



Highwood Primary School

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Promoting Resilience, Achieving Potential

Co-Headteachers Ms M Green and Mrs D Harte

Friday 26th February 2021

Newsletter 11

Dear Parents and Carers,

At last, we are able to reopen Highwood fully on Monday 8th March, in line with the announcements made by Boris Johnson this week. Before we give you lots of useful information to help you with organising your child's return, we have some exciting news to share with you all.

So long, farewell, Mrs Harte

After nearly three years at Highwood, Mrs Harte will be leaving us to become a Headteacher at another school at the end of this term. Her list of achievements are endless and there are not enough words to convey how much we have appreciated her hard work and dedication.

Congratulations go out to her from all of the staff and governors. To say that she will be sorely missed by us all is an understatement and we would like to wish her the very best in her new endeavours. As one door closes, another opens, so we warmly welcome Mrs Rai, the new Headteacher to lead the team at Highwood after the Easter holidays.



School reopening - Monday 8th March

School will reopen fully to all pupils and we will revert back to school hours, days and rules as we did at the start of the autumn term. Your child will need to wear their school uniform everyday, except on days when P.E. is taught when they should come in wearing their P.E. kit. Please ensure that the children adhere to the Uniform Policy. Most children will have grown during lockdown, but most supermarkets sell reasonably priced school shoes and uniform, as well as websites being available for online ordering. Here is link to our uniform provider if you wish to order any items from them:

<https://www.mapac.com/education/parents/uniform/highwoodprimaryschoolWD23>

For the first week back, to enable the children to settle in to being back at school, we have two exciting themes planned. The staff understand that this has been a tumultuous year for your child, so their wellbeing and mental health will be at the forefront of all teaching and learning that is undertaken at Highwood, with opportunities for PE, PSHE and mindfulness playing a key part.

Revised staggered starts and finish times

Soft starts where the children go straight into their first lesson will continue. To facilitate a smooth transition as possible at the busiest times of the day, we have revised the start and



finish times of the day in order to keep Mead Way as clear as we can. Subject to staff availability, we will continue to operate our walking bus systems from the Reception classes to help with dropping off your children. Parents must stand on the socially distanced markers and keep younger children and babies with them - no scooter riding please. Remember that before Covid-19, most of the children all started at the same time, so please can we ask that you work with us to make sure that you adopt a routine that works for your family. It is important that you support your child in learning the life skills of being punctual and organised. More than ever, it is important to arrive on time (not too early) so that your child can go straight in and then you can vacate the school grounds and Mead Way as quickly as possible. After so much time in lockdown, we understand that it is tempting to linger and chat to other families but can we ask you to refrain from this so as to keep everyone as safe as possible.

Year Group	Entry Time	Exit Time	Entry Gate	Exit Gate
Nursery	8:50am	11:50am	Bushey Mill Lane	Mead Way Exit Gate
Reception	9:00am	3:05pm	Bushey Mill Lane	Mead Way Exit Gate or KS2 Exit Gate
Year 1	8:50am	3:05pm	Mead Way Main Entrance	Mead Way Exit Gate or KS2 Exit Gate
Year 2	9:00am	3:15pm	Mead Way Main Entrance	Mead Way Exit Gate or KS2 Exit Gate
Year 3	8.45am	3:10pm	Key Stage 2 Gate Mead Way	KS2 Exit Gate
Year 4	8:50am	3:15pm	Key Stage 2 Gate Mead Way	KS2 Exit Gate
Year 5	8.55am	3:20pm	Key Stage 2 Gate Mead Way	KS2 Exit Gate
Year 6	9:00am	3:25pm	Key Stage 2 Gate Mead Way	KS2 Exit Gate

Breakfast and Tea Time Clubs

Both Breakfast and Tea Time Club will be opening on Monday 8th March, but in line with government guidelines, will only be available to working families until the summer term. Both clubs are limited to maximum group sizes of 15 and will be subject to Covid-19 system controls.

Parking

The green roundabout on Mead Way is a beautiful space. Please can we ask that you do not allow children to climb the trees and that you do not park on it at all as this ruins the grass. Parents who continue to park inappropriately on the double yellow lines, reducing visibility and space on the roads surrounding Highwood, or that drop their child off in the middle of the road outside the gates, will receive a message from the school office to remind them not to repeat this. If it continues, we will invite our local PCSO to support the school to advise parents. Ultimately, we do not want any accidents to occur or for our children to be unsafe on their way into or out of school. Your child is welcome to walk, cycle or scoot to school, but we have had several reports of children being in the road, performing stunts and not observing social distancing. Please do let the school office know if you see any of our Highwood children doing this so that we can notify their parents in order to keep them safe.

Guidelines for parents and carers

It is important that we work together during this (hopefully) last phase of the pandemic. Please can we remind you to wear a facial covering at all times when dropping off and collecting your child unless you are exempt from wearing one. We need to ask that all of our staff are treated respectfully, as they have been asked to approach parents who may not be adhering to safety guidelines in place. Rudeness will not be tolerated and could result in our following a formal procedure in line with our Parent Code of Conduct policy. Please treat us as you would expect to be treated so that we can keep our children and staff as safe as we can. In the event that the weather is poor, please do remember to bring an umbrella as parents cannot shelter on site under cover - this includes by the main reception area to the school and the bike sheds. The office staff are not able to cross bubbles and drop off forgotten items. If your child forgets their water bottle, they will be given a disposable cup to use (all our taps have drinking water). If your child forgets their packed lunch, they will be offered a school dinner for that day, and you will receive a text message advising of this from the school office.

Home School Agreement

In September, you and your children were asked to sign a copy of the Home School Agreement. Within it, is the stipulation that in the event of a positive or suspected case of Covid-19, you would make arrangements for your child to be collected within 30 minutes. In the past, Public Health England has advised the school to evacuate the children outdoors to wait for collection so please make sure that your child has a coat.

School Lunches

Our healthy, nutritious lunches provided by our talented cooks will be available to your child. We've attached the menu with this newsletter so that you can discuss the various options with your child. Please note that we will be on Week 3 of the menu, so the options on Monday 8th March will be Mild Chicken Curry or Vegetarian Savoury Balls, both served with rice.

WhatsApp Reps

Thanks to all of our parent volunteers who have had the vital task of being a link between the parents and the school. It has not been easy at times but we are grateful that you were able to support families through weeks of homeschooling. We salute you!

Elton House



Due to the pandemic, family and friends are not able to visit their loved ones in care homes at the moment. So, as part of feel good week, the children in Year 1 and 2 sent letters and cards of kindness to the residents of Elton House to brighten up the residents' days and they certainly did. Thank you to all the children who sent in letters and cards and hopefully we will get some replies and be able to meet the residents one day soon!



Our final Rainbow and E-stars

Our teachers would like to commend all the children of Highwood for their hard work and resilience during the lockdown. We cannot wait to see you all (socially-distanced of course!) and to welcome you back to school properly. Attached with this newsletter is the list of children who have completed some particularly spectacular learning since half term.

Ms Green and Mrs Harte
Interim Co-Headteachers