

Highwoods Community Primary School Newsletter Autumn 2

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Highwoods Community Primary School 'Learning for Life'



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our second newsletter of the term. We are really pleased with the way children have embraced school after half term- they definitely needed a well-earned break but we are quickly back up and running with the learning this week. Next week we have parent evenings- they are spread over 3 days and parents have 15 minute appointments. We have deliberately done this for two reasons. Firstly, this will significantly reduce congestion and waiting times for parents while in school, and secondly, there is so much to share that 10 minutes will not be enough. We are really looking forward to having parents into school. While in school, it is the parents choice as to whether face masks are worn or not; this also applies to staff. We will be encouraging social distancing by spacing out seating in the corridor and in the classroom. Hand gels will be available on entering and leaving school site, and if anyone has any symptoms, then please do not attend and follow the latest government guidance for testing and isolating. We do want to stress that if any family cannot make an appointment due to COVID, we will make sure this is rearranged for you as soon as possible. Due to COVID, sadly we are unable to run a crèche this time for families while parents evening is running. Hopefully this will return in the future.

We have had lots of visitors over the last few weeks- prospective parents have been in to view the school as they consider places for their child next year. For parents in Year 1 and Foundation stage, who have already chosen us as their school but did not get the chance to look around last year, we would like to offer the opportunity for you to see the whole of our school. We are going to PING parents in these year groups with 3 possible dates to come and view the school, have a tour with some of our pupils, plus a chance to talk to senior leaders. We have also had governors into the school, spending time in classes, talking with pupils and observing how the school runs- it has been fantastic to have our governors back in the building!

Finally, on a personal level, I would like to thank parents and staff for their kind words regarding the passing of my mum. She was an inspiration to me and incredibly proud that I went into teaching- thank you for the warmth and kindness shown by everyone at this difficult time- it has meant a lot.

Mr Disley

Headteacher

Reading Ambassadors

Our Year 5 and 6 reading ambassadors spent the day visiting the local book shop, selecting books for the library and then going for a delicious hot chocolate! These books, all recommended by the ambassadors, are now in our junior library. Our Year 4 ambassadors are visiting the book shop this term too.



Christmas Performances

We are working hard to find a safe way to celebrate Christmas and the nativity shows. Understandably, we are concerned about the capacity for the school to rehearse and then perform a number of shows, which could impact COVID numbers significantly just before the festive break. The last thing we want to do is to put children, families and staff at risk, just before the end of term.

It is likely that Foundation Stage will be doing their own songs and nativity, then performing this to parents over a few days. It is also likely that Year 1 and 2 will perform some festive songs and take part in their own separate performance to parents. It is unlikely that juniors will be performing this year, although there will still be festive singing assemblies for them to enjoy. All of this is dependent on COVID numbers and our risk assessment, which is still adapting in light of weekly guidance from Essex County Council. Christmas events will be confirmed in the next week.

We will still be running Christmas dinners for all pupils, with the cost being fully subsidised by the school. Two year groups will eat together in the hall, meaning children have lots of space and time to enjoy their lunch. It was a great success last year. Christmas dinners will be on the 14th, 15th and 16th December and a PING to order a dinner will be sent nearer the time.

As last year, children will be able to wear festive jumpers and tops for the last 4 days of school, from Tuesday 14th to Friday 17th December. A donation is not needed for this.

Great to have Sophie Anderson, an award winning author, meet our Year 5 children. Follow us on Twitter @HCPScolchester to find out more about what we get up to in school, especially our Forest school fun!



Highwoods CP School @HCPScolchester · Oct 21

Love this. Amazing to have the brilliant @sophieinspace video call our Year 5 children today. 'The House with Chicken Legs' is one of the very best books out there. ❤️



Miss Halls @Miss_SH_teacher · Oct 21

AMAZING video call for our Y5s today with @sophieinspace Our children had prepared some brilliant questions and it was fantastic to hear Sophie answer each one so eloquently and insightfully. The House With Chicken Legs remains such a popular book with us at @HCPScolchester



Highwoods CP School @HCPScolchester · Oct 11

This is what we are about at Highwoods ❤️



Marieke Hooker @mariekekaka · Oct 11

Fire day for year 3 today. Conker art, swings, s'mores and popcorn. Every day should be a forest schools day ❤️ @MsB07302320 @HCPScolchester



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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

November 5th- PTA event. Bright Jumper/sparkly tops day (50p donation)

November 9th, 10th and 11th Parents evening

November 12th Non pupil day

December 17th- Last day of term

Tuesday 4th and 5th January 2022 Non-pupil days

Tuesday 6th January 2022 Children return to school