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| **Highworth Combined School** |
| |  | | --- | | Dear all  The Easter Holidays are almost here. There is no doubt that the next 2 weeks will be unlike any school holiday we have previously experienced. There will be no Home Learning set during the holiday period so I hope that this at least will mean you have slightly fewer demands upon your time, and that you and your children will feel that you have had some sort of break. Rest assured (if school closures continue), we will be back to ‘new normal’ operation from Monday 20th April.  There are some important points to note before we enter the 2 week school holiday:   Communication  In order to allow our staff a break, there will be minimal monitoring of emails to the address: [office@highworthcombined.co.uk](mailto:office@highworthcombined.co.uk). Please do not expect an immediate response to your enquiries. We will do our best to deal with urgent requests, but please refer to the attached document if there is an emergency. The Home Learning year group email addresses will not be monitored during this time. You will be relieved to hear that you will not receive ESchools messages from us, unless there is something of an urgent nature that must be communicated.  Emergency Childcare for Key Workers  The school is closed to all pupils during the school holiday period. If you are a Key Worker who requires Emergency Child Care for week commencing 20th April, please email your requirements to: [office@highworthcombined.co.uk](mailto:office@highworthcombined.co.uk) by Thursday 16th April. You will receive confirmation of booked places by the end of Friday 17th April.  Free School Meal Vouchers  It’s becoming more and more apparent that many of you are experiencing considerable hardship as your circumstances change. Please may I draw your attention to the important letter sent out on 1st April regarding Free School Meals. You can find this letter here:  <https://www.highworth.bucks.sch.uk/web/free_school_meals_/468121>  We want to support families as much as we can, but are constrained by Local Authority rules. If you think you have become, or are likely to become eligible for this benefit, please email us the details requested. We will not be able to provide vouchers immediately. There is more information about the process that we have to go through described in the letter.  Staying safe  It is sadly the case that there is a national increase in cases of domestic violence and families in our community will be affected. I therefore feel compelled to pass on the following advice:  *If you are under coronavirus lockdown with an abusive partner dial 999, wait to be connected, press 55 & hang up.*  I have once again added an attachment with details of agencies that you may contact for support. In addition, the Bucks Family Information Service website is being constantly updated:  [https://www.bucksfamilyinfo.org/kb5/buckinghamshire/fsd/home.page](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.bucksfamilyinfo.org%2Fkb5%2Fbuckinghamshire%2Ffsd%2Fhome.page&data=02%7C01%7CHazel.David%40buckinghamshire.gov.uk%7C7bf661d42eba469e495a08d7d59c775b%7C7fb976b99e2848e180861ddabecf82a0%7C0%7C0%7C637212740309160398&sdata=rezXnm7QJiJ51aHRd1l1CwVBle7oNKBteoA2RG2tmSU%3D&reserved=0)  Well Being  This link takes you to a useful document full of ideas and suggestions for how to take care of yourself and your family: <https://felthamcommunity.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Wellbeing-Information-Pack-March-2020.pdf>  On a lighter note  Today would usually be a time when the whole school comes together for our Easter Assembly. My favourite part is when we sing an old Highworth favourite: Spring Chicken. It’s not the same, but here is a reminder: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1mi0dN5a_r8&safe=active>  My hopes and wishes go out to you all for a little peace and a few moments of happiness. Please stay safe.  Clare Pankhania | |
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**USEFUL NUMBERS**

**First Response**

**0845 4600001 or 01296 383962**

Referrals into social care if you are concerned for the safety or well-being of a child.

**Social Care**

**01296 382249**

This number takes you direct into social care to speak to the duty social worker should you not be able to make contact with your own social worker.

**Family Support**

**01296 398242**

Family Action works to tackle some of the most complex and difficult issues facing families today – including financial hardship, mental health problems, social isolation and learning disabilities. Domestic abuse, or substance misuse and alcohol problems.

**Women’s Aid**

**01296 437777**

Women's Aid offer support to women & children/young people experiencing domestic violence.

**Healthy Minds**

**01865 901600 or txt 07798 667169**

**Healthy Minds** is a NHS service offering quick and easy access to talking therapies, practical support and employment advice. Anyone who is feeling depressed, anxious or stressed, is aged 18 or over and has a GP in Buckinghamshire can request help from **Healthy Minds**.

**Barnardo’s Buddies**

**01296 330096**

Every young person who gets help from our CAMHS will have a trained Barnardo’s buddy to work with them and offer support throughout their care.

**Bucks Youth**

**01296 431183**

For children and young people who are currently in care or leaving care and promote their right to be a part of the decision making processes that affect their lives.

**Young Carers**

**01280 817772**

Are independent charities offering young carers the chance to be young people free from their caring responsibilities through trusted activities, clubs, outings, holidays and one-to-one support.

**Citizen Advice**

**01296 3283317**

A service with knowledge and information for many concerns and problems.