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| **Highworth Combined School** |
| |  | | --- | | Dear all  There has been much talk in the media again over the weekend about the wider opening of primary schools. The conflicting views and evidence makes this a very anxious and confusing time for us all, but especially you as parents having to consider whether to send your children back to school. I would reiterate that at present, whilst the Government would like to encourage you to send your child back, there are no fines for non-attendance and the school will not be held accountable for absence.  Thank you to all those parents with children in years N, R, 1 and 6, also parents who are critical workers, who have responded to our request for information. The deadline is 4pm today so, if you haven’t yet emailed us, please do so now. The information that we require is at the bottom of this message.  I have explained that I will try to make the communication around this complex issue easier using a ‘little and often’ approach. Sadly this means that you should expect to hear from me every day this week. Sorry! On Friday, I will send out a new parental agreement that will contain everything that you need to know and do if you choose to send your eligible children back to school.          Home learning  o   This will continue in the same format for years 2, 3, 4 and 5  o   There will be 1 matrix a week for years N, R, 1 and 6, along with some suggestions for further independent home learning. This is because teachers will simply not have the time to set and feedback on home learning and teach face to face in class          Uniform  o   We need to ask you to wash the clothes that your child has worn to school at the end of every day in class. This could make sending your child in uniform tricky so children may come to school in their own clothes. We will be doing PE everyday (we know this has huge benefits for physical and mental wellbeing) so your children must come to school in suitable clothes and shoes as they will not be changing into PE kit. We suggest jogging bottoms or jeans and trainers          Resources. One of the hierarchy of measures demanded by the Government guidance on safe opening is that wherever possible, children do not share resources. In addition there is minimal cross over of resources between home and school. This means that the following will have to apply:  o   Children must not bring book bags or rucksacks to school  o   The only items that children may bring to school are a lunch box and water bottle, and if necessary a coat.  This means no footballs and no work completed at home.  o   No reading books or library books will be sent home  o   Children in year R, 1 and 6 will have a named pencil case provided by the school which will remain at school and not be shared  o   Children will have one exercise book in which all work will be recorded  Finally for today, thank you to all those who have sent supportive messages in the last few days. It is much appreciated.  My very best wishes  Clare Pankhania | |