



Highfield Middle School

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Headteacher: Richard Oades

29th June 2021

Dear Parents and Carers of Year 4 pupils

Cancellation of Transition Day

I am writing to inform you that we have regretfully taken the decision to cancel our in-person transition day on 5th July. Yesterday we identified Covid cases amongst staff and pupils, having been clear for 3 months. Of course, this has resulted in 10-day isolation for a significant number of individuals. We also have other staff and pupils isolating due to Covid related issues. We are genuinely very sorry about this, we really wanted to be able to welcome our new starters to Highfield next week, but safety must come first. Our risk assessment and Public Health guidance tell us that transfer days, which bring pupils from different schools together in any way, are not advised when Covid rates are high or increasing in the school and/or the community.

We will work hard to ensure that our virtual transition opportunities are as interesting and informative as possible. As shared in our previous letter, you can get to know the staff, learn about our school and much more at http://www.highfield.northumberland.sch.uk/web/year_4_to_year_5_transition/325571. A really useful information video will go live on here on the evening of Thursday 1st July, we encourage you to watch it.

If, having seen our information videos, you still have questions or want to tell us more about your child, we are offering 2 opportunities for more interactive information sharing:

- Between 3:30pm and 5:30pm on Friday 2nd July we will offer a live chat event, where you can message into our school Facebook page and receive an instant reply
- For children or families where a meeting or visit to school before the summer is considered to be essential, due to SEND, health or emotional needs, we can arrange a socially distant visit outside of school hours. Please contact the school office to arrange this.

In addition to this, the first day of term in September will be for our new Year 5 pupils only. Hopefully this will help your children to feel calm and confident about starting their new school. We realise that you will be very disappointed to receive this information, as are we. However, we are sure you will agree that no one wants to see the closure of schools again, nor do we want to ask you to isolate at the start of the summer holidays. Therefore, we must take every precaution to prevent transmission as Covid cases rise in our region.

Although this situation is far from ideal, rest assured that we have a talented team of specialist Y5 teachers at Highfield, who will make your child's start to middle school a very positive one, despite the challenges we are all facing. Thank you all for your understanding and please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions or concerns.

Kind regards
Richard Oades
Headteacher