

## HIGHFIELD UPDATE Friday November 6th 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I can't believe we are here again in a second national lockdown period. However it does seem like years since I wrote to you all in March when we had the first national lockdown. I remember then reassuring you all that keeping our children safe and happy was our main priority. That, of course, continues and I really do see very happy Highfield children in school every day. Highfield, of course, remains open during the national lockdown period and our school lessons (including peripatetic music lessons) and activities continue. This week the Year 6 children are enjoying their "Bikeability" lessons as they would in any other year. I want to reassure you that keeping our children and staff safe continues to be my priority and I continue to follow the national guidance. One aspect in the national guidance for schools concerns ventilation in classrooms. The guidance recommends classroom windows are opened as much as possible to provide good ventilation which reduces the risk of virus transmission. As the weather gets colder we have to balance this with maintaining an appropriate temperature in the classrooms for children to work and learn. I am more than happy for children to wear additional layers in school such as vests, T-shirts, body warmers etc. The teachers will of course open and close the windows throughout the day so the classrooms don't get cold.

The DfE advises balancing the need for increased ventilation with maintaining a comfortable temperature by:

- opening high level windows in preference to low level to reduce draughts
- increasing the ventilation while spaces are unoccupied
- considering allowing additional, suitable indoor items of clothing to be worn during the winter period in addition to the school's current uniform
- rearranging furniture where possible to avoid direct draughts

### Parents' Consultations and Remote Learning

Nearly every parent managed to attend their parent consultation meeting on Monday and last half term. The feedback was very positive about the benefits of the on-line meetings and we shall certainly be looking at keeping online meetings an option for parents in the future. I am sure the same system will be used in March when we have our next parent consultation meetings. If you struggled with the technology this time (I know how it feels!) you have plenty of time to practise ready for the March meetings. Well done 1B parents who all managed to join Mrs. Busch's remote lessons on Tuesday and Wednesday when the 1B class bubble was

closed. I hear the lessons went really well and I know Mrs. Busch worked really hard getting them ready in the holidays so Mrs. Busch is my star of the week! I am sure we will have more bubble closures over the next few months so please read our remote learning policy which is on the front of the school website and explains how lessons will look should your child's class have to close.

### Next Week's Events

On Wednesday 11th November it is Remembrance Day. We will be building a beautiful poppy installation in the school hall and all the children will have a chance to look at it and take part in remembrance activities. We won't be selling poppies in school this year. Next Friday, to support Children In Need we are having a colourful "Rainbow" free dress day and will be holding an outdoor assembly and singing the new Rick Astley song called "Every One of Us". It's very catchy so you may hear the children singing it at home. The proceeds of the song are going to Children In Need. We are not collecting money in school for COVID safety reasons. You can make your own donation to Children in Need should you wish to do so.

### The Friends PTA Quiz Event

On November 20th The Friends are hosting a Highfield Family Online Quiz evening. Please click on the link below to find out more about this exciting and fun event. <https://kwizzbit.com/highfield-school-quiz/>

Thank you to those parents who have already contributed their £10 towards all the Christmas activities we have planned for the children this year.

Thank you parents for your continued positivity and exceptional support during these uncertain times

Julie Colley