

## Highfield Update April 24<sup>th</sup> 2020



Good morning everybody (Good morning Mrs. Colley)

### **Hello Children,**

I hope you are all well and behaving nicely for your parents. I have looked at lots of SEESAW work and activities this week and I am very proud of you all. It's wonderful to see your pictures and read your stories. I have even listened to some of you singing songs for your teachers!

Miss Elson has some exciting news to share with us all. The whole of year 5 entered the BBC 500 word writing competition and I've just seen that **Zara Nixon's** story called 'The future Actress' has made it through to the next round of the competition! They had 135,000 entries and she has made it into the next round of 5000, which is a fantastic achievement! She will now go through to the next round of judging for the final 50. Let's all give a big clap for Zara. (everyone clap very loudly please!)

I hope you like the springtime pictures of Highfield at the top of my letter. I wish you were all here to enjoy the sunshine and play on the school field. Now children, are you all ready to make me happy and sing our springtime song 1..2..3..

**"Now Spring Is Here"** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kvlx-szzqfx>

### **Hello Parents,**

I hope you are all well and keeping safe. We are now coming to the end of our fifth week in this strange new world called lock down. I just want to say well done to you all for coping and managing and caring so well for your children. It's such an unprecedented situation and every family is unique in the situation they find themselves in. The staff are also coping with their own personal and family situations but are all, thank goodness, keeping safe and well. Miss Harrower starts her maternity leave today. I know we all wish her well and look forward to seeing pictures of her new baby due to be born in May.

I know it has been very tough for many of you and I want to send my very best wishes to you and let you know that we miss our Highfield families **very, very** much. I am really pleased that most of you managed to talk to a teacher from your child's year group this week when they called you to say hello this week. The teachers found the calls very emotional and were so pleased that you seemed to find the chance to talk to a teacher a positive experience. We will try to call you again in a few weeks' time. Just remember that your priority at the moment is to keep your children safe and happy. You are not teachers and none of you asked to be teachers or to educate your children from home. You had no choice in the matter. Don't feel guilty if you haven't managed to do anything academic with your child on any particular day. Ask yourself, have I kept my child safe today? Is my child happy today and not scared? What will my child remember about "lockdown" in twenty years' time? What do I want my child to remember about "lock down" in twenty years' time? Schools are closed and only the government can decide when and how they will reopen. Sometimes the media broadcasts reports and hypothesizes about schools and when we might be opening again. As soon as I receive any information from the government you will be the first to know. At the moment I only know as much as you do by watching the government daily

briefings. I am of course thinking about when and how school might open again all the time. Keeping Highfield children and staff safe will always be my number one priority in any future plans regarding the opening of schools.

In the meantime let's feel proud of what we are all doing. Let's continue to feel connected as a school community. There is always someone at the end of the phone in school should any of you wish to call and talk to a member of staff.

### **Other news...**

#### **Reception and Year 1 Phonics on line daily lessons starting Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March**

From Monday you will be able to access for your child in Reception and year 1 daily phonics lesson. All lessons are introduced by celebrities (I wonder who they will be?) which adds an exciting addition to the lessons. The school office has sent a parent mail with the link.

#### **Changes to FSM Eligibility**

A recent update has been posted to the gov.uk website in relation to a temporary extension to free school meals eligibility to include some groups who have no recourse to public funds (NRPF). Full information can be found at [www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance-for-schools](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance-for-schools)

#### **Reading Books**

We are buying some fabulous new reading books for the children for when school opens. We are trying to sort out some of our older reading books over the next few weeks and will put any we no longer need in boxes by the school gate for any parent who could do with some more books at home for the children to read. I will send out a parent mail when the boxes are ready.

Please stay safe and take care everyone.

Mrs. Colley