



Highwood Primary School

Mead Way, Bushey, Watford, Hertfordshire, WD23 2AW

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Promoting Resilience, Achieving Potential

Headteacher Mrs B Rai

Tuesday 13th September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's great to still have the warmer weather as we settle back after the summer break. This week we welcome our newest members in Nursery and Reception classes, and some new joiners across the school, to the Highwood family. We hope you have a wonderful time. The relationship between school and parent/carer is important and we look forward to you being active members in all aspects of school life, including the Friends of Highwood Parent Association. We are excited about how much we can achieve together.



The new academic year has started in a truly momentous week with the loss of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and the accession of a new monarch. We have seen the end of the second Elizabethan era and the start of the Carolean age. We will remember this time. **Please note that the school will be CLOSED on Monday 19th September for the Bank Holiday given for the state funeral of HM the Queen.**

It is lovely to see all the children smartly dressed in their school uniforms. It is important that the children wear the correct uniform. Please ensure your child does not wear trainers for school (except for medical reasons which must be supported in writing). Black shoes must be worn. We want all the children to proudly wear the correct uniform. **On P.E. days children are allowed to come to school wearing their kit and trainers can be worn.**

COMMUNICATION The majority of our communication is electronic. Alternatively, you can visit the school website to keep up to date with school matters. Please remember to allow notifications on the School Gateway app – without this permission, the app will not notify you of important texts, such as if your child bumps their head or if there is a notice about an event taking place in school. If you also use an iPad to book your children's meals, please remember to log out of the app as you cannot have the app open in two places and still reliably receive messages from school.

INCLUSION and SEND MATTERS Mrs **Fernandes** leads the School Inclusion Team and is responsible for Special Educational Needs. If you would like to discuss matters related to your child's learning and development needs, please do not hesitate to request an appointment via admin@highwood.herts.sch.uk.





ATTENDANCE and SCHOOL MATTERS Thank you for ensuring that your child arrives on time and attends school every day. Our target is to reach 97% attendance and we look forward to your support.

Polite reminder: WE ARE A NUT FREE SCHOOL. Please do not send your children in with cereal bars, peanut butter/Nutella sandwiches etc.



MEET THE TEACHER PARENT MEETINGS

Over the next couple of weeks we will be holding 'Meet the Teacher' meetings at school. Please check the dates of your child's year group meetings and come along if you can. We understand that work commitments may prevent your attendance – please don't worry. All information shared will be sent out via email following the meetings. On the day of your meeting, please send your children in and wait behind the white line on the courtyard to be called in to class, once the children have gone down to assembly.

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

Should you have any concerns about a child's welfare, Please speak to designated members of staff for Child Protection and Safeguarding.

- Mrs Khindey
- Miss Dodwell
 - Mrs Fernandes
 - Miss Marriott
 - Mrs Rai



Highwood Primary School's member of School Governing Body with responsibility for safeguarding is Mr Miles Redbart.

Online Safety

The internet can be an exciting and fun place for adults and children to explore educationally and socially. The challenge for parents, carers and teachers is to make sure our children are aware and understand how to be safe when using the internet and related technologies. The following link is useful to help you navigate through e-safety.



<https://thegrid.org.uk/safeguarding-and-child-protection/online-safety/online-safety-advice-to-parents-and-carers>

Curriculum Newsletter and Home Learning We have revamped the look of the newsletter, but more importantly, included all the subject areas to help you understand all the learning that is taking place. You will know exactly what we are teaching. This information will be emailed to you by the end of this week and we will publish it on the website.

Drop off and Pick Up

Thank you so much for your consideration as we continue our work towards improving the safety for children and the local residents during drop off and pick up times. It is a very busy time and we are aware of the challenges that children, parents, carers and residents face with the number of cars that come and go in a short space of time.

With this in mind, please follow our Parking Guidance.

Highwood Safer Parking Guidance

- The safety of our children is our key priority
- Drive safely, with due care and attention, and in accordance with the Highway Code at all times
- Reduce driving speeds to a maximum of 20mph on the roads around the school
- Be continually aware of children who are walking, scooting or cycling in the local area when driving or parking a car. **Please remember that children may NOT scoot or ride within the school site.**
- Obey the parking restrictions around the school at all times and if needed, be prepared to park further away and walk a short way to school
- **There should be no parking or stopping momentarily on the zig-zag lines outside the school gates to drop off or pick up passengers. The markings are there to provide a clear area in which children can cross more safely.**
- Double yellow lines—unless you have a disabled parking permit, you are not permitted to park on double yellow lines at any time
- Be considerate in choosing a place to park that does not impact on pedestrian safety or local residents. Please allow other cars to park safely too.
- Turn off your engine when safely parked to reduce idling fumes

DIARY DATES

You'll see from the dates listed below that there's plenty to look forward to. There will be some additions of workshops and class trips. Separate letters will be sent home.

At the end of the newsletter you will find the term dates for the academic year.

We are happy to be reintroducing our sharing assemblies where parents are invited into school to watch their child's class assembly. Please check the dates carefully to see when your child's assembly is being held – we would love to see you there. Please arrive through main reception for assemblies.

16/09/22	Year 4 - Joy of Moving Programme with Watford Football Club commences. For six weeks children will be developing key skills in four major areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Physical fitness• Motor coordination• Cognitive functions & creativity• Life skills
16/09/22	Friends of Highwood Welcome Picnic
19/09/22	School Closed to mark Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II State Funeral
20/09/22	Friends Of Highwood AGM 7.00pm at school
20/09/22	Harvest Food Donations collection commences – details to follow
21/09/22	Meet New Teacher meeting Year 3 and 4 parents to attend 8.55am - 9.20am. Please drop your child off to school and attend the meeting if you can.
22/09/22	Meet New Teacher meeting Year 5 and 6 parents to attend 8.55am - 9.20am. Please drop your child off to school and attend the meeting if you can.
23/09/22	Mrs Faulkner, our wonderful Office Manager's last day at Highwood. Thank you, Goodbye and Good Luck!

26/09/22	Read Write Inc Presentation talk led by Mrs Cox and Mrs Fernandes 9.00-9.30am. This meeting is for Nursery, Reception and new parents in Year 1 and 2
26/09/22	Meet New Teacher meeting Year 1 and 2 parents to attend 2.45pm-3.15pm. Please drop your child off to school and attend the meeting if you can.
26/09/22	Year 6 PGL parent information meeting on Monday 26 th September 3:30-4.00pm
30/09/22	Chestnut 6 sharing assembly 9.10 - 9.40am
03/10/22	Black History Month starts – learning to take place across the school
03/10/22	Session to give guidance on listening to your child read and reading stories led by Mrs Cox and Mrs Fernandes 9.10 - 9.30am. Parents in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and 2 are invited to attend.
04/10/22	Van Cols Photo Day - individual/sibling photos taken
06/10/22	Diwali Assembly Details to be confirmed
07/10/22	Poplar 5 sharing assembly 9.10- 9.40am
07/10/22	Maple 3 sharing assembly 2.45 - 3.10pm
10/10/22	World Mental Health Day – we will be promoting the benefits of mindfulness, exercise, appreciation of music and creativity to help wellbeing
12/10-14/10/22	Year 6 residential trip to PGL Liddington
14/10/22	Birch 2 sharing assembly 2.45 -3.10pm
20/10/22	Harvest Festival Assembly
21/10/22	Hawthorn 4 sharing assembly 9.10- 9.40am
21/10/22	Pine 1 sharing assembly 2.45 -3.10pm
21/10/21	Last day of half term – finish at normal times
Monday 24th October - Friday 28th October Half Term	
02/11/22	Flu immunisations in hall - details to follow
08/11/22	National Recycling Week
11/11/22	Remembrance Day/Armistice Day – Two Minute Silence observed
14/11/22	Anti-Bullying Week Theme of 2022 is "Reach Out"
15/11/22	Parent Consultation Evening - details to follow An opportunity to hold a 10 minute meeting with the class teacher regarding your child's progress
16/11/22	Parent Consultation Evening - details to follow An opportunity to hold a 10 minute meeting with the class teacher regarding your child's progress
18/11/22	Sycamore 6 sharing assembly 9.10- 9.40am
18/11/22	Beech 2 sharing assembly 2.45 -3.10pm
25/11/22	Willow 5 sharing assembly 9.10- 9.40am
25/11/22	Elm 1 sharing assembly 2.45 -3.10pm
01/12/22	Year 2 History off the Page Workshop
02/12/22	Hazel 4 sharing assembly 9.10- 9.40am
02/12/22	Cedar 3 sharing assembly 2.45 -3.10pm
08/12/22	Hanukkah Assembly Details to be confirmed
21/12/22	End of autumn term - school ends at 2.00pm
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS	
05/01/23	Start of spring term - welcome back to pupils

Thank you for your cooperation in advance and we look forward to seeing you all on the field for the Friends' Welcome Back picnic!

Yours sincerely,

Bindu Rai

Term Dates for academic year 2022-2023

Thursday 1 September	INSET DAY 1 – School closed to pupils
Friday 2 September	INSET DAY 2 – School closed to pupils
Monday 5 September	Start of Autumn Term
Half Term Monday 24 October – Friday 28 October 2022	
Monday 31 October	Start of half term
Wednesday 21 December	End of Term – school ends at 2pm
Christmas Holidays Thursday 22 December 2022 - Wednesday 4 January 2023	
Thursday 5 January	Start of Spring Term
Half term Monday 13 February – Friday 17 February 2023	
Monday 20 February	INSET DAY 3 – School closed to pupils
Tuesday 21 February	INSET DAY 4 – School closed to pupils
Friday 31 March	End of term – school ends at 2pm
Easter holidays Monday 3 April – Friday 14 April 2023	
Monday 17 April	Start of Summer Term
Monday 1 May	May Day Bank Holiday - School Closed
Thursday 25 May	INSET DAY 5 – School closed to pupils
Friday 26 May	Occasional Day – School closed to pupils
Half Term Monday 29 May – Friday 2 June 2023	
Monday 5 June	Start of half term
Friday 21 July	End of term – School ends at 2pm