



Highfields Academy

Together we inspire, always aiming higher

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Good morning everyone,

I have some important pieces of information for you today. I'll start with some good news, particularly for those in year 6. Yesterday your leaver's fleeces arrived. The two boys who were in school yesterday were given theirs and it was lovely to see their faces light up. We will work up a plan to try and get these out to you at some point soon. I can't promise exactly when but we'll do our best.

Opening at weekends?

Highfields is trying to do its very best to support you all during this crisis, and we are particularly keen to do all we can to support you key workers out there who are on the front line. I have been thinking whether we should consider opening up on Saturdays and Sundays while this is going on and I want to gauge your views on this and assess the need. If you are a key worker could you please email me with a response to the following questions:

- What is your role?
- Do you work at weekends?
- If you do work weekends are you able to provide childcare in alternative ways or would you need our service in order to work?
- If we decide to open at weekends would you be prepared to pay a small fee for this service? **(please let me stress, this is not us trying to make a profit, this would purely be to cover the additional costs)**

Once I have your responses I will let you know more on this. **Please note that this offer is only for workers of key children.**

The 'Easter Holidays'

In normal circumstances we would be breaking up for the Easter holidays tomorrow. As you already know, that will not happen this year. We will still be open from 7.30am – 6.00pm and this will include bank holidays.

However, some things will change over the holiday period:

- Teachers will not be adding extra tasks to their websites or google classrooms and will not be asked to access their emails on a daily basis. Further work will be available for the week beginning Monday 20th April.
- I will not be sending out a daily letter to parents and pupils on a daily basis over the holiday period. I will send one at the end of each week just to keep you updated, and once the new term starts on Monday 20th April I will continue to contact you and your children daily.

- Meal vouchers for families entitled to Free School Meals will not be issued over the holiday period. This will commence on the week beginning Monday 20th April.
- My email will still be accessed daily so if you need to make contact with any of us please send things to my email (head@highfieldsnantwich.cheshire.sch.uk) and I will respond to you.

Transition

Some parents have asked us about our plans for transition into the next school year. If this situation continues for a prolonged period then this will be an issue. I can't tell you at this point how we are going to manage this as at this stage we have no idea how long we will be closed for. It will be a challenge but we are becoming quite good at facing new challenges and rising to them so please do not worry about this.

Whilst transition into a new class is important for every pupil the two groups that must take priority are those in Y6 who are leaving for high school and those who will be joining our Foundation class next year. This is where our focus will initially be. For parents in Y6 please be assured that we are in contact with both Malbank and Brine Leas regularly. Transition processes actually started before this situation happened so we are onto this; please don't worry.

Use of online technologies:

One of the most significant changes we have seen in the last few weeks is the huge increase in use of online technologies to support learning and also social interaction. There is a lot of support available to keep your child safe online. Below are some useful links to help parents and carers:

- [Thinkyouknow](#) (advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online)
- [Internet matters](#) (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- [Parent info](#) (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- [LGfL](#) (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- [Net-aware](#) (support for parents and careers from the NSPCC)

Finally, here is a link to the government document "Closure of educational settings: information for parents and carers". This is worth a read.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

Please take care everyone,

Simon Dyson
Principal