

HIGHFIELD UPDATE Friday September 11th 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Our first week as a fully open school is nearly finished and all I have seen every day are big smiles on the children's faces. I did also see a lot of smiling parents on Monday too! I can't tell you how great it feels to have everyone back in school. Attendance this week has been superb and no parent has kept their child at home for fear of returning to school. One little boy told me Monday was the best day of his life! Safety is my number one priority and all our risk assessments and safety measures are in full place and running very smoothly. The children have got to grips with the new routines extremely well. The staff worked incredibly hard in the holidays to get their classrooms ready for the children. The year group newsletters which were sent out in July certainly helped parents get ready for the new school year. If you have lost yours it is available on the school website in the Curriculum section. It can be found in the year group tab. It is called Autumn Newsletter 2020.

Well done parents for getting your children ready for school. They have been well behaved and happy and the staff are very impressed with how hard they have all worked. Well done also for being on time and following our staggered times. The flow of pedestrian traffic has improved every day this week and I appreciate your patience and understanding.

Just a couple of reminders and answers to questions I have been asked by parents this week:

GATE OPENING TIMES

8.50 KEY STAGE 2 CHILDREN AND ANY PARENT WHO HAS SIBLINGS IN KEY STAGE 1 AND 2 (Children go in to their classrooms at 8.55)

9.00 RECEPTION AND KS1 PARENTS AND CHILDREN (Children go in to their classrooms at 9.05)

3.10 RECEPTION PARENTS

3.15 KEY STAGE 1 PARENTS

3.25 KEY STAGE 2 PARENTS

PLEASE keep walking and do not stop to talk to other parents or staff on the playground. PLEASE follow the one way arrows. No bikes. No scooters.

One parent/other adult only

- No children's birthday boxes of sweets or chocolates this year please.
- A piece of fruit can be sent to school as a morning snack but no health bars etc. just a simple piece of fruit which doesn't need to be in a bag or container.
- We are awaiting the council's decision on swimming lessons for year 4 and will let you know as soon as we know.
- Music tuition starts next Friday 18th September
- Children requiring individual speech and language therapy will resume lessons with Mrs. Wheldale next week under the guidance of the NHS speech therapy service.
- Children with special needs will continue to receive the provision they need as well as support from the local authority if this currently applies.
- We will not be holding any open mornings this year for obvious reasons. Prospective parents will be able to find out about the school by reading all the useful information on the school website.

Highfield COVID Update

We would be extremely lucky as a school community to have no suspected or confirmed cases over the next few months. The number of cases in Leeds is growing but primary schools will remain open in any tier one, two or three local lockdowns. The situation would have to be extremely serious (tier 4) before primary schools would close as they did in March. This week we had a member of staff who was unable to return to school due to a positive result in the summer holidays. They had not been in school since July and so luckily there was no need to close down a class bubble. The Test and Trace system can also cause disruption to our lives and we had a member of staff who had to quarantine this week as a result of Track and Trace. They delivered their lessons to the class (who were supervised by another member of staff) from home using Microsoft Teams. I was very impressed by this remote teaching. We also have a couple of children in quarantine following holidays and a couple in quarantine awaiting test results for their parents and grandparents. We are preparing for a bubble quarantine and will be sending home our new Remote Learning Policy and code of conduct this half term. Please remember to keep your child at home and get them tested if they display any of the COVID symptoms which are:

Main symptoms (from NHS website)

- High temperature – this means they feel hot to touch on the chest or back.
- New, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough it may be worse than usual).
- Loss or change to the sense of smell or taste (anosmia) – this means they have noticed they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

It is essential that all members of the school community engage fully with the NHS Test and Trace process.

- Parents must book a test if their child is showing symptoms on the testing and tracing coronavirus website or by calling NHS 119 if you have problems using the internet.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/get-an-antigen-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/>

- School and parents must provide details of close contacts should the test be positive or if asked by NHS Test and Trace. If the child tests positive they should continue to self-isolate for 10 days from the onset of their symptoms and then return to school only if they do not have symptoms other than cough or loss of smell and taste. This is because a cough or anosmia can last for several weeks once the infection has gone. If they still have a high temperature they should keep self-isolating until their temperature returns to normal. Other members of the household should continue self-isolating for the full 14 days.

Should there be a case of Coronavirus in school, two communications will be sent home. One will be to the bubble affected explaining the quarantine period. The other will be to the rest of the school explaining that they are unaffected and should continue attending as normal.

Please follow the rules and help to keep Highfield children, parents and staff safe.

Julie Colley