

Highwoods Community Primary School Newsletter Summer 2

Follow us on Twitter @hcpscolchester or our website is <http://highwoodsprimary.co.uk/>

Follow our PTA on Facebook at <https://engb.facebook.com/HighwoodsPTA/>



Highwoods Community Primary School 'Learning for Life'



Dear Parents and Carers,

We approach the last month in school- it is an incredibly busy time and we have added new dates for transition and end of term events, so please check the list at the end of this newsletter.

It is with great regret that we had our first closure of a class due to COVID19. While it was almost inevitable it would happen at some point, it still comes as a shock and is incredibly frustrating. I want to thank all the staff for their professionalism in handling this delicate situation and keeping everyone calm. I would also like to thank our parents for their measured and sympathetic response, even under such short notice and pressure. The children who were sent home were amazing - so sensible and mature, and a credit to our school and their parents. We have moved to a remote learning offer for these children so they will have live sessions with their teacher and tasks set online. I want to reassure everyone that we continue to follow the latest advice from Public Health England and the Department for Education, and that the school has undergone deep cleaning. Our bubbles continue to be separate, which limits any spread, and staff continue to do lateral flow tests twice a week.

Our parent survey results are in, and we are delighted with the response from nearly 300 families. The headline data is as follows:

98% of our community would recommend the school

99% of the responses felt that their children were safe

98% of the community felt that behaviour was good or outstanding

99% of our EAL community felt part of the school

90% of families felt that they were well supported during the lockdowns

93% of our parents said children were recognised for good behaviour

94% of parents said that issues with behaviour were dealt with efficiently

98% of parents said that their child enjoyed being in school.

Finally, it is with great sadness that we announce that Miss Orr will be leaving us. Miss Orr is relocating to Northern Ireland and we share her joy at a recent engagement. Miss Orr will be a huge loss to our school - she is not only a fabulous teacher, but an incredibly positive, kind and popular member of the team. We wish her all the best and happiness. Miss Orr is being replaced by Mrs Bedford, an equally brilliant teacher who returns to Highwoods after a 5 year absence. We are delighted to be able to recruit such an experienced and talented teacher to help our school continue to thrive.

Mr Disley
Headteacher

Forest School Fun!

We are so excited about the new Forest School site on our grounds. We have worked hard to create a second site that supports mindfulness and relaxation - it has a pond, long grass, hammocks, fire pit and mud kitchens. It is built to encourage wildlife and we have recently seen ducks move in to keep the squirrels, newts and fish company.

A massive thank you Mrs Bulman, a parent in our school, who has used her contacts at Beth Chatto Gardens to help us stock the pond and area with plants. This was incredibly generous and has made a huge difference to the site. Check out our Twitter Page for even more photos.



Highwoods CP School @HCPSColchester · Jun 3



We are so excited for our new Forest school area! A site dedicated for mindfulness and relaxation, as well as nature. The new pond is teeming with life and now has fish too! @Muddyfaces @MsD_HighwoodsCP @MsB07302320 @mariekekaka @ForestSchoolFun @EssexWildlife @ForestSchoolUK



Swimming Superstar!

Huge congratulations to George S in Year 6 who has been selected for the regional swimming team! This is fantastic recognition for a great deal of hard work and commitment.

Well done George. We are super proud of you.



With great sadness, due to the Government extending restrictions for COVID 19, we are unable to host our summer fair. This has been postponed to the autumn term where we will review the situation again.

Uniform

We have seen great success at recycling and redistributing unwanted uniform this year. We have given away hundreds of items which have saved money for so many of our families. As we approach the end of the term, we will again leave all spare uniform out for families to help themselves - this is for all families. The dates for this will be released on PING, as we check weather forecasts to get a few sunny days in a row! If families are keen to offload unwanted uniform that children have outgrown, we will accept this but ask that it is washed and labelled with the size. Rather than have hundreds of items turn up over the next week, we will again release suitable dates to drop old uniform off.

As we approach the autumn term, we stress that if any family is struggling to get hold of uniform or pay for this, please contact us through the office@highwoodsprimary.com email and we can help.

Out and About!

It has been great to see pupils getting back out with school trips. We have seen Year 4 and 5 visit Warner Brothers Studios, Year 5 at Harwich to explore photography, Year 1 at the park and visiting the beach, Year 4 at Dedham Vale, as well as having special guests into school in Year 2 with the Great Fire of London day. A huge thank you to all the parents and grandparents that have helped make the trips, activities and visits possible, and your kind feedback about the excellent behaviour and attitude of the children has been lovely to receive. A special mention to the Year 4 and 5 children who visited the Harry Potter studio tour recently, where members of the public got in touch with us to praise the children for their manners and behaviour.



Highwoods CP School @HCPScolchester · Jun 12



Thank you for saying that! So kind ❤️ They are rather fab! X



Jo Gray ★ @Jo_c_gray · Jun 12

Replying to @Miss_SH_teacher @wbtourlondon and @HCPScolchester

We picnicked at the same time as your children. They were so well behaved! 🙌



Key Dates and Contact Emails:

School office and admin:

office@highwoodsprimary.com

admin@highwoodsprimary.com

Year Group Emails to Contact Teachers:

foundation@highwoodsprimary.com

year1@highwoodsprimary.com

year2@highwoodsprimary.com

year3@highwoodsprimary.com

year4@highwoodsprimary.com

year5@highwoodsprimary.com

year6@highwoodsprimary.com

senco@highwoodsprimary.com

29th June 2021 Individual photos

5th Individual photographs for children who isolated due to COVID19 and sibling photographs for whole school

6th July 'Move up' morning for Highwoods (children meet new teacher)

8th July 2021 1:45-2:40 Year 1 Sports day (Mrs Corton's class)

9th July 2021 1:45-2:40 Year 1 sports day (Mrs Robert's class)

9th July End of Year Reports out to parents.

13th July 2021 1:45-2:40 Foundation Stage Sports Day (Miss Haughey's class)

Thursday 15th Year 6 Bowling trip and picnic

Thursday 15th 1:45- 2:40 Foundation Stage Sports Day (Miss Leeworthy's class)

Friday 16th July 2021 Year 6 Leavers Event.

21st July 2021 Last day of term

1st September 2021 Non pupil day

2nd September 2021 All pupils return to school

6th September New Foundation Stage start full time