

## **Highfield Update March 23<sup>rd</sup> 2020**

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your families are well, keeping safe and following the government advice regarding social distancing very seriously. On the front page of our school website our strapline reads:

### **HIGHFIELD PRIMARY...WE ARE MORE THAN JUST A SCHOOL**

Never has that been so true. This is the time when I know the Highfield community of children, parents and teachers will really come together to support each other.

We are caring for 28 children in school today. If you are a key worker, thank you so much for keeping your children safe at home and only and only using the Highfield child care as an emergency. Thank you also for the amazing job you are doing to keep our country safe. The children in school today are happy and settled and we will look after them for you for as long as we can. We have enough staff in school today to do this. Our staff at home who are self-isolating or unable to attend school due to underlying health conditions are also working incredibly hard supporting the team in school. I have never been as proud of my staff team as I am right now.

For our other 422 children at home today: Mrs. Colley and all the Highfield staff would like to say **hello and we miss you!**

Parents please, please, please, don't stress today or over the next few weeks about trying to become some kind of super teacher. Your priority at the moment as a parent is to ensure your child feels safe and happy. I understand how stressful it will be especially as many of you will be trying to work from home, make ends meet, and take care of the children at the same time. The Highfield staff team is dedicated to doing our best for you. Over the next few weeks I have a team of staff who are trying to set up some online learning to start after the Easter holidays. Our aim is to offer some kind of daily maths lessons as well as some regular writing and phonic activities. Please watch this space for more details.

In the meantime, before you try to start teaching the national curriculum, let your child play and relax and get used to being at home. If you can, play with them, bake with them, garden with them, exercise with them and relax with them. There are lots and lots of great things appearing on the internet and TV at the moment to help you. I'm sure many of you are sharing great ideas with each other.

Here are a couple of great on line ideas

Yoga for kids <https://www.youtube.com/user/CosmicKidsYoga>

Daily PE [P.E. With Joe / The Body Coach](#)

One of the most important things you can do for your child's mental and academic well-being over the next few months is read to them. Reading to your child is also incredibly relaxing for us as adults. I was at a head teacher conference a few weeks ago I was told about a piece of research done last year. (I think it was somewhere like Finland or Denmark). A class of children spent 15 weeks without having a single English lesson, no phonics, spelling, grammar, punctuation, writing, reading comprehension. Instead of the English lesson the teacher read to the children for an hour every day. At the end of the research, the children made just as much progress in their English reading tests as the children who had continued to follow the normal taught English curriculum!

### **RAINBOW TIME**

A teaching in a primary school had a great idea on Friday which I want us all to join in with. Across the whole country children are drawing, colouring and painting rainbows to stick on their windows. It's a lovely idea and a message of hope. Please can I ask all the Highfield children to make a rainbow this week and stick it on their windows for us all to see? I'm hoping that as all the teachers drive home each evening this week, we might be able to see some of your rainbows in your windows!

Lots of love to you all

Mrs Colley and the Highfield Staff

Kind regards

Julie Colley