounds tidy and litter-free.	

Thursday 07/03/24	World Book Day! We look forward to seeing the children dressed up (if they want to) and sharing their favourite books.
Friday 08/03/24	Friends of Highwood – Mothers and Others Secret Shopping Room Maple 3 class sharing assembly 9:10am Elm 1 class sharing Assembly 2:50pm
w/c Monday 11/03/24	Year 5 Bikeability course – all week
Friday 15/03/24	Year 1 Trip to Windsor Castle Hazel 4 sharing assembly 9:10am
Tuesday 19/03/24	Parent Consultation Meetings
Wednesday 20/03/24	Parent Consultation Meetings
Thursday 28/03/24	END OF TERM - school ends at 2:00pm
Friday 29/04/24	Good Friday – Bank Holiday school closed
EASTER HOLIDAYS – Monday 1 st April – Friday 12 th April 2024	