

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
Education Department

Highworth Combined School & Nursery

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Newsletter – 17th January Issue 15

Letters sent home & eSchool messages this week: Music Lessons,

Dear Parents and Carers

Our week got off to a wonderful start with a performance of 'Cinderella' for all pupils from Reception to Year 6. It was an hour of singing, dancing, hilarious acting and full on audience participation very much enjoyed by all. Live theatre is such a valuable experience for our pupils and I am very grateful to those parents who made a contribution to the cost, and also to our PTA who kindly agreed to foot the remainder of the bill. Sadly, these arrangements are necessary as the current level of school funding does not allow us to pay for such activities from the school budget.

My sincere apologies for a major oversight when I wrote last week's newsletter: Mrs Afshan Qureshi, one of our Learning Support Assistants, who had worked here for over 6 years, left us at the end of December to move to a new role nearer to her home. I would like to say a huge thank you to Afshan for all the support she gave so effectively to both children and staff at Highworth. Ms Rebecca King joined us in January to take on some of Afshan's responsibilities and we extend a warm welcome to her.

Thank you to all those Year 6 parents who attended the meetings held this week to give information regarding the tests that will take place in May. Your support in working with us to help your children be ready for these tests, which are important in setting children up for success at secondary school, is much appreciated.

As ever, my best wishes for an enjoyable weekend with your families.

Clare Pankhania

ATTENDANCE

The display board at the front of the school shows each year group's weekly attendance.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE TARGET IS 96%

BEST ATTENDANCE: 100% (CLASS 4TS)

EXCELLENT!

OUR WHOLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE IS

BELOW TARGET AT 95.3%

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

Friday 24th January

Class Assembly 3MP 10.10am

PARENT ZONE

Parenting courses

For information on a variety of courses that offer advice and strategies on parenting, please follow the link:

<https://www.bucksfamilyinfo.org/kb5/buckinghamshire/fsd/advice.page?id=TNNwfojyl4>

These courses are free and provided by the Family Support Service who have a wealth of knowledge around parenting and I highly recommend them.

SEN Transport event

Parent dialogue evening - transport for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities

*This is an opportunity for parents to meet with the Council's Director of Transport, Head of Integrated Transport and Head of Integrated Special Educational Needs & Disabilities to share any concerns, thoughts and ideas you may have as users of Home to School (or College) transport. Together we are working with FACT Bucks, the parent/carers forum in Buckinghamshire, to run these events and we will ensure that all the views and ideas shared are used to support the drive to improve the service for Buckinghamshire's children and young people. **All parent/carers of children and young people from 0-25 years are welcome.***

It will be an informal session where you can be open and honest about your experience thus far. This information is invaluable and will help to shape improvements. Please note this forum will not be used to resolve individual issues, therefore should you have pressing concerns please contact Nichola Beagle, Education Project Manager via

Post16SENcharging@buckscc.gov.uk

Our aim going forward is to have a Parent Dialogue Group meet on a regular basis to hear about how the service is doing, obtain feedback and ideas and to discuss planned and suggested changes. FACT Bucks will continue to provide support with this. Together we can drive improvements for Buckinghamshire's children and young people.

This first meeting will be held [on Monday 27th January 2020, 19.00 – 20.00pm](#) Mezzanine Floor New County Offices, Walton Street, Aylesbury, HP20 1UA

Upon arrival please book in at main reception by [18.50pm](#) as the session will begin promptly.

So we have a rough idea of numbers, if you plan to attend please let us know via the link below <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/parent-dialogue-evening-transport-for-pupils-with-special-educational-needs-disabilities-tickets-87805054281>

Kind regards,

Sarah Smith

Team Leader

Buckinghamshire Special Educational Needs and Disability

Beccy Hatch

Parent Support Worker



Parents As First Teachers Group Meetings

For pre-school families. Free of charge. Children can come & play.



Spring Term 2020!



Thursday 16th January – 2.15 – 3.15pm (drinks from 2pm)

Applying for nursery and finding childcare

How to find and apply for nurseries and childcare. Carol Morgan from Bucks County Council will be here to talk about and answer questions on tax free childcare, funded hours and finding respite or childcare for children with special educational needs.

Community Room, King's Wood School, HP13 7UN

Tuesday 6th February – 2.15-3.15pm (drinks from 2pm)

Behaviour and how to handle it

We all know that children's behaviour can be difficult at times. What are the best things you can do?

Community Room, King's Wood School, HP13 7UN

Thursday 5th March - 2.15-3.15pm (drinks from 2pm)

The importance of books and how to help your child learn to read

It's World Book Day! Make a book with your child and find out about the importance of reading with them. Clare Bridgman an early literacy teacher will explain how children learn to read and how you can help.

Community Room, King's Wood School, HP13 7UN

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