

HIGHFIELD UPDATE Friday November 27th 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you parents for your vigilance and commitment to keeping the Highfield community safe in the pandemic. We continue to follow all our procedures and COVID risk assessments diligently. The governing body met this week and were impressed with the work of the staff in keeping the school as safe as possible. They were particularly impressed by our employment of a full time cleaner additional to our usual cleaning team who work in school every day from 9 – 3.30 cleaning all touch points around the school and classroom tables and equipment. They also recognised that school has spent a considerable additional amount of money this year on supply staff, cleaning products, hand sanitiser and, of course, we are expecting our heating bill to be higher this year as we keep the classrooms warm but, at the same time, well ventilated. Our attendance figure this term is a fabulous 97.3 percent and I continue to keep my fingers crossed that our class bubbles stay intact.

Please support our school community of staff and children by keeping your child (and their siblings) at home if they develop any of the COVID symptoms.

- 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.

At this time of year the governors also review our snow and ice procedures. Obviously with COVID we have had to make a couple of changes such as not allowing the whole school to gather together in the school hall if we are short staffed first thing in the morning.

Every effort will be made to ensure school will be open and staff should make every attempt to get to school. School will only close if the site is unsafe and the forecast shows deteriorating conditions.

Mr Walsh will attempt to clear paths to the normal entrances. If this is not feasible due to the severity of snow and ice then just the main hall entrance and new build entrance will be used by all the school. On such mornings during COVID staggered starts parents and children will be directed by staff at the gates to the appropriate entrances and children will not line up but come straight into school. In COVID staggered home times the Year 6 classes will line up on the large playground next to 5B rather than the ball court.

The governors have discussed whether or not to close the Shadwell and Belvedere entrances when it is snowy and icy. They have agreed that this could cause more danger by forcing all parents, children and vehicles to the Sandringham Green entrance. Sandringham Green is not always gritted by the council. It has therefore been decided to keep the Shadwell and Belvedere paths open, to be used by parents at their own discretion as school can only realistically clear and grit paths from the playground gates to the school building.

Many of you will have noticed our local PCSO (Police Community Support Office) patrolling on Sandringham Green over the last few weeks and stopping cars who are illegally parking or stopping on the yellow zigzag lines outside the school. I have asked our PCSO to patrol around the Belvedere entrance as several parents have reported some very dangerous parking on the pavements and street corners.

We are all looking forward to our COVID safe theatre productions for the year group class bubbles on Monday and Tuesday (Oh yes we are...). So far contributions towards the cost of all our Christmas events and activities have been made for 261 children – thank you.

This week Year 5 enjoyed a wonderful day experiencing school life for children evacuated in the 1940s in World War Two



Thank you for your continued support in these challenging times

Julie Colley

