



# Weekly Newsletter

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January

## Headteacher's update

First of all, can I wish you all Happy New Year. I hope that you all had a good, if somewhat unusual Christmas. This week has been one of the most difficult in my career. Last weekend we were informed that although primary schools in London and the South East would remain closed, primary schools in Lancashire would reopen. We were then told that some of the unions were concerned and had instructed members that if they did not feel it was safe they could refuse to go into school. Fortunately, all the staff at Highfield stated that they would be in school and we reopened as planned for all pupils on Monday. It was therefore quite a bombshell on Monday evening to be told by the Prime Minister that we would have to close schools for the majority of pupils the following day. We have spent the rest of the week organising lists of vulnerable pupils and those of critical workers who remain in school, ensuring that pupils have the appropriate technology for home learning, getting systems set up for live lessons and making sure Free School Meals provision is in place. This has been a massive team effort from everyone and I know that parents appreciate the work and care that has gone into all of this. Live lessons start on Monday. We are anticipating some initial teething troubles but if we all work together I am sure that we can provide the best possible support for pupils whether they are in school or at home. The key to this is trying to ensure that all pupils get the same input and teaching over the next few weeks.

## Microsoft TEAMS

All pupils who are working from home will need access to TEAMS from Monday. Pupils in Cherry, Rowan, Sycamore and Willow will receive live teaching all morning. Pupils in the other classes will get a story time session each afternoon and a chance to keep in touch with their friends and teachers. I have posted an instruction video on Class Dojo today if you have never used it before along with the usernames and passwords. It is important that you download and log in to this before Monday so that any issues can be sorted. If children forget their passwords or get locked out, you will need to contact school by email at [covidteam@highfield-pri.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:covidteam@highfield-pri.lancs.sch.uk), phone or class dojo and we will reset this for you.

## Class Dojo

Please make sure that you are checking Dojo regularly for messages and work.

## Wellbeing

If you or your child is struggling in any way, please do not hesitate to get in touch and we will be able to signpost you to available support.

## Free School Meals

Those children who are entitled to free school meals and who are not in school will get a £25 Asda voucher emailed to them every fortnight. This is equivalent to £2.50 per day and is being paid for by school. The first of these should be sent out by the end of next week. This only applies to pupils who are entitled because they are in receipt of income related benefits.

## Food bank

Remember that Highfield Food bank is available to anyone who may be struggling. If you need anything at any time please email [covidteam@highfield-pri.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:covidteam@highfield-pri.lancs.sch.uk) or phone school during office hours or 07810384793 / 07494695917 at any other time.

## Punctuality and attendance

If your child is in school, they must be in on time everyday so that they are ready for the class learning.

## Warm clothing

Please make sure you send children in warm outdoor clothing as windows need to be open in school and they will be playing out.

Headteacher: Andrew Proctor  
[head@highfield-pri.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:head@highfield-pri.lancs.sch.uk)  
[www.highfield-pri.lancs.sch.uk](http://www.highfield-pri.lancs.sch.uk)