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| **Highworth Combined School** |
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|  Dear all I’m very much aware that parents and staff continue to be confronted with significant difficulties as the situation in which we all find ourselves goes on… and on. I would not seek to belittle these challenges, but I am pleased to say that we have had a productive and enjoyable week at school. The inevitable small problems that occurred following (another) big change to our method of operation have been ironed out and it continues to be a joy to see happy children returning to school. A big thank you to Mrs Sturgeon, Mr Bailey and Mr Hawkes for their work on our virtual sports day this week. I know they have received photographs, videos and score sheets so a big thank you to all of you for joining in. Certificates will be on their way shortly. Watch out for news on more virtual events as we get closer to the end of the year. They’re not the same as the real thing, but we hope they will give you some sense of connection with our wonderful school community.You will know by now that we hope to promote these essential connections for your children and for you by making phone calls home over the 2 week period starting on Monday. We hope you find these useful and enjoyable. More details were sent in a message yesterday and are posted on the website.Whilst we (eagerly) await some form of guidance on how schools will operate in September, the team and I continue to make plans for a number of different scenarios. If allowed, we will find a way to have all the children back at the earliest possible time (even though it is likely, if the situation with the virus remains largely unchanged, this will involve some form of part time school) and so we have been thinking hard about how to help your children prepare to move classes. As I explained last week, all children will spend at least their first day back with their existing class and teacher, but we would like to help prepare them for the change ahead before the Summer Holiday. To this end, there will be a virtual transition day on Wednesday 15th July. More information about this will follow under separate cover and nearer the time. A reminder that your child’s annual written report will be sent out by post next week. An important covering letter explains the context of the reports this year and explains how we will replace the usual optional summer term meetings with teachers.Also, a reminder that Highworth After School Club are interested to see whether opening this summer holidays is a viable option. I repeat the information sent last week below, and add that they need to hear from you by the 3rd July: *Highworth After School Club are considering the possibility of opening to a small number of Highworth pupils during this time. Clearly, we can only go ahead if there are a sufficient number of families interested in using this provision and so we are writing to ask you to let us know if this would be helpful to you. The details follow:**·         Open for 4 weeks from Monday 20th July**·         Small groups to allow for social distancing wherever possible**·         Fee payable to HASC , charges TBA**·         Available from 8am to 5pm, Monday to Friday**·         Club is run in the ‘Scout Hut’ on Highworth site, but is independent of the school**·     If there is sufficient interest to warrant opening, further details will be sent to those families who have responded.**If you would be interested in making use of this facility, please email Marie Petrie and Rebecca Farrell at:**hasc18@hotmail.com**Please provide your name, the name and ages of your child/ren, and days and hours that childcare is required.*I must tell you at this point that current Government guidance is that holiday clubs cannot operate, even if, like HASC, they are Ofsted registered. We hope that this will change between now and the end of term, but please take account of this; there maybe demand, but regulations may not permit opening. HASC and I will keep you informed.As ever, my very best wishes for an enjoyable weekendClare Pankhania  |

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