



Highwood Primary School

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Promoting Resilience, Achieving Potential

Co-Headteachers Ms M Green and Mrs D Harte

Friday 6th November 2020

Newsletter 5

Dear parents and carers,

The weather has definitely changed and as the darker, wintry nights draw near, we hope that you will continue to keep our school community cheerful. Thank you to everyone - children, parents and staff - who have helped us to continue to make Highwood a vibrant, learning environment. If your financial situation has changed as a result of the pandemic, we do understand and will always try to pass on information that may be useful. This week, we have attached a flyer with the information about how to apply for Free School Meals as well as providing the link to HertsHelp (<https://www.hertshelp.net/hertshelp.aspx>) who can help with food and other essentials for families.

New Government Guidelines

The second national lockdown started on Thursday and the new government guidelines were released this week. Currently, we are revising our Risk Assessment in order to keep everyone safe. During this time, we have to suspend some of our after school activities in order to minimise contact with others but our aim is to continue to provide Breakfast and Tea Time Clubs, to help our working parents.

Throughout the winter months, we will be continuing to ventilate the classrooms in line with the advice. Research has shown that the risk of Coronavirus transmission is halved in a well ventilated classroom. With this in mind, please ensure that your children are dressed in layers as the weather gets colder (perhaps a vest under their polo shirt!).

Start and end of day

As per the new guidelines, please can we now encourage parents and carers to wear a face covering when dropping off and collecting your child. Please use all of the socially distanced markers and we ask that you collect your child and make your way to the exit gate promptly. It is important that we are keeping entry and exit gates clear so that everyone can stay safe on Bushey Mill Lane and Mead Way.

Unfortunately, we have had a number of complaints from local residents about parents parking over driveways, so yet again we are asking that you park considerately. Hopefully, the staggered start and end times will reduce congestion within the local area.

On that note, please may we remind you that your child should only be dropped off during their designated time slot and that they cannot come into their classrooms early. This gives the teachers enough time to set up their day. If you have older children at a local secondary school, we will be asking them not to use Highwood grounds as a shortcut and to walk around, even if they are meeting you on our site.

School Office

From Monday 9th November, it will be mandatory to wear a face covering when visiting the school office. If there is a family at the counter, please wait outside the doors until the office staff are free. We can only have one person/family in the reception area at one time and we will be trying to keep visitors to the school to a minimum.

Please can you ensure that your children come into school with everything that they need for the day as we are also trying to minimise the number of times our office staff have to leave their bubble to drop items to classes. The updated guidelines also mean that, if a suitable space is not available, any appointments to see members of staff may need to take place virtually over the next half term. As frustrating as this is for all of us in the school community, please be assured that our “virtual door” is always open.

Friends of Highwood

After the success of Spooky Hair Day and Splat The Teacher, the Friends of Highwood are racing towards Christmas with some really exciting new fundraisers on the way!

Highwood's Deals of Christmas has launched and Friends will be sharing a new business every Tuesday and Thursday. Keep an eye out for emails coming from the school office. Friends have also launched the school lottery which is a great chance to raise money for our school and possibly win some for yourself, just in time for Christmas! There are plenty more exciting events being planned so please look at the Friends of Highwood Facebook page for updates. A massive thank you to the Friends of Highwood for all of their support and for being so pro-active in raising money that goes directly towards curriculum enhancements and fun events for your children.

There is lots to look forward to in this half term; we are busy trying to find a way to spread some Christmas cheer even if we cannot have the usual performances this year. Watch this space for more information! As always we are striving to keep school as fun, safe and as normal as possible for all of the children throughout lockdown. We appreciate your support in making this possible.

Have a great weekend!

Ms Green and Mrs Harte
Co-Headteachers