



# Highwood Primary School

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Promoting Resilience, Achieving Potential

Co-Headteachers Ms M Green and Mrs D Harte

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2021

## Newsletter 12

Dear Parents & Carers,

It has been lovely to have all of the children back and we are so enjoying our busy school again. All members of staff are working hard to settle the children and beginning to fill some of the gaps in the curriculum that have been missed. Next week's parent consultations will be an opportunity for you to discuss any concerns that you have about your child's learning or mental well-being that have arisen over lockdown. Please ensure that you have completed the questionnaire we sent a few weeks ago, as this will enable the teacher to structure conversation in a way that is most appropriate to your child. As always with technology, we are hoping that there will not be any hiccups but if the video cuts out we have been assured that the Google Meet should convert to audio, so your conversation will be able to continue. Please ensure that you check your Google Classroom login prior to your appointment so that any passwords can be reset in plenty of time, if necessary.

### WhatsApp Groups

Our class WhatsApp groups are a great tool for communicating with parents and carers with messages that relate directly to your child's class. We really appreciate the work that our WhatsApp reps do with communicating between the school and the group. However, it has come to our attention that in a few WhatsApp groups, there are discussions taking place that are very negative towards some members of our staff team. Conversations like this have a huge impact on the well-being of our team and we have a duty of care for their well-being, as much as we do for our children. Whilst we have to accept that in a school with 440 children, things are not always going to run 100% smoothly, we would like to remind you that our entire team always has the best interests of the children at heart. We would like to ask that if you have an issue with something that has happened with your child directly, you contact the school via the office team so that we can work with you to resolve it quickly. Please help us to work together to continue the strong home and school partnerships that benefit the children so much.

### Fortnite

We understand that during lockdown our children were exposed to a much higher amount of screen time and that many were allowed to play Fortnite, watch YouTube and interact with TikTok. At times, we are finding that this has led to disputes between children on Fortnite being continued at school. Please can we remind you that this game is aimed at teenagers and that the age of consent to play is 12 years old.

On the whole, the children are adjusting well to being back in school routines, but are very tired. It may be that you need to re-establish these routines at home and check your parental controls and the amount of screen time they are having. If you need any guidance in how to keep your child safe online there are some great links on the school website such as:

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>



### **Drop offs and pick ups**

Thank you for helping us to make the staggered starts and soft starts work well for our school community. By the Key Stage 2 gate, it has been working better that you wait on the green whilst you wait for us to let your child's year group in. If your child has your permission to travel to school independently, we would be grateful if you would speak to them about their conduct once they arrive, as there have been times that we have seen unaccompanied children attempting to climb the tree or riding their bikes/scooters on the green. We cannot be responsible for the children that are not on our school site. The office team will contact you directly if your child is involved in any of this behaviour so that you are aware.

A couple of quick reminders... Whilst it has been great to see the children using their bicycles to get some exercise on their journey to school, please may we remind you that they should be wearing a cycle helmet (which can be stored safely in the bike shed).

Also, please can we ask that all children with long hair have it tied back every day - this has always been our school policy, but just recently, we have seen an increasing number of children arriving with their hair loose and flying about.

### **P.E. timetable**

We understand that there has been some confusion about the days that your child has P.E. Some of the timetables may have changed slightly since September and apologies if this information has not been communicated to you. It has been a very busy period for all of us with the return of 'normal' school. The children should come to school in their P.E. kits on the days they are timetabled to have it. If there are any late changes to the timetable, due to the weather or behaviour in class, we will try to communicate this to you by email but please understand that this is not always possible. Please find below the current P.E. timetable that will be in place for the rest of the academic year.

Year group	Days from timetable
Year 1	Monday
Year 2	Tuesday and Friday
Year 3	Tuesday (in) and Thursday (out)
Year 4	Monday and Thursday
Year 5	Wednesday and Friday
Year 6 Sycamore	Monday and Wednesday
Year 6 Chestnut	Monday and Friday

### **And finally...**

This is our final newsletter as Co-Headteachers so we would like to say a huge thank you to our parents, governors and all of the wonderful children at Highwood for your support. It has certainly been a baptism of fire to lead the school through the pandemic! Although it has been quite a journey, full of learning curves, we are grateful for your encouragement and positive feedback. After the Easter holidays, Mrs Harte will have left for pastures new and Mrs Rai will be joining the Highwood team as our new Headteacher. Last week, she was able to visit us to meet the staff and children and we look forward to welcoming her to the school community on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April, the first day of the summer term (a quick reminder that this is no longer an INSET day!).

Have a great week!

Ms Green and Mrs Harte  
Interim Co-Headteachers