



Highfields Academy

Together we inspire, always aiming higher

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Monday 20th April 2020

Good morning everyone,

Normally today I would be saying welcome back as we start a new term at Highfields. As you know, that is not the case due to the continuing situation with Covid-19. I hope you and all of your families are keeping safe and well.

There have been some reports in some of the newspapers that schools will reopen in May or after the May half term. Just for clarity, we have heard nothing official about this and at this point I would take that with a pinch of salt. We are all desperate to get back to normal and I promise you that as soon as I know something more concrete I will let you know straight away.

One of the key things that we need to do in the summer term is to ensure the smooth transition of all of our pupils into their next class, this is particularly important for those who will be joining Foundation in September and for Year 6 who will be moving on to high school. We are planning on various scenarios here regarding when school will reopen and how we will facilitate this. Further information regarding this will follow in the coming weeks.

We have been open over the Easter holidays and have had between 3 and 12 children attending. For the foreseeable future school will remain open from 7.30am until 6.00pm for pupils whose parents are key workers, for those who have an EHCP and those who have an allocated social worker. In a previous letter I did mention that we would consider opening on Saturdays and Sundays if there was a need for key worker children. This offer is still there; please contact me if this would support you.

Now that the new term has started teachers will continue to be providing online learning activities as well as paper based activities. Whilst it is important that home learning continues please remember that this is down to you how you manage this, we do not want this to add stress to what is already a challenging situation. I will also continue with my daily letters to you and also to your children. Please can I ask that if you do any of these challenges they are sent directly to me at head@highfieldsnantwich.cheshire.sch.uk rather than to the admin email or class teacher's emails.

Food vouchers for those who are entitled to free school meals will continue this week. The DfE have now put a scheme in place to facilitate this and if you are eligible for this you will receive further information this week. These will be to the value of £15 per week.

Below I have included some useful links and information for you to use as you see fit.

Take care,
Simon Dyson, Principal



From Love Music Trust (online music lessons)

I am pleased to enclose links to our virtual music resources for w/c 20th April 2020.

'Home' lessons

- EYFS/KS1 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8BDE9LmvNAY>
- KS2 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7i6V0oQJmp8>

Daily Big Sing

- Monday - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i-dGAKGeM94>
- Tuesday - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nsncyL5nggk>
- Wednesday - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nieKKYn30ls>
- Thursday - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PuogDZCnZO8>
- Friday - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KUZ-fKnEc5Q>

Remember, these resources are for **all pupils in your school**, not just the ones that would normally be taught by one of our tutors.

From the Scies team at Cheshire East (Safeguarding team)

Each week Addaction, the commissioned service for Missing from Home and Child Exploitation will send out information for parents and / or children to help with safeguarding in the current situation. They have asked that SCiES pass it onto DSL's (Designated Safeguarding Leads) for you to communicate it to your parents through your parental contact mechanisms e.g. parentmail etc.

The first set of resources is below, we hope that your parents find them useful.

Please see below for our weekly recommendations of resources and tips to support parents during the current COVID-19 outbreak.

- CEOP is a well known and valuable child exploitation resource bank. Given current circumstances they are releasing a new activity pack every 2 weeks to support parents to deliver online safety activities with children at a time when they will be spending more time online at home.

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Support-tools/home-activity-worksheets/>

- At present many parents will be juggling childcare with working from home. Top tips for parents working from home:

<https://www.barnardos.org.uk/blog/tips-parents-working-home-barnardos-colleagues>

- The NSPCC has created an information and advice resource for parents/careers of young people with anxiety about Coronavirus.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/childrens-mental-health/depression-anxiety-mental-health>

- Professionals, parents and young people can be directed to the Young Addaction Pan Cheshire social media pages for daily updates, resources, tips and support

<https://www.facebook.com/Pan-Cheshire-Missing-and-Child-Exploitation-Service-1039465136264241>

<https://twitter.com/PanCheshireMFH>

From Cheshire and Wirral Partnership – NHS trust

Crisis Line

CWP's new 24/7 crisis phone line is now live, providing around-the-clock access to mental health support for our local population, reducing pressures on other areas of the health system, such as A&E, 999 and NHS 111.

The number is
0300 303 3972