Monday 24th August 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you have all had a fantastic summer holiday. There’s only one week to go now before we return to school and we are all very excited and looking forward to welcoming you back to school. Last year was a very strange one indeed but hopefully this coming year will be a lot more like the school that we all know. It won’t be quite back to normal, certainly at first, but we can’t wait to see you all back at Highfields. We are particularly looking forward to welcoming our new reception pupils into school and also those of you that we haven’t seen for such a long time.

Over the summer we have been receiving regular emails from Cheshire East and have also been keeping up to speed with any new government guidance that has been issued. There hasn’t been anything that has meant that we have needed to change our risk assessment so the document you received in July remains in place. We will continue to review this regularly.

Here are some reminders of the key points about returning:

* For new reception children school will start again on Tuesday 1st September. You will have had details of your times for this day from Miss Garner at the end of last term.
* For all other year groups school will begin on Wednesday 2nd September.
* Please remember that we are operating a one way system with the school gates. The gate on Cumberland Avenue is entrance only and the gate on Whitehouse Lane is exit only.
* Parents are permitted on the school site but are not able to come into the building without prior arrangement.
* In order to limit the number of adults on site we ask that only one parent brings and collects their children. We also strongly encourage parents of Year 5 and 6 children to not enter the school site without good reason.
* Please do not arrive at school more than 5 minutes before the start or end of the school day and also please make every effort not to be late. We are staggering the start and finish times for each class so punctuality is essential.
* While you are waiting at the start and end of the school day please ensure that social distancing is adhered to. There are markings on the playgrounds in each area to facilitate this.
* 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.

Start and finish times:

Reception – The class will be split into 2 halves to try and ease congestion at the start and end of the day. Group A will start at 8.45am and finish at 3.15pm. Group B will start at 9.00am and finish at 3.30pm. During the day the class will be taught as one group.

Year 1: 8.45am – 3.15pm

Year 2: 9.00am – 3.30pm

Year 3: 8.45am – 3.15pm

Year 4: 9.00am – 3.30pm

Year 5: 8.45am – 3.15pm

Year 6: 9.00am – 3.30pm

Main differences to normal school:

* Classes will be back up to full size but one of the key control measures is that the classes do not mix with other classes wherever possible. This means that until further notice there will be no whole school assemblies.
* Children will eat their lunches in their classroom, not in the dining hall. School meals are available as normal. Morning snack will not be available initially so if you would like your child to have a snack please send them with one (healthy snacks only and strictly no nut products).
* Break times and lunchtimes are also staggered so these will be at different times than normal.

Our key priority for the first few days is that children return to school, are happy and feel safe. Some children have not been in school for nearly six months and we expect that there will be some anxieties but we promise to support your children through this. You may have heard on the news that schools are being given extra funding to support children in ‘catching up’. One of our other priorities will be to ascertain where children are up to and how best to use this funding to support them.

I hope you all enjoy the last week of the holiday. If you have any concerns or questions prior to returning please email me at head@highfieldsnantwich.cheshire.sch.uk.

Can’t wait to see you all very soon.

Simon Dyson

Principal.