

## HIGHFIELD UPDATE MONDAY JUNE 19<sup>TH</sup> 2020

Dear Parents and carers,

This week we have had 200 children in school which is a marvellous achievement. I was so happy to see our Year 6 children back this week and I know they really enjoyed seeing their teachers and friends. The children continue to respond brilliantly to the new plans and routines and I am very proud of them all.

I am sure many of you have been following the footballer Marcus Rashford lobbying the government for the Free School Meals voucher scheme this week. Mr Singh, our school business manager, will be writing to all our eligible families with an update regarding how vouchers will be issued over the summer holidays.

Tonight I believe Gavin Williamson will be leading the Government Covid briefing and may be giving an update with regards to schools and plans for September. Until we know the Government's plans I cannot say whether we can accommodate all the children in September. Clearly, a reduction in the social distancing measure would give me the capacity to increase the number of children we can have in our classrooms. As soon as I have this information I will let you know. Hopefully this will be soon so that we can plan for all the children returning in the new school year. We have allocated children to their next year's classes and teachers and will include this information in their school reports as we usually do every year. The reports are being e-mailed home to parents the week beginning 6<sup>th</sup> July so, hopefully, by that time I will be able to tell you the plans for September. We are also in the process of writing a robust recovery plan which will start in September. I am in the process of appointing a new higher level teaching assistant to give us more teaching time capacity. Of course, it's not just catching up with spelling or maths gaps; some children will need additional emotional and social support. Safety comes first followed by emotional wellbeing. If children feel safe and happy good academic learning is very likely to follow.

Miss Das is leaving Highfield at the end of this term to work in an international school in Thailand. I am very excited for her as I spent several years teaching overseas and I learned so much from the experience. Miss Das joined Highfield as a newly qualified teacher four years ago. She has become an exceptionally talented teacher and has led the school's Personal, Health and Social Education curriculum. She is also responsible for us achieving the Healthy School award. As well as leading our netball team Miss Das is a brilliant hoola-hooper! She has been at school every day since the lockdown helping to care for our key worker children and then in her Indigo bubble. We wish her well and success in her career. Yesterday I interviewed for her replacement and have appointed Mr. Conor Moran who will be joining the team in September. It was a very strong field of candidates and we are delighted with our choice.

Please can I remind parents to bring children no earlier than 8.50 in the mornings when Mr. Walsh opens the gates. Also, please remember that parents should make an appointment before coming up to the school office. Dinner money should be paid on-line.

Happy Friday, 250 Seesaw Learners!

What a week it's been! Reception have been learning about positional language and describing the position of things using key words like on top of, under and next to. It's been amazing hearing their use of this language!

Year 1 have been using the conjunction 'and'. They have written great sentences about the book 'Oliver's Vegetables.' Year 2 are STILL learning about castles and the work they've completed this week has been AMAZING! They had to read some information and write something they'd learned. Year 3 have been learning about explorers and hidden cities. The writing that has been completed is some of the best I've seen. Special mention to Ben Robinson who couldn't seem to STOP writing! Year 4 have had a very science-y week and have been learning about types of teeth. I've learned so much just from reading their work! Year 5's Maths has been fun this week! They've been learning about line graphs. I've been particularly pleased with Daniel Kay who completes all of his Maths work and it is so clear just how hard he's worked. An important debate has been raging in Year 6. They imagined that the government wanted to give £10 million to the NHS but the money would have to come from education. They had to decide what to do. I was very impressed with Euan Ashurst, who said that they should just both have half each! Very diplomatic!

It's been Fit Week for ALL Highfielders this week and here are the Highfield Fit Week Special Mentions:

Reception – Jack Cole who went out in the fresh air on a bike ride and had a paddle too!

Year 1 – Ella Norris who has been riding her bike ALL over!

Year 2 – Jay Lota who has been exercising with his brother Aman in Year 4. Max Williams-Emmott who went on a 5k bike ride, a walk in the Peaks and ate lots of healthy food! Yum!

Year 3 – Gurjot Bhambra for some incredible dancing – it was a great video. Saanvi Khurana for the straightest handstand I've ever seen!

Year 4 – Lucy Miller who has been practising her netball and basketball skills and scored (almost!) every time. Keep an eye out for this one, Miss Elson – she'll be great on your netball team! Toby Gray and Jacob Hemson for their amazing work on teeth.

Year 5 – Jamie Thomson who wrote about all the things he'd been up to and sent in a great picture of him VERY high up on a mountain. Olivia Nicholson who said she loves playing netball and even enjoys it when it's hard. She's managed to convince her older brother, Seb, to help her keep up with her training!

Year 6 – Toby Teale for going on several bike rides with his family and completing a 3k run!

Well done for a brilliant week, home learners. You are doing really well and I am so proud of you all. Make sure you say a big thank you to people at home too for all of the help and support they're giving you. See you next week!

Julie Colley