



Highfields Academy

Together we inspire, always aiming higher

Principal:
Mr S Dyson
BA (Hons) NPQH PQSI

Cumberland Avenue,
Nantwich, Cheshire,
CW5 6HA

Tel: 01270 814570

Wednesday 7th July 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you are all well. I'm sure you have all heard the announcements yesterday from the Secretary of State, Gavin Williamson, regarding the end of many of the protective measures that have been in place in schools over the last 16 months on the 19th July. The most significant part of the announcement is that from this date schools do not need to operate in bubbles. We welcome this news and are very much looking forward to being able to return to some kind of 'normality'.

However, considering that we break up on the 21st July we will not be making any changes to our risk assessment until after we break up. All of our current protective measures will remain in place until the end of term.

I will be meeting with the Senior Leadership Team next week to discuss our plans for September and I will make sure that you are informed of these before we finish for the summer.

Whilst we are all getting excited about the ending of many restrictions it is essential that we remember that we are still in a pandemic, that cases are currently on the rise and that we still need to do all that we can to reduce possible transmission in school.

The overall incidence rate for the past 7 days in Cheshire East on 6th July is 217 positive cases /100,000 people. However, for school age children we can see that the figures are higher:

Age 0 – 3 = 14 (86.9 / 100k)
Age 4 – 11 = 83 (234.5 / 100k)
Age 12 – 16 = 158 (728.0 / 100k)
Age 17 – 18 = 68 (845.7 / 100k)
Age 19 – 24 = 216 (1094.1 / 100k)

Currently, not all staff in school have had both their vaccinations. By the time we return in September this will not be the case.

Therefore it is essential that until the end of term we continue to be rigorous with our approach. We want to do everything we can to ensure that children, parents and staff do not need to isolate for the end of the school year or the first part of the holiday period.

PCR tests and LFD tests:

There is a distinct difference between these two types of test. An LFD test is the one that you can do at home and you will get a result in 30 minutes. **These can only be used when you are showing no symptoms.** It is recommended that all parents of school children carry out an LFD test twice weekly and I have previously shared information about where you can get these from.

If you or your child displays any of the symptoms of Covid-19 (cough, temperature, loss of taste/smell, headaches, sore throats, runny noses) then we **strongly advise** that you book a PCR test (these are the ones that need to be processed in a laboratory and results normally take around 24 hours). If you are asked to collect your child from school because they have displayed any of these symptoms we would expect you to arrange a PCR test and ensure that you all isolate until the result is known. **Please note that a negative LFD test is not sufficient if there are symptoms.**

Telephone calls with class teachers:

Many of you have arranged a phone call to talk to your child's class teacher on either the 13th or 14th July. If you haven't done this yet but would like to request a phone call you can still book this via school spider. If there are no slots available and you would like to arrange a call please email your class teacher directly to arrange a mutually convenient time. The emails for the teachers are:

Miss Garner:	s.garner@highfieldsnantwich.cheshire.sch.uk
Mrs Hughes/Mrs Bradley:	j.hughes@highfieldsnantwich.cheshire.sch.uk n.bradley@highfieldsnantwich.cheshire.sch.uk
Miss Addis:	a.addis@highfieldsnantwich.cheshire.sch.uk
Mrs Fowler:	p.fowler@highfieldsnantwich.cheshire.sch.uk
Mrs Richards:	k.richards@highfieldsnantwich.cheshire.sch.uk
Miss Hermitt:	a.hermitt@highfieldsnantwich.cheshire.sch.uk
Mr Strefford:	deputy@highfieldsnantwich.cheshire.sch.uk
Mrs Newport:	n.newport@highfieldsnantwich.cheshire.sch.uk
Mrs Hayes:	z.hayes@highfieldsnantwich.cheshire.sch.uk

RSE consultation:

Our consultation around the proposed RSE curriculum is now closed. Thank you to all the parents who have shared their views on this. These will now be shared in our next LAB meeting and once the curriculum and policy are finalised these will be shared with you via the website.

Many thanks once again to all of you for your continued support. Ten days to go; let's hope we can get through them without any significant disruption.

Yours sincerely,

Simon Dyson
Principal