



Highwood Primary School

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

Tel: 01923 256210 E-mail: admin@highwood.herts.sch.uk

Promoting Resilience, Achieving Potential

Headteacher Mrs B Rai

Tuesday 28th September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

The summer break seems like a distant memory and we are now back in the flow of school life. We have had a brilliant welcome to the newest members of our Highwood family. They are getting to know their surroundings, the routines and making lots of friends. It has been a great start to their school journey.

PARENT INFORMATION MEETINGS Thank you to those who could attend the information meetings last week. The teachers found it useful to share with you greater information about the school day, curriculum, home learning and our vision and values. PowerPoints are available on the school website for you to read.

Working in partnership with you is essential so that successful outcomes can be reached.

Please ensure that you keep the Home School Agreement to hand and refer to it. We will be reviewing the agreement and expected behaviours form at Parent Consultation evening.

THOUGHT of the WEEK Our school assemblies will focus on different core values of character formation – respect, integrity, resilience, empathy, and gratitude. They will relate to our SEAL curriculum (Social, Emotional Aspects of Learning) too. The values will also be discussed during circle times throughout the week in class. It would be useful if you could talk about this at home too.

European Languages Week - Tolerance and understanding of other countries.

Learning other people's languages is a way of helping us to understand each other better and overcome our cultural differences.



HARVEST FESTIVAL CELEBRATION We shall be sharing with the children stories of Harvest around the world and acts of kindness throughout the coming weeks. Harvest Assembly is a lovely occasion which encourages the children to think about where our food comes from and how lucky we are to live in a country where food is plentiful. We invite you to send into school any of the items listed below **(please watch the ‘use by’ dates!)** for the food bank on behalf of New Hope (formerly the Watford New Hope Trust). If you could spare an item or two for your child to bring in, it would be much appreciated. I know that food banks up and down the country are really stretched at the moment and this is a local cause which we are very keen to support.



Please send items in to your child’s classroom.

Shopping List... Thank you in advance for your support.

Biscuits	Foil	Tinned sweetcorn
Bottled water	Gravy granules	Tinned tomatoes
Cereals	Kitchen roll	Tinned tuna
Coffee	Olive oil	Tinned vegetables
Crisps	Salt and pepper	Toiletries
Deodorant	Soft drinks	Toothpaste
Dishwasher tablets	Squash	Vegetable oil
Feminine care products	Sugar	Washing up liquid

FRIENDS of HIGHWOOD PICNIC on 17th September was a splendid occasion to get together, after what has been a difficult 18 months. There was lots of sunshine and smiles. It was delightful to see many parents getting to know their child’s class teachers. A big thank you is sent to the committee who organised the event.



October sees the launch of Black History Month, with a school focus around significant individuals, both from our local community and the wider world. The theme for this year is **Proud To Be** and we hope to build on the success of previous year’s learning and reflect the Highwood community in our curriculum even more.

We would like you to contribute and share your achievements with us too. If you have any suggestions or can make a specific contribution, please let your child’s class teacher know as soon as possible. We look forward to receiving your support throughout the month.

ATTENDANCE Not being punctual to school reduces your child’s chance of success. Your child’s progress could drop across all subjects! Your child will be missing learning opportunities if they are not in school or are late to school. Unauthorised absences are monitored and can result in a fixed penalty fine. Please work with us to provide your child with the best chances of learning, by ensuring they are in school every day and on time.

LATENESS = LOST LEARNING (Figures below are calculated over a school year)

5 minutes late each day	3 days lost!
10 minutes late each day	6.5 days lost!
15 minutes late each day	10 days lost!
20 minutes late each day	13 days lost!
30 minutes late each day	19 days lost!



COVID-19 update for parents New guidance by the DfE has been issued for the start of the academic year and you will have noticed changes to the school’s practice and procedures.

The school is no longer required to have bubbles of 30 and the children are free to mix within year groups and key stages. The one-way system that had to be in place during the pandemic is no longer necessary and we are happy to inform you that any gate can be used to access the school at pick up and drop off times. Whilst social distancing and mask wearing measures are not obligatory anymore, we would ask that you exercise caution as there are still many cases in the county.

The symptoms of Covid-19 remain the same:

- High temperature
- New, continuous cough
- Loss of taste and/or smell

If your child displays any of these symptoms, please arrange a PCR test. They must not attend school whilst waiting for test results.

If a child is symptomatic whilst at school, they will be brought to the medical room and you will be contacted and required to pick them up within 30 minutes.

Positive cases and close contacts

Please read these carefully as there have been significant changes to the guidance surrounding Close Contacts and Self Isolation.

- All positive cases need to isolate for ten days following notification from PHE/NHS Test & Trace. Please continue to inform the school of positive cases as before.
- Close contacts (including siblings, family members) **are not required to self-isolate** if they are under the age of 18 years and 6 months or have been double vaccinated. You may have to self-isolate if you have been told to do so by NHS Test and Trace.

Therefore, in line with the above regulations, we expect children to attend school regardless of whether they have a family member who has tested positive. We understand that this is a significant shift from the summer term expectations, but we hope that you understand it is our duty to follow the DfE regulations.

Contingency Measures With the lessening of restrictions, the school is required to have an 'outbreak contingency plan' in the event of an outbreak. This will be initiated if our threshold of positive cases is reached. The threshold is five children/staff who are likely to have mixed closely, test positive for Covid-19 within a ten day period. The measures include the bringing back of social distancing, the wearing of masks, enhanced cleaning, quarantining of resources, review of class bubbles and assemblies. This is not an exhaustive list and will not be implemented without Local Authority support and consultation.

DIARY DATES You'll see from the diary dates below that there's plenty to look forward to. There will be some additions of workshops and class trips. However, a separate letter will be sent home. Please make sure you re check dates and timings as sometimes changes are made.
We will let you know if events have to be cancelled due to the rising numbers in COVID 19.

Yours sincerely,
Bindu Rai
Headteacher

29/09/21	Harvest Food Donation Collection commences
04/10/20	Black History Month starts – Learning to take place across the school “Proud To Be Me” Dyslexia Awareness Week EYFS Phonics Meeting 2.15pm and 6:00pm Book Look – starts 10 minutes after each year group’s finish time
06/10/21	Individual Photo day
07/10/21	School Census Day
08/10/21	Deadline for handing in Flu Immunisation consent forms
12/10/21	Hustings for School Council and ECO Committee Representatives begins – further details to follow
15/10/21	World Mental Health Day – we will be promoting the benefits of mindfulness, exercise, appreciation of music and creativity to help well being
21/10/21	Vaccination UK in school to administer flu immunisations Harvest Festival Celebration Election for School Council - Last day for Voting Friends of Highwood Autumn disco and pumpkin festival
22/10/21	END OF HALF TERM – normal staggered finish times
HALF TERM Mon 25th October - Fri 29th October	
01/11/21	Friends of Highwood launch Christmas cards
03/11/21	Black History Month Celebration Assembly. Poetry Theme - Proud to Be
04/11/21	Diwali celebrated by Hindus and Jains, Bandi Chhor Divas celebrated by Sikhs
05/11/21	Guy Fawkes Night
08/11/21	Book Look – starts 10 minutes after each year group’s finish time
09/11/21	Prospective Reception parents talk and tour 2.00pm – please contact the school office to book a space
11/11/20	Class Remembrance Assembly

	Remembrance Assembly & Armistice Day – two minute silence to be held
16/11/21	Anti-Bullying Fortnight linked with our school values and British values sharing learning NHS Emotional well-being programme for Year 6 students (Lancaster Model Programme)
23/11/21	Parent Consultation evening today and tomorrow Details to follow – an opportunity to hold a 10 minutes meeting with the class teacher regarding your child's progress
24/11/21	Parent Consultation evening – see above
25/11/21	Prospective Reception parents talk and tour 9.30am – please contact the school office to book a space
03/12/21	Friends of Highwood Mufti day for tombola prizes - please donate items to school. Details to follow
04/12/21	Friends of Highwood Christmas Fair
06/12/21	Book Look – starts 10 minutes after each year group's finish time
08/12/21	Prospective Reception parents talk and tour 9.30am – please contact the school office to book a space
14/12/21	Prospective Reception parents talk and tour 2.00pm – please contact the school office to book a space
15/12/21	Christmas Lunch, Christmas Jumper/T-shirt Day
21/12/21	Pupils break up School Ends at 1.45pm - 2.00pm (staggered finish times to be notified)
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS – Wednesday 22 nd December 2021 – Tuesday 4 th January 2022	
05/01/22	INSET DAY 3 - School closed to pupils
06/01/22	Start of spring term - welcome back to pupils