

Highworth Combined School & Nursery

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Newsletter: 11th February 2022 Issue: 20

Letters sent home & e-School messages this week: After School Clubs,

Dear all

Some good news for a change! I believe that we have passed the peak of COVID-19 infections amongst staff and pupils, with many fewer cases being reported to us this week. We will keep the current control measures in place next week to see us through to half term, but will be able to lift some of the restrictions for the return to school on Monday 28th February. I will write with more details next week. Thank you for all that you have done to support us with trying to limit the spread of this horrible virus.

This week was Children's Mental Health Week and on Tuesday it was Safer Internet Day. I've explained before that we teach children about issues such as these all year round, but greater emphasis during national events is helpful too. Mrs Day led a whole school assembly on Children's Mental Health on Wednesday and senior leaders have repeated important messages about internet safety in their assemblies throughout the week.

Excitement is building in Year 5 for our residential trip to Woodrow High House on Tuesday and Wednesday next week. The weather forecast is not great so I think waterproofs will be needed. However, I know a lot of fun will be had regardless.

A reminder to the parent who moved the cones outside school yesterday to park their Audi TT, please don't do this. The cones are there for the safety of your children and their friends.

As ever, my best wishes for a happy weekend

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: 98.3% (CLASS 6S)
WELL DONE

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES THIS WEEK:

Monday 14th February

Aladdin – M & M Productions (Y3)

Tuesday 15th to Wed 16th February

Y5 Residential Trip to Woodrow High House

Monday 21st to Friday 25th February




Half Term Break (school closed)

Monday 28th February

Children return to school

PARENT ZONE

Family Learning courses starting from 7 March 2022* <i>*Unless otherwise stated Mornings-9:30am-11:30am Afternoons-12:30pm-2:30pm</i>	
<p>Welcome to Family Learning Schools courses! We hope that you will join us for one of our fun and informative courses starting in January. Our courses are for parents only and will help you to support your child to make progress at school.</p> <p>Booking is essential. Please click on the links below or contact the Enrolment Team on 01296 383582 For more information contact Kathryn on 07770 641997</p>	
 Reading	<p><u>Reception: Support your child's early reading by creating story sacks</u></p> <p>Free online five-week course for parents with children in Reception Develop your child's early reading. Find out how you can engage your child with books and encourage understanding of stories. Learn how this will help your child at school. At the end of the course you will GET A FREE BOOK to share with our child. Choose from: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday mornings</p>
 Reading	<p><u>Y1&2: Support your child with reading and comprehension</u></p> <p>Free online five-week course for parents with children in Years 1 and 2 Find out what is expected from your child at this age and how they are taught in school. Learn simple, fun activities to help them to progress and reinforce these important skills and understanding. Choose from: Monday afternoons or Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday mornings</p>
 Writing	<p><u>Y3&4: Support your child with writing, grammar and spelling</u></p> <p>Free online five-week course for parents with children in Years 3 and 4 Help support your child with their writing, including spelling, punctuation and grammar. Find out what is expected and how children are taught these essential skills and knowledge. Choose from: Monday 28 February, Tuesday, or Thursday afternoons</p>
 Wellbeing	<p><u>Support your child's well-being KS1</u></p> <p>Free online five-week course for parents and carers with children in Years 1 & 2 Through child-friendly activities, look at practical ideas to help your child cope with change through building their confidence and improving their resilience. Starting Wednesday afternoons</p>
 Wellbeing	<p><u>Support your child's well-being KS2</u></p> <p>Free online five-week course for parents and carers with children in Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 Look at practical ideas to improve your child's well-being. Explore ways to build your child's confidence and self-esteem, improving their resilience, both at home and school. Look at strategies to help them cope with anxiety and stress. Starting Monday afternoons</p>
 Wellbeing	<p><u>Parent and child yoga and mindfulness</u></p> <p>Free online five-week course for parents and carers of Primary school children Give you and your child ideas and activities to allow you to practice mindfulness and look at how to support this and improve relaxation through yoga. Starting Tuesday 4:30pm-5:30pm</p>
 Digital skills	<p><u>Keep your child safe online KS2 and Y7</u></p> <p>Free five-week course for parents and carers with children in KS2 and Y7 Help to keep your child safe and happy when using digital devices. This course will give you useful information about keeping your child safe online and actions you can take. Starting Wednesday mornings</p>

 <p>Imagination</p> <p>Early Years: Story Explorer</p>	<p>Free online or face-to-face five-week course for parents of children from 2–4 years</p> <p>Each week you will share a story online and, using materials found at home, discover how to support your child to explore their senses in activities inspired by the book.</p> <p>Starting Tuesday 1 March mornings online or Wednesday 2 March, 10:00am-12:00pm at Newtown Family Centre face-to-face</p>
 <p>Early Years: Confident Me</p>	<p>Free face-to-face five-week course for parents of children from 2–4 years</p> <p>Find out how you can support your child's confidence and well-being through stories and simple activities at home.</p> <p>Starting Tuesday 1 March, 1:00pm-3:00pm at Southcourt Family Centre</p>
 <p>Volunteering</p> <p>Thinking about Volunteering Workshop</p>	<p>Free online workshop for parents and carers with school age children</p> <p>Are you thinking of going back into the workplace? Discover the skills you have and how they match the skills you need to work as a volunteer. Look at where to find volunteer opportunities and what are the next steps on your journey.</p> <p>Monday 21 March mornings</p>



The chance to connect with like-minded people who have walked in your shoes.

Walking With You is a parent led support group for anyone supporting children and young people, up to the age of 25, experiencing mental health difficulties.

You can take part discussing shared experiences with other parents and carers as well as having **mental health professionals from CAMHs** on-hand to support and answer any questions you may have.

Currently sessions are being ran by Microsoft Teams. you can join or leave as any point (meetings are not recorded).

Our next three sessions are:

Friday January 28th 10-11.30
Parental Communication

Friday February 18th 10-11.30
Supporting Parents with diagnosed Children/Young people – Crisis Management

Friday March 25th 10-11.30
Eating Disorders

If you would like to join our session/s or would like further information, please contact:

Roxy Uritescu,
Participation Lead,
Barnardo's Bucks CAMHs & Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust
at roxana.uritescu@barnardos.org.uk

Please also confirm your consent to use your e-mail address.





Buckinghamshire Family Learning

Learn, simple first aid for
the family including basic
CPR.

Discover hints and
tips using everyday
items from home.

Everyday First Aid

Join our **free**, 2.5 hour workshop with a medical professional
who works for the ambulance service

For parents and carers of children at Primary school in
Buckinghamshire

Thursday 17th February 9.30am – 12.30pm

Highcrest Adult Learning Centre, High Wycombe

To book your place, please click on: [Everyday First Aid - Highcrest ALC, High Wycombe \(adultlearningbc.ac.uk\)](https://adultlearningbc.ac.uk) or call the enrolment team on 01296 383582

For more information text or call Mandy on 07825 862020



First Aid



buckinghamshireadultlearning



BucksAdLearning



adultlearningbc.ac.uk

As at all other times during the pandemic when considering how to manage these implications, we have 2 overriding objectives: to limit the disruption to learning for pupils; keep pupils, families and staff as safe as possible. After discussions with senior leaders, head teacher colleagues, the Co-Chairs of Governors and staff I have decided that these 2 objectives can best be achieved by maintaining a 10-day self-isolation period for staff and pupils (not the 7-day period suggested in some circumstances). This is necessary for the following reasons:

- Classrooms are crowded and social distancing is not possible
- Primary school age children are not required to wear masks
- At Highworth there are a number of children and adults who are at higher risk of serious illness from COVID-19

Remote learning can be provided for children who are isolating, but well enough to complete it.

In addition, please consider completing regular LFD tests (twice weekly) for you and your children

It is also important that you support us with all of the other ways of minimising the spread of COVID-19 as shown on the Parental Agreement below:

Parental agreement for safe return to school of all pupils on 5th January 2022

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 me or my child 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**

Please note that the symptoms of the Omicron variant are often likened to those of a cold. If your child has a cold, there is a more than 50% chance that they actually have COVID-19

- If my child has any of these symptoms, regardless of what I think may have caused them, I will ensure that they take a PCR test. I know that my child will be allowed to return to school once they have received a negative result or, if the test is positive, that they have self-isolated for 10 days
- If my child receives a positive PCR test, I will let the school know and ensure that they self-isolate for 10 days from the start of symptoms (or test date if no symptoms)
- If my child is a contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID 19, I know that government guidance is that they should take a LFD test every day for 7 days, seeking a PCR test if they have a positive result during the 7 days
- I know that if my child develops symptoms of Covid 19 (see above) at school, I will be contacted and asked to collect them immediately. I will take them for a PCR test as soon as possible. I know that my child will be allowed to return to school once they have received a negative result or, if the test is positive, that they have self-isolated for 10 days

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 attend school, I need to email 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 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 ensure that my child is ready to start lessons by arriving between 8.45am and 8.55am. If my child is late, I know that I will need to take them to the main office entrance to the school and that they will be recorded as having arrived late
- If my child is in Nursery, I know that I should take them into the cloakroom, help them hang up their coat etc. and then accompany them into the classroom
- If my child is in Reception, I will wait with them behind the gate to the playground until it opens at 8.40am, when I will walk with them to the classroom door
- If my child is in Years 1 to 4, I will ensure that they are supervised until the gates to the quadrangle open, when I will say goodbye and allow them to walk independently to their classroom
- If my child is in Year 5 or 6, I know that they will be able to walk to the door to their classroom at 8.40am when the gate to the playground opens
- I will collect my child promptly at 3.20pm from the door to the classroom. If I wish my child (years 4 to 6 only) to walk home independently, I will send a letter saying so to their class teacher
- I will send my child to school in their school uniform, except when they have a PE lesson (please see new Uniform guide)

- I will send my child to school in their PE kit one day a week, when their class has a PE lesson:
 - Monday: Year 4 and Year 6; Tuesday: Year 3; Wednesday: Year R and Year 1; Thursday: Year 5; Friday: Year 2
- 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 several 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 will not send my child to school with a pencil case as I know that one will be provided by school



Mrs C. Pankhania
Head Teacher