

# Highworth Combined School

Dear all

This is my final message of the academic year... I'm sure I'll hear your cheers from here at school this morning! Whilst I know that this will not be the summer holidays that many of you would wish for, I hope you are able to find some peace and happiness with your families.

Firstly, the summary of the essential information for safe return of all pupils on 1st September is shown below and as an attachment. I strongly recommend, that if possible, you print this out now and stick it on a wall, or maybe the fridge, as a checklist to prepare for that day. I will write to you again on Friday 28th August to provide any last minute updates. **One final additional piece of information: we will be providing all pupils with their own pencil case and stationery so please do not send these in with your child in September.**

On this, the final day of the school year, we hope that you will enjoy some videos and presentations that we have prepared as a small consolation for not being here with us. We think that you will all enjoy them, but we especially hope that they will help create some final happy memories for those children in Year 6. Thank you for all that you have contributed to our school. You will be much missed.

You can find a staff dance, 2 compilations of memories of our Year 6 pupils and a special message as you move on to your new schools using this

link: [https://www.highworth.bucks.sch.uk/web/coronavirus\\_closure/455368](https://www.highworth.bucks.sch.uk/web/coronavirus_closure/455368)

The PE team have added some exciting ideas for fun and fitness during the holidays to the website. They can be found using this

link: [https://www.highworth.bucks.sch.uk/web/sports\\_zone/462506](https://www.highworth.bucks.sch.uk/web/sports_zone/462506)

In the event that you would like to provide some learning opportunities for your children during the holidays, you will find a range of suitable ideas on the website using this

link: [https://www.highworth.bucks.sch.uk/web/summer\\_holiday\\_home\\_learning\\_ideas/373414](https://www.highworth.bucks.sch.uk/web/summer_holiday_home_learning_ideas/373414)

I'd like to pass on this message from David Thomas:

*As we head into the Summer holidays after an extremely challenging term and a half, I would just like to extend my thanks to Clare and her incredible staff for all they have done to support the learning and wellbeing of so*

*many children. My thanks also go to you, parents and carers, for your tireless efforts, patience and understanding as we all adapt to the current circumstances. I wish you all the best for a safe and restful summer. David Thomas, Chair of Governors.*

Well, what a year it has been! Far beyond anything that we could have anticipated, with very many challenges for everyone within our community. Parents and carers, you have my absolute admiration; to juggle the demands of working at home, or caring for family members around the clock, whilst providing home learning must have been incredibly difficult and yet so many of you have found ways to make use of our matrices and send work to teachers. Many of you have taken the time to let us know how much you appreciate our efforts and I would like to let you know how grateful we are for this. Thank you.

The Highworth team has, as ever, risen to the challenge. We have reinvented the way the school operates 3 times now and each time, they have been enthusiastic, understanding and willing to do whatever they can to support children and families. They, like you, have done this with good humour, whilst managing competing demands upon their time and energy. Thank you.

As I reflect upon the time since closure on the 20<sup>th</sup> March, I know that there are decisions I have made, that with hindsight, I would not repeat. I will be taking a break this holiday, but will also be considering how to learn from the mistakes made to do better for your children, and you, as we continue to find a way forward during these challenging times. Whilst I am certain that we will open as planned to all pupils on September 1<sup>st</sup>, I am less certain that we will be able to continue to operate in this way as we move in to winter. We have to be ready to support the continued learning of your children, no matter what the future holds. Once we have welcomed your children back and established another 'new normal', this will be the next focus for the leadership team.

School staff will be taking a break over the holidays and emails will not be responded to until our return at the end of August. Attached to this message, you will find details of other agencies who may be able to provide support whilst we are not available.

More than ever, my love and best wishes

Clare Pankhania

## Parental agreement for safe return to school of all pupils on

1st September 2020

This document has 2 sides. You must read, understand and agree every point before sending your child to school

The safe opening of school is dependent upon avoiding all contact with anyone who is, or could be, infected with coronavirus. The safety of our whole community is dependent on all of us following these rules. They must be followed:

I will never enter any part of the school site if my child or anyone in my household has any of the symptoms of Covid 19

### Symptoms of Coronavirus

- high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
  - 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 your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal
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- My whole household will self-isolate for 14 days if anyone in the household has any of these symptoms, no matter how mild or whatever I think might be the cause
  - I will immediately inform Highworth School if my household needs to self-isolate
  - I will ensure that my child and the members of my household are tested for Coronavirus if necessary. I can use this link to book a test: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>
  - I will immediately inform the school if my child has received a positive test result for Coronavirus
  - I will contact the school before sending my child back if my child or anyone in my household has been ill with Covid 19

In addition, I know that in sending my child to school I am agreeing that everyone in my household will follow every one of these steps. I know that this is essential to ensure the safety of my child, Highworth staff and our community.

- I know that if my child is unable to follow the rules to keep everyone safe, even if supported by staff to do so, I will have to collect them from school

- I know that I should seek medical advice before sending my child to school if they are classed as being clinically extremely vulnerable
- I know that if my child is unable to attend school, I need to email [reception@highworthcombined.co.uk](mailto:reception@highworthcombined.co.uk), giving the following information: child's name and class; likely length of absence; Reason for absence. Please specify whether this is due to:
  - Illness and that this is unrelated to Covid 19
  - Self-isolation due to symptoms of Covid 19, or contact with a positive case
- I know that whilst school staff will encourage social distancing where they can, my child will come in to close contact with other children and adults within their year group bubble
- I will ensure that my child arrives at school within 10 minutes of the start time allocated for their class:
  - Group A: Years R, 1, 3 and 6 start at 8.35am
  - Group B: Years N, 2, 4, 5 start at 8.45am
- If possible, I will walk with my child to school
- If possible, I will allow my Year 6 child to walk to school on their own. If this is not possible, I allow my Year 6 child to walk from the school entrance to their classroom on their own
- I will not allow my Year 6 to walk with friends as they will find it hard to socially distance
- I will use the appropriate entrance to come on to the school site:
  - Year N: use the 'staff only' wooden gate from the car park
  - Year R: use the large metal double gates from the car park
  - Years 1, 2, 3 and 4: use the usual pedestrian entrance
  - Year 5 and 6: use the large metal double gates from the car park
  - All children and parents may use the back entrances to the field, but must remain 2 metres apart from other families at all times
- I will use the same gate to collect my child and arrive promptly at the time allocated for their class:
  - Group A: Years R, 1, 3 and 6 at 3.10pm
  - Group B: Years N, 2, 4, 5 start at 3.20pm

- I will take my child to the external door for their classroom and collect them from the same place (the gates to the quadrangle will be open to allow parents to do this).
- When dropping off and collecting my child, I will stand 2 metres away from the door using the yellow lines in place. I will not go beyond the yellow line
- I understand that my child will need to walk alone, the 2 metres, from me to the adult waiting to receive them and will ensure that if this not possible, that my child returns home with me
- I will only remain upon the school site for enough time to drop off or collect my child and I will ensure that my children and I remain 2 metres away from any other family group for the whole of the time that I am on the site
- I will send my child to school every day with a bottle of water with their name written clearly on it as I know that the school drinking fountains will not be available
- I will send my child to school with their lunchbox if needed
- If my child is in Nursery, I will send them to school with a change of clothes in a named bag
- I will send my child to school in their school uniform, except when they have a PE lesson
- I will send my child to school in their PE kit one day a week, when their class has a PE lesson:
  - o Monday: Year 4 and Year 6; Tuesday: Year 3; Wednesday: Year R and Year 1; Thursday: Year 2; Friday: Year 5
- If my child is having a school packed lunch, I will order it on line before Thursday each week for the following week (for all year groups including Nursery and Reception). I will do this even if my child qualifies for a free school meal.
- I will not send hand sanitiser to school with my child as I know that they will wash their hands many times during the day
- I will ensure that I have given my child any required medication and applied sun protection or lotions before they come to school
- I know that I will not be able to enter the school building unless there is an emergency involving my child or if I have a prearranged meeting. I will use the intercom, the phone or email to communicate

## **First Response**

**0845 4600001 or 01296 383962**

Referrals into social care if you are concerned for the safety or well-being of a child.

## **Social Care**

**01296 382249**

This number takes you direct into social care to speak to the duty social worker should you not be able to make contact with your own social worker.

## **Family Support**

**01296 398242**

Family Action works to tackle some of the most complex and difficult issues facing families today – including financial hardship, mental health problems, social isolation and learning disabilities. Domestic abuse, or substance misuse and alcohol problems.

## **Women's Aid**

**01296 437777**

*Women's Aid* offer support to women & children/young people experiencing domestic violence.

## **Healthy Minds**

**01865 901600 or txt 07798 667169**

**Healthy Minds** is a NHS service offering quick and easy access to talking therapies, practical support and employment advice. Anyone who is feeling depressed, anxious or stressed, is aged 18 or over and has a GP in Buckinghamshire can request help from **Healthy Minds**.

## **Barnardo's Buddies**

**01296 330096**

Every young person who gets help from our CAMHS will have a trained Barnardo's buddy to work with them and offer support throughout their care.

## **Bucks Youth**

**01296 431183**

For children and young people who are currently in care or leaving care and promote their right to be a part of the decision making processes that affect their lives.

## **Young Carers**

**01280 817772**

Are independent charities offering young carers the chance to be young people free from their caring responsibilities through trusted activities, clubs, outings, holidays and one-to-one support.

## **Citizen Advice**

**01296 3283317**

A service with knowledge and information for many concerns and problems.