

Highworth Combined School

Dear all

Well, I think we can safely say that Autumn is now with us. Fortunately, it has stayed mostly dry so we are able to continue to get the children outside as much as possible. Despite the drop in temperature, we are continuing to keep the doors and windows open as this is a requirement of Government guidance and essential to minimise transmission of the virus in crowded classrooms. To ensure your children remain comfortable, please may you send them with an additional fleece or hoody that may be worn over their school sweatshirt when needed? As with all clothing coming into school, please make sure that this is named.

Some excellent news to start, Miss Millie Stephenson has joined our teaching team. Millie is completing an induction period before moving into class later this term. I know you will join me in wishing her a very warm welcome. 2 more new recruits will join us after half term: Wendy Mytom who will be our new Parent Support Worker and Claire Nathan who will join our Hearing Impaired Department. I will send more information about how you may get in touch with Wendy once she has started her new job.

At this time of year, I usually enjoy showing a steady stream of prospective parents around Highworth in order to help them decide if is the right school for their pre-school children. You won't be surprised to hear that we are having to do things a little differently this year! We have uploaded a short video tour of the site onto the website and I'm conducting twice weekly Zoom question and answer sessions. If you know anyone considering admission to our school, please let them know that they can find out more by phoning Mrs Bennett or using this link to the website: https://highworth.eschools.co.uk/cms_manage/edit_page/505065

Lots of you have had phone calls from us this week to discuss Remote Learning. Thank you for taking the time to talk to us. As a result, we have been able to identify that for most families, should Remote Learning be required, web based lessons will be the best option. I hope very much that we won't need to use the new systems that we have set up, but we are now ready to continue to support your child's learning from home if we have to. The details of how to use Remote Learning will be sent at the beginning of

next week, and again as soon as your child is effected by absence due to complications of Covid-19.

One of the aspects of school life that I'm sure you're all missing are the wonderful events hosted by our PTA, Highworth Friends. As the person trying to manage the school budget, I'm missing their wonderful financial support for the little extras that make such a difference to our school. Yesterday, we had the first Highworth Friends committee meeting since lockdown and I'm delighted to say that there are some different types of fund raising activities being planned. However, the committee and I are well aware of the impact that Covid-19 has had upon the incomes of many and will be mindful of this in all that we do this year. More information will follow.

As ever, my very best wishes to you and your families for a happy weekend.

Clare Pankhania