

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
Education Department

Highworth Combined School & Nursery

HIGHWORTH CLOSE HIGH WYCOMBE BUCKS. HP13 7PH

Tel. (01494) 525534

Email office@highworthcombined.co.uk



Newsletter: 10th December 2021 Issue: 13

Letters sent home & e-School messages this week: After School Sports Club letters (Y1-Y6),
D&T Topic – Making Sandwiches (Y3)

Dear All

Firstly, I need to share some worrying news from a local resident. On Thursday this week, a grey VW hatchback car driving very fast along the cut through from Totteridge Lane to Highworth Close, almost collided with a child. A serious accident was only narrowly avoided. The resident ran after the car which did not stop to drop off the child sat in the back at school, presumably because the male driver knew that he was being chased. I have given these details so that if this was you driving too fast on a narrow residential road, you realise the danger you created, but also so that others are alerted. The resident has also contacted the Police.

Thank you to all who attended our performances this week. I think we have been fortunate with the weather considering the time of year, with just the Year 2 performance having to be postponed until later today. The playground shelter has doubled up really well as a stable and it has been wonderful to have you safely visit us at last. Your smiles and obvious pride in your children have made all the rehearsals and hard work in preparing well worthwhile.

Although we can't invite you in to see, the school is looking very festive. This link to the website will take you to some photos of our displays:

https://www.highworth.bucks.sch.uk/web/christmas_displays_hoops/586708

As we near the end of the term, I need to let you know of some changes to the staff team: Congratulations to Miss Stephenson and Mrs Lawrence, teachers in Year 1, and Mrs Osman, Communicator in Reception, who are temporarily leaving us to start Maternity Leave. We send good wishes to them and their families. Sadly, Reception teacher Miss Cottee's working visa expires and she has to return to Australia. Our loss is her family's gain and we send good wishes for a safe return. Last but not least, Mrs Brain, Key Worker in Reception is leaving to support family members. She will be much missed. Joining us in January are Mrs Milner, returning from Maternity Leave to teach in Year 1, and Mrs Alford and Miss Clearwater who will be teachers in Reception. We look forward to warmly welcoming them in the new year.

Finally, thank you for your support of Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day. Look out for the video of us all dancing coming to the website very soon!

As ever, my very 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: 100% (CLASS 5K)

EXCELLENT!

OUR WHOLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

BELOW TARGET AT 92.6%

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES THIS WEEK:

Wednesday 15th December:

Christmas Fayre & Mufti Day - £2 donation

Thursday 16th December:

Class Christmas Parties

Friday 17th December:

End of Term: School finishes at **2.15pm**

PARENT ZONE

PTA

We hope you're all looking forward to the festive break! In the meantime, we will be running a small Christmas Fayre for the children to attend during their school day next Wednesday 15th December. We are also taking the opportunity to have this as a mufti day for everyone.

We'd like to ask for a **£2** donation for the Fayre and mufti combined. Whilst it won't be the full Christmas Fayre we'd love to have, every child will be able to participate in some festive games.

Thank you all for your continued support and to the Highworth Friends PTA committee for your time and effort this year. Here's to a more normal 2022 with lots of fun and events for us and the children!



Buckinghamshire Community Award:

- ★ Best Adult Contribution
- ★ Best Young Person Contribution
- ★ Best Community Group Contribution



**Buckinghamshire
Council**



Nominations are open!

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The nomination window for Buckinghamshire Council's Proud of Bucks Community Awards 2021 closes soon – but more nominations are needed!

The Proud of Bucks Awards, generously sponsored by The Clare Foundation, are a fantastic way to celebrate all those who have gone above and beyond in their local community. The awards aim to shine a local light on adults, young people and community groups that deserve recognition for their contribution within Buckinghamshire's amazing communities. There's already been some incredible nominations through, but more are needed – particularly for the young person category.

With the deadline for this year's Proud of Bucks Awards nominations fast approaching, please consider submitting your own nomination for a young person who deserves recognition and praise for going the extra mile in your local community, and encourage friends and family to share their nominations too.

Deadline for nominations is **31 December**.

For more information, including how to submit your nomination please take a look at the Proud of Bucks Community Awards webpage:

<https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/community-and-safety/proud-of-bucks-awards/>



Many thanks and kind regards,

Proud of Bucks Awards Team

Buckinghamshire Council

awards@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Information for Parents

COVID-19 Testing

Twice weekly testing using Lateral Flow Devices (LFDs) remains recommended for the families of school-aged children. These are available for free, see this link to order: [Order coronavirus \(COVID-19\) rapid lateral flow tests - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-covid-19-rapid-lateral-flow-tests)

This helps to identify if you or your child is infected so that others in the school and wider community can be protected. Please note that this type of testing is only for people without symptoms of COVID-19 and if you test positive, you need to self-isolate and arrange for a free confirmatory PCR test via this link:

[Get a free PCR test to check if you have coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/get-a-free-pcr-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus-covid-19)

COVID-19 Vaccination

People aged 16 and over, including adults, can book a vaccination appointment through the National Booking System or attend a walk-in clinic:

- [Book or manage a 1st or 2nd dose of the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccination - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)
- [Find a walk-in coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccination site - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

Severe illness and death from COVID-19 infection are more likely with increasing age. Therefore, adults are more vulnerable than children and it is important that you are vaccinated as well as any of your eligible children to protect your and your family's health.

If you are eligible for a COVID-19 booster vaccination (people aged 50 and over, or anyone aged 16 and over with a high-risk health condition) then you can book an appointment to have it [here](#), although please note that it must be at least 6 months since your second dose of the vaccine. This will help to top-up your protection against COVID during the Winter months.

Flu and other winter viruses

As we move into winter, other viruses may start to spread, causing flu and colds. The symptoms from these infections can be similar to those of COVID-19.

It is important to get a free PCR test for COVID-19 first if you or your child develops any of the following: a new continuous cough; a raised temperature; a change in taste or smell. If this test is negative, it is still important to continue testing twice-weekly using LFDs as you or your child might go on to become infected with COVID-19 later.

People who are eligible, including children aged 2-15 years old and anyone between the ages of 6 months and 50 years old who is clinically vulnerable can have a free NHS flu vaccine this year, which is the best way of protecting ourselves and those around.