



# Highwood Primary School

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

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Promoting Resilience, Achieving Potential

Headteacher Mrs B Rai

Monday 21st November 2022

Dear parents and carers,

We have had a productive time since returning to school after half term.

I hope you found the Autumn Parent Consultation evenings beneficial and helpful to support your child at home. The school team enjoyed meeting you and getting to know you better.



### Your participation matters

Thank you for completing the Parent and Carer Survey. Last week, each class carried out a similar exercise to find out how they feel about school life. Once staff have completed their survey, we will analyse the findings by identifying strengths and areas to work on.

Now that the clocks have changed and the nights are drawing in, it's starting to feel more wintery. The temperature has dropped, and we have had to hold wet playtimes and lunchtimes. We have reminded the children of the indoor activities that they can do, whilst still following the Golden Rules. **We like to have our playtimes outside whenever possible, so please make sure your child has a coat in school every day and ideally, a change of shoes in case of wet shoes and socks.**



**ATTENDANCE MATTERS** Thank you for ensuring that your child arrives on time and attends school each day. We have the highest aspirations for all our children, and we are committed to enabling them to achieve and sustain the highest level of attendance, believing that **every lesson counts**. **We kindly ask that you refer to the school's attendance policy and procedures on our website.**

### **School starts at 8.50am (8:45am for Nursery and Reception children).**

The main school gates open at 8:45am and close at 8:59am. Your children should be entering the grounds at 8:45am, ready to start their lessons at 8:50am.

Between 8:45am and 9:00am there are specific tasks for children to complete which will in turn support their learning. **We call this SODA (start of day activities)**. The children are then settled and ready to start their learning.

Class registers close at 9.00am Therefore, if your child arrives at school after 8:59am, they will need to go the school office where they will be marked as late.

Where persistent lateness gives cause for concern, further action will be taken. We will require you to attend a meeting to discuss how best we can support you. Unfortunately, if persistent lateness continues, Hertfordshire County Council can issue a fixed penalty notice (a fine) if a child is late, after the registers close, for 10 sessions or more over two consecutive half terms.



## Nursery Timings

- Nursery morning session pick up – The office team will open the visitor gate at 11.40am, allowing time for parents and carers to walk up to the Nursery black gate.
- Nursery afternoon session drop off – The office team will open the visitor gate at 12.10pm, allowing time for parents and carers to walk up to the Nursery black gate.

### Remember:

Gates Open 8:45am

School starts 8:50am (Reception and Nursery at 8:45am)

Gates close at 8:59am

If your child arrives after 9:00am, they are marked as late for school.

**As a school we have set a target of 97% attendance for this year We are confident that all children can hit this target and we look forward to working with all our families to achieve this.**

**Our current attendance figure from  
01/09/2022 to 18/11/2022 is 96.06%**



## Charity collections and events

**We received a lovely thank you card for your generous food bank donations for the Harvest Festival. Thank you!**



Dear Ms Rai and Students,

Thank you so much for your amazing Harvest gifts to New Hope. You have all been very kind and we really appreciate your thinking of us.

The Fundraising and Communication Team

### Friends of Highwood Mad Hair Day!

Thank you for your donation towards this fundraiser. We had some fabulously creative hairstyles!

Thank you so much! 😊



Thank you so much! 😊





**CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX APPEAL run by The Samaritan's Purse.**

Highwood families donated a grand total of 73 boxes to this wonderful cause! Thank you for helping children who are less fortunate across the globe receive these beautifully filled Christmas boxes.

**PENCIL CASE AND STATIONERY EQUIPMENT for Key stage 2** As we all know, school budgets are still incredibly tight. In September, we asked, if you were able, to provide a pencil case and stationery equipment for your children. However, please do not worry if you are unable to do this – we will always provide equipment for those who cannot. We want all children to feel happy and relaxed in their learning.

**SAFEGUARDING in the CURRICULUM** We believe that one of the best ways to safeguard children is to equip them with the knowledge and skills on how they can keep themselves safe. Safeguarding themes weave throughout our curriculum and the enrichment opportunities we offer in school. Some examples include our 'Jigsaw' scheme which we deliver from Nursery through to Year 6. Online safety discussions, assemblies, involvement in Anti-Bullying lessons and Mental Health Awareness and RSHE lessons.

**Online Safety** Please think about the following questions: When did you last talk with your children about what they do online? What are your child's favourite games online? Are they at the right age to play it? What would your child do if they saw something online that worried them?

**Social Media** is one of the most popular aspects of the internet and with the number of apps available for download constantly increasing, keeping children safe online has never been more important.







**Why are so many social media apps 13+?**

As you can see from the infographic, many social media apps have an age rating of 13+. This relates to



data processing policies that social media companies need to adhere to. **Under the COPPA (Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act) Law, social media companies are prohibited from collecting and storing any personal information about any persons under the age of 13, unless they have permission from their parents and carers. At Highwood, we think children are too young to be accessing these Apps. They are not of an age to understand fully the consequences of holding, sharing, and discussing information that may cause offence and harm to others.**

Over the coming weeks, in our run-up to all the Christmas and winter festive fun, there is, as always, a lot going on. Please see the dates below and we look forward to your participation.

	<p><b>Switch Off Fortnight</b> – School Council and ECO Committee assembly to launch this initiative. They will check if we are being careful about the use of electricity in our school</p> 
<p>Wednesday 23/11/22</p>	<p>KS1 &amp; KS2 Bounce Back to Reading Event in the hall</p> 
<p>Thursday 24/11/22</p>	<p>KS2 Purcell School of Music assembly for KS2</p>
<p>Friday 25/11/22</p>	<p><b>9.00am – 10.00am Parent/carer support forum in the Activity Studio led by Mrs Fernandes &amp; Miss Dodwell. We are delighted to start this initiative. You are welcome to come along to the Activity Studio where we will discuss themes about pastoral care, well-being and parenting concerns. If you have any questions, please contact the school office or email <a href="mailto:admin@highwood.herts.sch.uk">admin@highwood.herts.sch.uk</a></b></p> 
<p>Friday 25/11/22</p>	<p><b>Willow 5 class assembly 9.10- 9.40am</b>  <b>Elm 1 class assembly 2.45 -3.10pm</b></p>
<p>Monday 28/11/22</p>	<p>Year 6 Evolution and Inheritance Workshop          Year 4 attend Queens’ Secondary school to watch a Nativity! The Musical performance</p>
<p>Tuesday 29/11/22</p>	<p>Flu immunisation – mop up clinic</p>
<p>Thursday 1/12/22</p>	<p>Year 2 History off the Page workshop</p>
<p>Friday 2/12/22</p>	<p><b>Hazel 4 class assembly 9.10- 9.40am</b>  <b>Cedar 3 class assembly 2.45 -3.10pm</b>          Friends of Highwood Mufti Day for tombola prizes - please donate items to school</p>
<p>Saturday 3/12/22</p>	 <p>Friends of Highwood Christmas Fair  <b>We look forward to your support!</b></p>
<p>Thursday 8/12/22</p> 	<p>Hanukkah Assembly with Rabbi Yosef - details to be confirmed          Please come along to help the Friends of Highwood wrap all the presents for the Secret Shopping Room from 5:00- 8:00pm. You do not have to stay the whole evening but it is a brilliant way to make new friends, socialise and demonstrate teamwork. Thank you in advance.</p>
<p>Friday 9/12/22</p>	<p>Friends of Highwood Secret Shopping Room – a chance for children to purchase gifts for their loved ones – more details to follow from Friends</p>

### Winter Performances across the school

- Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December- Years 1, 2 & 3 at 2:30 - 3:00pm.
- Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December - Nursery & Oak Reception at 10:00-10:30am
- Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December- Nursery & Ash Reception at 2:30-3:00pm
- Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December- Years 4, 5 & 6 at 2:30-3:00pm



**Due to health and safety reasons, we can only allow a certain number of people inside the main hall. Therefore, we kindly request that only 2 family members attend the event. Pushchairs must be left outside in the Buggy Park just outside the main office.**

Wednesday 14/12/22	<b>KS1 &amp; KS2 visit North Bushey Baptist Church. This is a wonderful experience. We kindly request parent helpers to walk to and back from the church. Please contact the office team if you can help.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Years 1, 2 &amp; 3 to arrive at church for 9:30am and return to school by 10:15/10:30am</li><li>• Years 4, 5 &amp; 6 to arrive at church for 10:30am and return to school by 11:30am</li></ul> <b>Christmas lunch and Christmas Jumper Day</b> – please ensure you book your child’s school Christmas lunch by Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> December at the very latest.
Monday 19/12/22 or Tuesday 20/12/22	End of Year class parties. Class teachers will send more information about this event. Thank you to Friends of Highwood who will be contributing £20 towards each class party for small prizes and games.
Wednesday 21/12/22	<b>End of term - school ends at 2.00pm (NO TEA TIME CLUB)</b>
<b>Christmas Holidays Thursday 22/12/22 – Wednesday 4th January 2023</b>	
Thursday 5/1/23	Start of spring term - Welcome back to pupils
Tuesday 10/1/23 and Wednesday 11/1/23	Reception classes screening – School Nursing team in school

Enjoy the rest of the week.

Yours sincerely,

Bindu Rai  
Headteacher