

## Highworth Combined School

Dear all

Thank you for the huge generosity you have shown today by sending such a wonderful collection of donations for the One Can Trust. I know how much local families will appreciate them.

The weather is getting cooler, but, in common with every school in the country, we continue to follow Government guidance by having our doors and windows open to provide the ventilation needed to reduce transmission of the virus. I know that you will have understandable concerns about the impact of this upon your children. In order to help keep them warm, our approach to school uniform is going to change. This will be effective from Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November (first day back after half term holiday) until 1<sup>st</sup> April next year. You may choose to send your children to school in one of the following:

- Existing school uniform with additional layers to provide extra warmth (PE kit must still be worn on PE days). Trainers may be worn with uniform
- School PE kit, including jogging bottoms, t-shirt and hoody/fleece with additional layers to provide warmth (on any day of the week)
- Non-uniform jogging bottoms, appropriate t-shirt/long sleeve top and fleece or hoody and trainers with additional layers to provide extra warmth
- Fingerless gloves and hats may be provided and worn in class if needed
- Please name all clothes being worn to school

Please remember that the purpose of this change is to provide you with the flexibility to use clothes you already have to ensure that your child stays as warm as possible. This is not an opportunity for children to wear their favourite outfit to school! It is very important that parents are the ones making the decisions about what is best.

Our staff dress code is also going to be relaxed to allow adults to remain as warm as possible. I hope you will not be offended to find us more casually dressed than usual!

You will know that cases of the virus continue to increase in all areas of the country. Whilst it is pleasing to know that we live in

an area currently at 'medium risk' it is essential we all do everything we can to limit the spread. Please remember to ensure that you and your children remain 2 metres distant from members of other households whenever possible. As we have 10-minute windows in which children can arrive and be collected, there really is no need for you to be waiting in lines or arriving on the site before the start or end time for your child's class. Please try not to form queues; there is space to wait off site on the green opposite the front entrance, or the fields at the back of school. Please help us to do all we can to minimise transmission, protect vulnerable members of the community and keep the school open by maintaining social distancing whenever possible. Your help with this would be very much appreciated. After I wrote this paragraph, I received communication from Simon James, Buckinghamshire Council Service Manager for Education. I have copied his message below to further emphasise how important social distancing is.

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

Clare Pankhania

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### **PTA NEWS**

We're excited to share with you all that our first fundraising event, the Mufti day, raised £400.75. Well done and thank you for your support!

Next week is a busy one!

- Tuesday 20th Oct: Bags2School -Please see separate letter for more info.
- Wednesday 21st Oct: PTA AGM, including Q&A session with Mrs Pankhania. Join us using the link below.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85157709112?pwd=Y2Jnc3NIT3RFaXFUdTVNUVF3ZGtCQT09>

Meeting ID: 851 5770 9112

Passcode: 6L5kTS

- Friday 23rd Oct: Mufti, suggested donation £1. Can we beat £400.75?

*Dear Parents,*

*We would like to thank you all for working with schools across Buckinghamshire to support the return for pupils. We know that all of you are keen to ensure that schools and pupil 'bubbles' remain open and there is a reduced need for pupils to self-isolate. We currently have over a thousand children within the county who are required to stay at home, and like you, we are keen to minimise the impact on pupils and families wherever possible.*

*You can help with this through ensuring that government guidance is applied in your own lives, and especially when you are at or near your child's school site. Please make sure that you maintain appropriate social distances (2 metres/three paces apart) whilst collecting and dropping off your children and that you maintain hand hygiene before and after touching playground gates etc.*

*These simple actions, as well as wearing masks if you need to go inside at any time, will help your child's school to remain open and that children do not have to isolate at home unnecessarily. This message is endorsed by Children's Services and Public Health at Buckinghamshire Council as well as primary, secondary and special school head teachers.*

*Yours sincerely,*

*Simon James – Service Director: Education*