

# Highworth Combined School

Dear all

We have been experimenting with conducting assemblies in school using Zoom and this week Erica Holt, a frequent visitor to school, joined us from her office to lead a session. As usual, it was much enjoyed by all. I'd like to share with you a couple of the interactions:

Adult: What have you learnt that is new during lockdown?

Child: I learnt that it is too long to be away from school and your friends

Adult: What are you hoping for on your birthday in August?

Child: I'm hoping that the virus will be gone

You cannot beat a child's perspective of the world!

Yesterday, the Department for Education issued its guidance for schools on September opening. I'd like to confirm what I have said in my last 2 updates to you; we are using the guidance to plan for a full time return to school for all pupils. It will take a little time for the Leadership Team, Governors and I to work through the guidance to create a comprehensive risk assessment; I hope it goes without saying that we are giving this our urgent attention so that we can share the plans with you at the earliest opportunity. In the meantime, you can read the guidance here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

Whilst I am confident that all children will return to full time school in September, the events in Leicester this week have demonstrated the difficulties that our country will continue to face for the foreseeable future. It would be remiss of me not to be thinking about, and planning for, the different scenarios that we could experience during the course of the next academic year. In the event of partial or full closure of school, we must be able to provide you and your children with the optimum home learning package. Whilst we have had a lot of positive feedback about the Home Learning Matrices, it may be that other options would be more effective. One of these is the provision of live or recorded lessons which your children access through internet

enabled devices. This will only work if the vast majority of our pupils have access to such devices. To help us decide if this is a viable option for the future, please may you take 2 minutes to complete a short survey of 5 questions? The survey will be live from now until 10pm on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July. Your help would be very much appreciated.

Link to survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/5JSBRFH>

I am delighted to say that the Government has announced that summer holiday childcare provision can go ahead, provided that guidance on safe operating is followed. Please may I remind you that today is the last day for you to express interest in using Highworth After School Club for childcare over the summer holidays? Enquiries should be sent to Marie Petrie at [hasc18@hotmail.com](mailto:hasc18@hotmail.com). Once Marie and her colleagues have been able to establish what provision is available, she will be in touch with parents directly to make the necessary arrangements.

A further reminder that attendance at school will end for most pupils a week today, on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July with Home Learning and Virtual Transition Day taking place during week commencing 13<sup>th</sup> July. These dates are on our school calendar, found here: <https://www.highworth.bucks.sch.uk/web>

My very best wishes to you for an enjoyable weekend

Clare Pankhania