



Highfield Middle School

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Headteacher: Richard Oades

16th July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

So here we are at the end of the strangest school year in living memory that is exactly the same sentence I began last year's end of term letter with! Who could have predicted that we would still be living in a world so hugely disrupted by Covid-19 another year later?

I feel sad about everything that we have been unable to do this year, and for the children who have unfortunately missed the end of term through isolation, but I am incredibly proud of the way our pupils and staff have handled such a difficult situation. They have shown resilience, positivity and determination to make the best of these challenging circumstances.

Of course, we say goodbye today to our Year 8's. They have been a fantastic year group who have grown and progressed in so many fantastic ways over their 4 years at Highfield. We are proud of the young people they have become and we will miss them, but we know that they are ready for the next phase of their education. We sincerely wish them every success.

Sadly we say goodbye to 2 members of staff today too. Firstly Miss Gingles, who has been with us for the past year, in place of Mrs Moore (who returns from maternity leave in September). We are eternally grateful to Miss Gingles, who has shown superb commitment to Highfield, during such a difficult year. We wish her well in her future endeavours and hope our paths will cross again.

Secondly, we say a huge "Happy Retirement!" to Mrs Laidler. After 19 years at Highfield she is about to walk off into the sunset! It is hard to explain the impact that Mrs Laidler has had on our community over the years. She works tirelessly for our pupils to provide them with the best possible support. As Assistant Headteacher, Head of Year and SENDCo, her work has had a hugely positive impact on so many pupils on their journey through Highfield. We cannot put into words how grateful we are – she will be missed!

We are really looking forward to a slightly more 'normal' school day in September, with fewer of the restrictions that we have in place currently. Pupils will still arrive at school in their outdoor year group zones (Year 5 will be met by their teachers on day 1), we will still sanitise our hands regularly and keep rooms well ventilated, but the 'bubble' structure we have got used to will end, there will be greater movement around school and our curriculum will be as rich and full as ever. School will end for all pupils at 3:35pm

The start to the year will look like this:

Monday 6 th Sept -	Teacher Training Day
Tuesday 7 th Sept -	Y5 only day (in place of transfer day) Y7 and Y8 attend school by appointment, for Lateral Flow Testing only
Wednesday 8 th Sept -	Y5 Y6 Y7 Y8 in school for a pastoral day with form teachers
Thursday 9 th September -	All pupils begin their full timetabled lessons

We will share more information regarding testing appointments for Y7 and Y8 pupils on Tuesday 7th September during the summer holiday.

Pupils are expected to wear full school uniform when they return in September, in line with our clear expectations, see attached 'quick guide' for information, or our school website for more details. However, **on days when your child has PE we would still like them to come to school dressed in their PE kit**, along with a school jumper, as has been the arrangement this year. This will continue at least for the first half term, when we will reassess the situation. Pupils will receive their timetables in week 1, and will not have PE until Thursday 9th at the earliest.

Of course, if you have any difficulties providing your child with full school uniform, please get in touch and we will help in every way we can. You can also visit our friends at The Miners Lamp Café, who run a nearly new uniform bank.

We would like every pupil to have their own pencil case, equipped with all the basics and ready to learn from day one. Also, we will have a fresh focus on our 'Healthy School' status next year and request that you support us by providing healthy, well balanced snacks and packed lunches for your child. There is always a variety of healthy options for those having a school dinner.

If you would like to help your child to prepare for the new school year, The National Oak Academy website has created some great online learning resources, specifically for home learning through the summer holidays. These resources focus on key concepts for each year group and can be found at www.thenational.academy/summer-learning-support. However, if you feel that the best preparation for your child is a lovely relaxing holiday – then we fully support that too!

We are REALLY looking forward to welcoming everyone back to school in September, especially our new 'Highfielders' who are joining us in Year 5. We hope that it will be a more settled and positive year for us all, where we can really start to make fabulous academic and personal progress, and make up for the time and the opportunities we have lost.

Wishing you all health, happiness, sunshine and time with those you love this summer.

Stay safe



Mr Oades
Headteacher

School Uniform Expectations 2021 Quick Guide



Make-up and jewellery are not permitted in school. Mobile phones and smartwatches are brought into school at the owners own risk, and must be left in children's lockers during the school day.

Children are required to wear PE kit, with a school jumper, on the days they have PE/Games lessons