

HIGHFIELD UPDATE Wednesday 6th January 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope everyone is managing to stay safe and calm this week as we begin another national lockdown. It certainly feels like a long week and so much has happened in a matter of two days that anyone whose head isn't spinning is very lucky.

So I am going to go right back to those words I shared with you all back in March and April. The government has called a national lockdown to try and keep us safe. The new strain of the virus is very contagious and if it gets into our school our staff and children are more likely to catch it than the original virus. Despite all our measures the safest place to be is at home. **We are caring for key worker children only when those key workers have to work.** The rest of the time the key workers are keeping their children safe at home. The fewer the number of children in a classroom the safer it will be for everyone. Our priority is to ensure that our children at home receive the same lessons as the children in school. I have made this quite clear to the teachers that this is our priority whilst we are in a lockdown. Please be reassured that your child is receiving the same teacher lessons at home as at school. I have never been more proud of all the Highfield staff than this week watching them deal with the huge amount of administration and changes, preparing remote lessons and slides, whilst coming to work in a national lockdown and keeping themselves and the key worker children as safe as they can. Please think twice before you request things that are not really that important in the grand scheme of things. I have updated our remote learning policy and sent it via ParentMail this afternoon. Please read it; especially the code of conduct and safeguarding section. It is also on the front page of the school website.

You did not ask to home educate your children and most of you are not teachers so I totally understand how stressful this will be for you all. There will be times and days when no learning can take place due to technology, work or family issues. I will not judge you so please don't judge yourself. Ask yourself, is my child safe and happy? When the days run well, technology works and learning takes place and the children post their work for the teachers to see on Seesaw, celebrate and give each other a hug. On the days when home teaching just isn't going to work for you the BBC are offering 3 hours of lessons every morning.

I am going to attempt to record some "Mrs. Colley story times" and post them on Seesaw for the children so that they can see me and know that we are all fabulous Highfielders whether we are sitting in a classroom or sitting at home!

We can do this!

Best wishes

Julie Colley