



Highfields Academy

Together we inspire, always aiming higher

Principal:
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Tuesday 31st March 2020,

Good morning everyone,

I hope you are all ok and staying fit and healthy.

It was lovely to see year 4 take part in a class video conference yesterday. We are hoping that we will be able to do more of these in the future but following some advice that we have received from the teaching trade unions regarding potential safeguarding issues for staff we are going to put these on hold for a short time while we consider what measures need to be put into place to protect staff and all pupils. The advice is that teachers should not be doing these but with the right planning and safeguarding measures in place I am hopeful that we may be able to do these again.

I believe that Y4 were going to organise their own meeting later in the week. There is no problem in this and it is up to parents whether they want their children to take part in that. I would be happy to put the meeting ID on the school website in a secure place (ie in a place on the website where you can only access with a password).

More will follow later in the week about future video conferencing.

Meal vouchers for those entitled to free school meals:

Those of you who are entitled to free school meals should have received your voucher for this week through the post. Please note that next week and the following week would normally be the Easter holidays so vouchers will not be sent during this time. The new term starts on Monday 20th April and if this situation is still ongoing we will issue vouchers at the start of that week. We were the first school in the area that issued these and since then guidance has been issued that we should be paying £3 per day so after the 'holiday' we will be issuing £15 a week. We are looking into more flexible ways of doing this, possibly emailing e-vouchers.

The Easter holidays:

School will be open throughout the Easter holidays including both bank holidays. We are only open to:

- Pupils whose parents are identified as Key workers
- Pupils who have an Education Health Care Plan
- Families that have social care involvement.

Sending your child into school should be considered a last resort. We are here if you would like to discuss this further, I'm very happy for you to call me.

Take care everyone. Stay healthy and look after yourselves.

Simon Dyson
Principal