Friday 17th July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well we have made it to the end of another school year, and certainly the most unusual one I have ever experienced, and hopefully ever will. It is easy to forget that prior to March this was a normal school year. Year 3 and 4 were starting to prepare for their play, Years 2 and 6 were gearing up towards their SATs and then all of a sudden the world changed.

This year was going to be an excellent one for Highfields, (it still has been in many ways). Earlier on in the year the school was awarded the Good Diabetes Care in Schools award, the School Sports Gold Award (I think this was the 5th year in a row, I’ve lost count now) and this week we have been informed that we have also been awarded the International School Foundation Award. We were very confident that our pupils would have achieved great results in their SATs tests – there would have been a lot to celebrate.

However, there are still many things to celebrate today. We celebrate the fact that we are all still here and are well. We celebrate the resilience that all of our pupils (and families and staff) have shown over the past few months. We celebrate the amazing community spirit that we have here at Highfields - this has always been strong but it has felt even stronger during this time. We also celebrate the last 7 years that our year 6 pupils have had at Highfields and we wish them all the very best for their next steps. We say to them that once you have been a pupil of Highfields Academy you are always a pupil of Highfields Academy. Our doors are always open to you and we hope that you keep in touch with us.

Over the next 6 weeks school is remaining open. Our summer club will be running from the Little Crickets building. All of the sessions have been booked now and we are unable to accommodate any more children due to restrictions on group sizes. If you are not booked into a session please don’t just arrive, as we will not be able to accommodate you. The main school phone number will remain the same but will be redirected to the Little Crickets office so if you do need to contact us urgently over the summer you will be able to. If you need to contact us but it is not urgent please do this by emailing me at [head@highfieldsnantwich.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:head@highfieldsnantwich.cheshire.sch.uk). I will not be monitoring emails daily but I will look regularly and I will get back to you.

School reopens for pupils on Wednesday 2nd September with the exception of our new Reception pupils (you come back on Tuesday). All pupils are returning and we can’t wait to see you all. Please can I ask you to check you start and finish times carefully in the Risk Assessment that I sent to you last week. It is vitally important that we do stick to these and that people are punctual but not too early. Also please remember that the one way gates will still be in operation. I have spoken to the manager of the Guy Harvey Centre and they have said that our parents are able to use their car park in the mornings if they would like to. It’s not huge (probably 10/12 cars) but it might help ease parking a little, and it is an ideal spot half way between the two gates. From September school attendance does become mandatory again so we will expect to see you all on that first day back.

I’d like to take this opportunity to wish all of our pupils and families a lovely summer and to thank you for your incredible support this year. At Highfields we do love a challenge and it has been a privilege to lead the school this year. We look forward to facing more challenges next year (hopefully very different ones to this year) and whilst looking forward to a break over the summer we are already looking forward to September.

Take care everyone, keep safe and we’ll see you soon.

Simon Dyson

Principal.