Sunday 3rd January 2021,

Dear Parents and Carers,

I have hesitated about whether to send this letter out to you today or wait until tomorrow as I don’t like providing you with unclear messages. However, in trying to be as honest and transparent as possible I have decided to send it, and to let you know what the current position is around schools reopening. I know as a parent I would want as much information as possible.

There is currently increasing pressure on the Government from Trade Unions who are advising that a return to school this week is not safe and that remote learning should be put in place for the first couple of weeks of this term.

Some unions have highlighted to their members that they have the legal right to refuse to work in school on health and safety grounds, but that they must be prepared to work from home and support the on-site provision for key worker children and vulnerable pupils.

I am aware that this debate has been all over the news for the past couple of days and I expect it will escalate more as the day goes on. I know that this situation will be causing anxieties for you all and I hope that this letter doesn’t raise those anxieties further.

The position as I write is that on Tuesday morning (5th) Highfields will open its doors to all pupils. At the time of writing I have not been informed that any member of staff will not be attending work. Please be aware though that at this moment nothing can be guaranteed.

I will keep you posted with any further developments as soon as is possible.

Yours sincerely,

Simon Dyson

Principal