



Dear Parents and Carers,

The spring term has got off to a very good start and the children are working hard and enjoying their new topics. Please make sure you check the Curriculum section of the school website for dates, year group newsletters and curriculum information. The Leeds school calendar for 2020 -2021 is available for you to see on the school website. We have set our **five training days** for the next academic year 2020-2021. They are: Monday 2nd November 2020, Monday 4th January 2021, Friday 12th February 2021, Monday 26th and Tuesday 27th July 2021.

Attendance in school is very good and remains over 97%. I am pleased that so many of you do not take your child out of school in term time and support our attendance policy but have noticed more parents taking unauthorised holidays in term time. Children who have no serious medical issues and whose attendance remains persistently below 90% are classed as persistent absentees and may face legal proceedings. Mrs Calvert, our learning mentor, will contact you if your child's attendance falls below 90%. Please remember that as part of DfE rules and policy, I cannot authorise holidays in term time. This includes travelling to visit sick relatives. So many of us have families who live in different towns, cities or countries and continents and so visiting families is not classed as an exceptional circumstance. Many parents who have to travel overseas tag a day or two to an existing school holiday. This avoids a penalty notice fine and is less disruptive than taking your child out of school for full weeks in term time.

Remember safe and appropriate parking and driving near school keeps our children safe. There should be no stopping for any reason on the zigzag lines outside the school gates. There should be no parking on the grass green or in front of residents driveways and no school run parking is allowed at the Shadwell Medical Centre complex. I regularly receive e-mails of complaint from Shadwell medical centre about Highfield parents using their car park at drop off and pick up times. The school council have also been discussing some of the poor driving they have seen around the school. They are even thinking of ways to make parents feel guilty about parking on the zigzags (watch this space...)

Staff News: Miss Harrower is expecting a baby and will be starting her maternity leave after the Easter holidays. I will be appointing a teacher to teach her class for the summer term. We have two new Red Kite teaching students with us from January to June. They are Miss Rimmer working with Mr Potter in year 4 and Miss Hussain working with Mrs Bowker and Mrs Hargrave in Reception.

The Friends continue to support school and have recently paid for all the workshops this term including the Bridge and Sculpture workshop in Years 5 and 6. Our next big event will be Quiz Night on February 7th.

World Book Day - Thursday 5th March 2020

The theme for this year's World Book Day celebrations at Highfield Primary is 'For the love of reading'. With this in mind we are asking the children and staff to come to school in their warmest bed time clothes and bring their favourite / current 'Bed time story' to share and read throughout the day. We will still follow our usual daily routine and the children will still be outside so please ensure they have warm clothes and appropriate footwear.

The 'Friends of Highfield' are supporting our World Book Day celebrations by buying each class a new book – chosen by their teacher- to support the curriculum being taught and to be introduced throughout the week of World Book Day. They are also ensuring that our library has at least one copy of all of the books on our 'Recommended reading list' for Key Stage 2. Thank you for supporting the PTA with their fund raising!

Within in each teaching session throughout the day there will be time for reading – activities will be planned for shared reading and older children reading to the younger children. We will also be writing our own 'whole school stories' where each class has to write part of the story before passing it onto the next class. These will be shared on World book day.

We would like to invite parents of Reception and Key Stage 1 children to 'Stay and read' at 9am on World Book Day. A letter with more information will follow.

Please continue to check the school website for information blogs, newsletters, policies and other useful information. All the other dates for the term, including trips and parents evenings are on the school website school calendar page and the assembly page.

Safer Schools App for parents

This year as part of our School improvement plan we have revisited our on line safety lessons across the school. Governors have visited some of the lessons being taught. The children have responded well to the topics. The scheme of work is available for you to read on the school website in the curriculum, computing section. We have also signed up to a very useful App called SAFER SCHOOLS. The app is approved by Leeds City Council and free to schools. It aims to help entire school communities to better protect themselves in the digital world, through delivering contemporary and relevant safeguarding information to teachers, parents and carers. The staff started using the app last term and we would now like to invite parents to download and use it. The app has a huge amount of information for parents such as information around gaming, use of social media and other aspects of digital safety. There are videos, quizzes and a huge amount of useful information. I know, as a parent myself, it is incredibly difficult to keep up with things! We have set up an account for Highfield parents and instructions will be sent out next week by parent mail.

EU citizens settlement scheme

The UK government reached an agreement with the EU on citizens' rights in 2018 which protects the rights of EU citizens after the UK leaves the EU and enables them to continue to live their lives as present. This also extends to family members. EU citizens and their families will be able to remain in the UK by applying for either settled or pre-settled status through the **EU citizens settlement scheme**. Getting settled (or pre-settled) status means EU citizens can continue to live and work in the UK for as long as they wish. This will mean they are eligible for accessing:

- Public services such as healthcare and schools
- Public funds and pensions
- British citizenship (if they meet the requirements)

There are two main aspects to the application process dependant on length of residency in the UK:

1. To obtain **settled status** EU citizens and their family members will need to show they have lived continuously in the UK for five years.
2. Those with less than five years residence can be granted **pre-settled status** until they have accumulated their five years.

There are some important exemptions to this process. You will not need to apply if you:

- are an Irish citizen
- have indefinite leave to remain in the UK
- have indefinite leave to enter the UK

Family members from outside the UK and Ireland will still need to apply even if you do not need to. Rights for citizens of Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Switzerland are still being negotiated and so this process does not currently apply to citizens from those countries.

Timescales

The scheme will open fully by 30 March 2019. The test phase of the scheme is open now, but you must meet all the requirements to apply.

The deadline for applying will be 30 June 2021, or 31 December 2020 if the UK leaves the EU without a deal.

If you would like further information about the settlement scheme you can find it on the gov.uk website here: <https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families/applying-for-settled-status>

Individuals can also sign up to receive government email alerts directly using the following link: <https://gov.smartwebportal.co.uk/homeoffice/public/webform.asp?id=67&id2=627DF7>