

HIGHFIELD UPDATE Wednesday 20th January 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope everyone is managing to stay safe and calm as we come to the end of our third national lockdown week. COVID 19 has impacted on our school this week with two staff members testing positive and two class bubbles having to close. Thankfully the numbers of children now attending school each day have reduced from the very high numbers at the start of lockdown. This, of course makes, it safer for us all and helps to reduce the transmission chains. Thank you to every parent, some of whom I have spoken to personally, who are following The Governments change of advice which is to keep your children safe at home if you can. The children in school currently mostly have two parents who are both critical workers and absolutely need school to care for their children. We still have close to 100 children in school every day and 150 children on our critical worker and vulnerable list. You should now be keeping your children at home if you can and I thank you for that support.

On Tuesday I will be sharing with the governing body the fabulous uptake of our remote learning offer. This is true Highfield at its outstanding best. Our teachers are somehow managing to plan and deliver live lessons whilst at the same time looking after the critical worker children who are in the classrooms. Some of you have e-mailed your thanks to me and the staff and it is great to get this type of feedback. Please, if you can find time, send your feedback to me and I will pass it on to your child's teacher. I know how much it is cheering the staff up knowing that the work they are doing planning these daily live lessons, managing the technology and teaching the critical worker children is being positively received. All the Highfield staff want to thank you all for somehow juggling your days, rooms, devices and work commitments in order to ensure your children attend the lessons and post their work on Seesaw. It is really exceptional and, although we are not in the same building as each other at the moment, I feel we have never been closer as a school. Yesterday I heard laughter coming from Mr Potter's classroom and I looked in to see the wonderful Walton family all doing a PE afternoon activity in their living room. It was such a lovely Seesaw video post and I can't tell you how much it cheers us up to see the things you are doing with the children at home.

Many of our staff are parents too and so we totally understand how hard it is for you all and how some days it just won't work. Every day is a new day so forgive yourself if the technology breaks down, the children are driving you up the wall, the Maths is impossible, you have a family crisis, your own work schedule takes over or your family just need to have a cuddle on the sofa. Please don't hesitate to contact school if you need any support. Remember it isn't easy, you didn't choose to home school your children but you are doing a fabulous job and you are helping keep us all safe from the virus.

We can do this!

Best wishes,

Julie Colley