

HIGHFIELD UPDATE Thursday 11th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

This afternoon at 3.30 p.m. those of you who have been home schooling your children will experience the feeling the staff get every half term when we break up for the holidays. It is a feeling of happy exhaustion and a feeling of a job well done and a rest well deserved. Well done home schooling parents! You have been amazing and now all deserve a break from the lessons. I always encourage my staff to give themselves a proper holiday from work to relax and rest. Teaching children is a very intensive job and the holidays are absolutely needed. I also advise my staff to spend time with the people who matter to them. That's not so easy while we are in a lockdown of course but hopefully it won't be too long before we can start seeing all our friends and families again.

As with previous school holidays I have a duty to monitor and notify school contacts of children and staff who test positive in the holidays. You only need to inform me, by e-mail, should your child develop symptoms on the first two days of the holidays, which then results in a positive test for COVID. I will then inform the parents and staff in their class and will ask them to self-isolate for ten days.

Attendance at our 'live' online English and maths lessons continues to be exceptional and I am thrilled with how everyone has been so resilient and kept it all going this half term. Last week 94% of our live lessons were attended by children at home and at school. The teachers have the utmost respect and gratitude for how you have made sure your child is online every morning and ready for lessons. I have particularly enjoyed hearing from the Reception team of how well parents are engaging with the activities and lessons. It is definitely harder with the younger children as much of early years learning cannot be adapted to a screen lesson. Well done Reception parents for juggling home life and lessons so well. Parental support is the biggest factor in a child's educational success and I believe that, when the children return to school, most of them will not need to do any catching up at all because they have been supported so well by this incredible team effort of school staff and parents working together.

I'd like to share a few of the highlights from this half term which have brought a big smile to my face;

Mr Brassil not reading his e-mail that school was closed and walking to school on the first snow day. School was locked but in true Mr. Brassil "never be defeated" mode he then delivered his live lesson from underneath the canopy in a snow storm!

Miss Thackrah's cat "Binx" who seems to star in most of her story time lessons!

Seth Glazzard's roller skating PE lesson in his kitchen!

Isaac Ellison who always tells his teachers their slides are "Cool!"

Year 3 photographs and videos of mummified Barbie dolls and family members!

A certain teacher who tried eating his banana whilst he was still wearing his face visor!

The moment I realised our face visors didn't have windscreen wipers on them!

Reading the thank you e-mails you have sent to my teachers.

Counting the number of Seesaw and Tapestry posts every week. On Monday there were 57,954 posts of children's learning.

Please remember that tomorrow Friday 12th February is a training day and school will be closed. The teachers will be reviewing the children's work and progress and beginning preparations for the reopening of school, possibly on 8th March.

Stay safe and enjoy the half term holiday. Let your children switch off from their school work, get some fresh air (I'll probably see you all at some point walking in Roundhay Park!) and lots and lots of play.

We can do this!

Best wishes

Julie Colley