Friday 25th September.

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope your week is going well. All things considering this week has gone pretty smoothly in school. Now that we are settled back in we are looking to make some changes to how we have been doing things to try and get more ‘back to normal’.

Since we returned all children have been eating lunch in their classrooms and the menu that we have been providing for school lunches has been very different from what we have had previously. We are very keen to get back to a more normal menu as we understand the importance of children having a full, hot meal especially as we approach the winter months. From Monday 5th October we will be returning to a full menu with 2 choices, this menu will be available to you very shortly. To facilitate this we have made some changes to timings during the day:

Arrangements for lunchtime from Monday 5th October:

Year 3 and Year 4:

* Lunchtime will be 11.45am – 12.30pm
* Children will eat in the hall. The hall will be set out to ensure that our bubbles are protected, ie: Year 3 pupils will be distanced from Year 4 pupils.
* The children will sanitise on their way into the hall and again on their way out.
* The classes will enter through different doors.
* Children will sit at tables and table service will be put into place. Children will not queue in the usual way.

**Full clean down of all tables/chairs**

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2:

* Lunchtime will be 12.15pm – 1.00pm
* This will operate as shown above with Year 3 and 4.

Years 5 and 6:

* Lunchtime will be 1.00pm – 1.45pm
* Children will continue to eat in their classrooms. Pupils will still be able to have the full menu; meals will be delivered to classrooms.

There will be no official afternoon break time for Years 5 and 6 but teachers will use their discretion to manage this. Teachers may choose to have two shorter breaks in the morning, or one longer one and will also decide whether a short break in the afternoon is needed. Year 6 have been doing this since we returned and it has worked well. Children may wish to bring in an extra snack.

Face coverings in schools:

There is no change to our risk assessment regarding pupils wearing face coverings in school. This will continue as it has done to date.

However, due to the rising number of cases we are now asking **(strongly encouraging)** parents / adults to wear a face covering when they are bringing their children into school and when they are collecting them at the end of the day. Under current guidance we have no way of policing this and we can’t enforce it but we really do hope that parents will support us and will adhere to this. Our staff have been told that they are to wear face coverings when they meet parents, they won’t be expected to wear them during the day. I had a meeting with all Nantwich Headteachers yesterday morning and I believe that this is already in place, or about to be introduced, in the large majority of the schools in the area. As I’m writing this letter I’ve just seen that Cheshire West LA have issued a letter to all schools asking them to implement this; I expect similar from Cheshire East will follow very soon. We ask that this happens from Monday 28th September.

Parent’s evenings

Our parent’s evenings will take place in October as normal but this year these will be telephone appointments. Further details will be sent to you via the office regarding booking your appointments.

Parking at the Guy Harvey Centre:

Please note that parking on the Guy Harvey Centre car park is **only allowed in the mornings.** This is because the centre is used during the afternoons. We are really appreciative of them letting us use their facility in the mornings and I wouldn’t want to lose this offer but I fear that if we don’t stick to this agreement they may decide to stop our parents using it at any time.

New intake for September 2021:

At this time of year I am normally busy showing lots of prospective parents around school. Unfortunately this year we will be unable to do this. Instead we are going to make a video and also set up virtual meetings. The video will include a tour of the school, interviews with staff and some action clips in the classroom and outside. We will ensure that if you have not given permission to use images/videos of your child that they are not included. If you would like to change your permissions regarding this please contact the office. I would also love to include short clips from parents and pupils (15/30 seconds long) telling new people about what life is like at Highfields. If you would like to help us with this we would be very grateful. These can be recorded at home and sent to me in any of the typical formats. Depending on the response I can’t guarantee that we will use them all. 5 or 6 parent clips and the same for children would be ideal.

I am currently in the process of reviewing and updating our risk assessment. Once the review is complete and approved I will publish this to you.

As always, a huge thank you for your support and co-operation during these times. We really do appreciate it.

Have a good weekend,

Simon Dyson

Principal