

HIGHFIELD UPDATE Friday October 2nd 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

COVID 19 UPDATE

We continue to have children and staff affected by COVID 19 and the testing system this week. Class 5E will be returning to school following their isolation period on Monday 5th October. As you all know, Leeds COVID 19 numbers have been rising and the city now has to follow additional local rules and restrictions in addition to the national rules. If you live in Leeds it is now against the law to have guests in your home or garden or go to someone else's garden or home.

PARENTS EVENING

Your booking window will open today and you will need to make your appointment before Friday 9th October. Your class teacher will then send you a Microsoft Teams invitation to join the meeting. Please remember to RSVP when you receive the invitation. This meeting will be a very important one and you will be able to hear how well your child has settled back in school. Your child's teacher will also be able to let you know about any recovery work planned for your child. They will also be able to check that you understand how our remote learning will be working during the pandemic. Hopefully they will be able to answer any questions you have and, if they can't answer them, they will refer them to me.

THE FRIENDS

Last week I met with members of our Parent Teachers' Association (PTA), The Friends. We had a good discussion and they are really keen to raise money this year to spend on fun curricular events and activities for all year groups. They are busy planning Christmas COVID safe activities so that the children have a memorable Christmas. They are also hoping to raise money for special visiting workshops to replace the school trips we would normally be planning. We already have the Shakespeare drama day booked for year 6 in October and Play in a Day for each year 5. The Friends' bank account is a bit low at the moment as we had to cancel the Auction of Promises and the Summer Fayre. These two events alone normally raise over £5000. Watch this space for their COVID money raising ideas! I am sure you will all want to get behind any event they organise this year.

THE GOVERNORS

The Highfield Governing Body had its first meeting of the school academic year on Tuesday. Ashutosh Paul stood down as chair and our new chairperson is Oliver Thorne. Ash has been an excellent chairperson for three years and has supported me in ensuring Highfield goes from strength to strength. I am looking forward to working with Oliver who will be my sixth chair (How many wives did Henry VIII have?). The governors have approved all our COVID risk assessments. They were incredibly impressed with how well the school year has started, in particular the support from parents in following all the guidance and school rules, the excellent work done by teachers getting prepared for potential remote learning and, most importantly, the fantastic behaviour of all the children.

NEW RECEPTION STARTERS

In such strange times I am pleased to say that all our 60 new reception children have now started school. Their classrooms have been set up beautifully and the Reception staff team has done a wonderful job in making everything COVID safe. The children have settled in really well. I am very impressed with how well the staff and parents are communicating using our new Tapestry digital communication system.

DRIVING AND SCHOOL DROP OFF

Earlier this week a parent reported to the office that they were nearly hit by the driver of a car who had allowed their child to jump out of the car in the middle of Sandringham Green and cross the road to school. I would much rather a child was a minute late to school than hit by a car whilst crossing the road. Our staggered times of the school day have actually reduced the number of cars around the school and have made it far less congested in the mornings and at home time. The weather is now turning and children need warm waterproof coats with hoods or hats. Don't arrive too early for school or you run the risk of getting wet and cold whilst you wait for the gates to open.

Please keep following the guidance (which you are all doing very well indeed) so I can keep Highfield children, parents and staff safe.

ATTACHMENT

Attached to this parent mail is a letter sent to all school parents on behalf of NHS Track and Trace from

Professor Viv Bennett CBE Chief Nurse and Director Maternity and Early Years | Public Health England

Dr Susan Hopkins Interim Chief Medical Officer | NHS Test & Trace Deputy Director | Public Health England
Consultant in Infectious Diseases & Microbiology

Kind regards

Julie Colley