



Highfields Academy

Together we inspire, always aiming higher

Principal:
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Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you all enjoyed a good half term break last week. For the first time in what seems like a very long time we are starting a new half term feeling like things are almost getting back to how they used to be. This week we are reintroducing whole school assemblies and we are also looking at reintroducing more school trips and after school extra-curricular clubs very soon.

I am writing to you today with an update on the current Covid situation, an update on Concordia MAT and yet another plea around parking and safety.

Covid-19:

With regard to Covid 19 I wish to update you on the national and local position and on our current procedures:-

From Thursday 24 February, the government has removed the legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive test. Adults and children who test positive will continue to be advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least 5 full days, and then continue to follow the guidance until they have received 2 negative test results on consecutive days. In addition, the government will:

- No longer ask fully vaccinated close contacts and those aged under 18 to test daily for 7 days, and remove the legal requirement for close contacts who are not fully vaccinated to self-isolate.
- End self-isolation support payments, national funding for practical support and the medicine delivery service will no longer be available.
- End routine contact tracing. Staff, children and young people should attend their education settings as usual. This includes staff who have been in close contact within their household, unless they are able to work from home.
- End the legal obligation for individuals to tell their employers when they are required to self-isolate.

Schools should continue to have control measures in place which ensure:

- Good hygiene
- Appropriate cleaning
- Well ventilated spaces

Although the legal requirement to self-isolate has now ceased, the advice of Cheshire East Public Health is in line with the UKHSA guidance, recommending that all confirmed cases and those with symptoms stay at home until they are well, which may be up to 10 days. A PCR test should be taken to confirm COVID-19 if they have symptoms. They can return from 5 days after their isolation began if they are symptom free and have 2 negative lateral flow tests on consecutive days. Children who are well enough should have access to remote learning while they are not attending. Children and young people who live with someone who has COVID-19 should continue to attend the setting as normal. If LFTs are available then these can be used as an additional measure while there is a positive case in the home. We do understand that it may be difficult to access LFD tests; if you have any doubts / questions at all please contact us before bringing your child into school and we will support you.

MAT update:

Before the holidays I wrote to you explaining that we are now in the process of seeking to join Concordia Multi Academy Trust. Things have continued to progress well and on Monday we held a meeting with all members of staff and trade unions to progress things further. As stated in the previous letter, if you have any questions or comments regarding this move I am very happy to speak to you about these. Questions can be emailed directly to me at head@highfieldsnantwich.cheshire.sch.uk and I am also happy to arrange meetings or phone calls with parents too. If you do wish to discuss this with me please contact the school office and we will arrange a mutually convenient time.

On Concordia's website there is a list of frequently asked questions, these can be accessed via this link: <https://www.concordiamat.co.uk/highfields-academy>

Drop off and collection times – Pupil safety:

Over the holiday I was informed that on the last Friday afternoon at home time we had a very near miss on Whitehouse Lane where one of our younger pupils was very nearly hit by a car. **Please, please, please** ensure that when collecting your child you:

- Avoid parking on the zig-zag lines outside the gate. **This is illegal.**
- Avoid parking opposite the zig zag lines. This is not illegal but we want to ensure that there is a safe crossing distance to keep your children safe.
- Avoid parking with two wheels on the kerb. Whilst this is not illegal it can be an offence if the pavement is blocked (eg: if a wheelchair or buggy is unable to get past)

- Ensure that while you are waiting for your child you turn your engine off.
- Ensure that at all times you are fully aware of the safety of others. Most of our children leave through the Whitehouse Lane gate so it is very busy there at home time.
- Ensure that you consider our neighbours when parking.

As a school we have no powers to enforce the above and are unable to take any action against any parent who behaves in an irresponsible manner when parking. However, I will ensure that any concerns that we identify, or any concerns that parents report to us are reported to the police, who do have the power to take action. **Please follow these guidelines to keep YOUR CHILDREN and everyone else's children safe.**

Thank you for your continued support,

Simon Dyson
Principal