

HIGHFIELD UPDATE Friday 26th March

We are all very much looking forward to seeing all our wonderful children back in school on the 8th March. As we prepare to fully open again, I thought a few reminders would be useful for you. School attendance will be mandatory for all pupils from 8th March. School will look and feel like it did in the autumn term for the children. An updated risk assessment will be available on the school website for you to read next week. Most of the measures for March 8th are ones already in place since September 2020. These include frequent hand washing, enhanced school cleaning, maintaining social distancing between adults and older children where appropriate and the use of classroom “bubbles” which reduces the number of contacts between pupils and staff. One change is that all parents and carers are now asked to wear a face covering when on the school site (unless medically exempt). All staff will also now be wearing face coverings where social distancing cannot be maintained. Please remember that our wonderful Highfield staff, who I know you all greatly appreciate and will want to protect, have not yet been vaccinated. I did have to close down a bubble in the February half term holidays because a child tested positive and so we need to remember that the virus has not disappeared and that only by following all the guidance in school can we reduce the risk of transmission and so move on to the next step in the national roadmap for leaving lockdown.

Reminders and questions you may well be asking:

- From March 8th children will wear their school uniform unless they have a PE day.
- One parent/carer only on the playground. Please remember to socially distance when on the playground or queuing to enter the site
- Follow the one way arrows on the playground
- Keep your child with you at all times and do not allow them to run around the playground or field or socialise with other children
- Keep walking and do not gather with other parents
- No bikes. No scooters.
- No children’s birthday sweets
- A piece of fruit can be sent to school as a morning snack but no health bars etc. just a simple piece of fruit which doesn’t need to be in a bag or container.
- Children requiring individual speech and language therapy will resume lessons with Mrs. Wheldale under the guidance of the NHS speech therapy service.
- Children with special needs will continue to receive the provision they need as well as support from the local authority if this currently applies.
- Best before and after school club will be running as normal from 8th March. The school club will also be offering a play scheme in the first week of the Easter holidays.
- After school extra tuition clubs for KS2 will resume again from March 8th and Mr. Feeley will send e-mail reminders to parents of children involved.
- Swimming classes will restart for children in Year 4 after Easter, each class will have 6 sessions. We will be in touch with dates for each class.
- We are awaiting government guidance to change regarding the Year 6 residential. The deposit has been paid and we remain optimistic but at the moment all the Marrick staff are furloughed.
- Educational visits. The government advises against all educational visits at this time. This advice will be kept under review.
- Music tuition will resume on Fridays, socially distanced and in the school halls.
- Seesaw will continue to be used for homework.
- Reading books will be sent home again as per last term.
- Children will wear their outdoor PE kits (Please wear black/grey/green joggers, white/green T shirt and green (can be the Highfield logo one) jumper/cardigan/hoodie) on their PE days.

- Classes will remain in their “bubbles” throughout the day and at playtimes when they have their own playground areas.
- We intend to begin using the dining hall for hot meal service after Easter. Menu choices will be sent home soon. For the four weeks before Easter we will continue our grab bags (we already know your choices from before Christmas) and will begin using the dining room again starting with our youngest children who need to learn how it works as they have never been in there!
- Parents’ consultation meetings will be held again on Microsoft Teams on 31st March and 1st April and a Parentmail booking invitation will be sent to you in a couple of weeks.

STAGGERED START GATE OPENING TIMES WILL CONTINUE

8.50 KEY STAGE 2 CHILDREN (PARENTS DROP OFF AT THE GATE) AND ANY PARENT WHO HAS SIBLINGS IN KEY STAGE 1 AND 2 (Children go in to their classrooms at 8.55)

9.00 RECEPTION AND KS1 PARENTS AND CHILDREN (Children go in to their classrooms at 9.05)

3.10 RECEPTION PARENTS

3.15 KEY STAGE 1 PARENTS

3.25 KEY STAGE 2 PARENTS

REMEMBER DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL IF THEY OR ANY OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD DEVELOP COVID SYMPTOMS. BOOK A TEST IMMEDIATELY.

- High temperature – this means they feel hot to touch on the chest or back.
- New, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough it may be worse than usual).
- Loss or change to the sense of smell or taste (anosmia) – this means they’ve noticed they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

Please follow the rules and help us continue to keep Highfield children, parents and staff safe.

See you all soon and remember; we can do this!

Julie Colley