



Highters Heath Community School

Highters Heath Lane, Kings Heath, Birmingham B14 4LY

Telephone 0121 464 2459 or 0121 464 2014

Email: office@hightersheath.co.uk | Web: www.hightersheath.co.uk

Headteacher: Mr B Doherty B.Ed (Hons) Deputy Headteacher: Mrs E Mudge Ba (Hons) PGCE

16/07/2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I think I can safely say that this last year or so has been the most difficult time I can ever remember, and I know it has been the same for many of our families. At least we seem to be finally coming to a more normal time, even though for the moment, rates of infection are still quite high. We all still need to keep our guard up to ensure we stay safe while restrictions ease and we get back to some normality.

There is a lot of information in this letter, but I would ask that you read it thoroughly as much of it will affect you and your child/ren. Please keep this information safe for your future reference.

Wednesday 21st July

Although the government are easing restrictions from 19th July, we are not making many changes in school until after the holiday, however, the way we dismiss the children at 1pm on Wednesday will be different. When you come to collect your child/ren, you will see that all gates around the school will be open again for the first time since March 2020. This means the one-way system around the outside the building will no longer be in effect. Children will all be leaving school (with care) at 1pm. Reception and key stage 1 parents should come to the infant playground and look out for your child's teacher. Your child will be released to you from there. Key stage 2 parents should come to the key stage 2 playground and all children will be released to you from the usual door.

In order for us to be able to release children at 1pm, (while keeping safety in mind during this transition) it will not be possible to supply hot dinners on that day. Therefore, children who receive free school meals will be given a packed lunch, which they will eat in school before leaving. Parents who usually pay for school meals, or send children in with packed lunches, should all either send in packed lunches or pay for a school packed lunch in the office.

Gold Book assembly will happen on Wednesday morning, virtually online with each of the bubbles in their own classrooms. Names of the recipients will be posted on the usual social media and on our website.

There will be no toy day this term (as we still want to eliminate as many risks as possible), and we will review toy day for future terms later.

Staff List for September

Reception- Mrs Wright (formerly Miss Hardwick) & Mrs Johnson

Year 1- Mr Kelly & Mrs Sidwell-Brittle

Year 2- Mrs Wilson & Mrs Schauker

Year 3- Mr Ricketts & Mrs McGarry/Mrs Pugh

Year 4- Miss Pearson & Mrs Bramley/Mrs Worden-Fitzpatrick

Year 5- Mrs Cooke (formerly Miss Brown) & Mrs Trevis

Year 6- Miss Gould, Mrs Wright & Mrs Hussein

September 2021

Children will be back in school on Monday 6th September.

Staggered starts and ends to the day will no longer be required from September. Therefore, to allow for a steadier (and less busy) start to the day, we will be opening the doors for longer. They will open at 8.45am



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each morning, register will be at 8.55, and doors will close at 9.00. Children arriving after 9.00 will be late and will need to come through the front office to sign in. If your child is late, please escort them into the building to help them to sign in.

During the course of the pandemic, one or two things that we were all very good at beforehand, have slipped slightly, and we need to address them.

Attendance

Since coming back in March, the attendance of some children has fallen. Sometimes this has been due to concerns around the pandemic, and this has been understandable. However, some of it has been due to families taking time off to go on holidays or days away. Children have had to be at home for such a lot of time over the last 16 months that attendance is more crucial now than ever before. Even if a child has been in school every day that school has been open since March last year, they have missed 125 days of school! We are trying really hard to help the children catch up on lost learning, but for this to be successful, they need to be **in school, on time, every day.** Therefore, unless your child is too ill to be in school, please ensure they are here **every day.**

Uniform

Please check the website for uniform expectations. I would like to draw your attention to the fact that PE kits are plain white tee shirts, black shorts (or tracksuit bottoms) and black pumps. There should be no reason for children to wear any clothing other than this for PE. These items of clothing can be purchased quite cheaply at Sainsbury's, Tesco etc. If you wish to discuss this, please let me know. From September, children will be once again asked to bring their PE kits into school on their PE days and change here. It is also important to note that items of jewellery such as rings, necklaces, bracelets etc. should not be worn to school.

Playtime snacks

To ensure your child has the best chances to learn, please make sure they only bring healthy food for their playtime snack. This could be fruit, carrots, cheese strings or anything else that has low sugar and salt content. Biscuits, cereal bars, sweets and chocolate are not appropriate, and they should not bring them in.

It just remains for me to say that, as always I have appreciated your support hugely over the "Covid Days" and let's hope the worst is behind us. As a community we have all done so well throughout all of this, making sure we have kept everybody, particularly the children, safe and happy. I think we all looking forward to getting back to normal now, and to getting our former lives back!

Have an amazing, happy and safe summer. As always, we are here to help and support, so if you need anything, please let us know.

Kind regards always

Brian Doherty