



# Highfields Academy

*Together we inspire, always aiming higher*

Principal:  
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Dear Parents and Carers,

First of all I'd like to say how lovely it has been to see so many of you in school this week for our parent's evenings. It has been a long time since we have been able to run these sessions face to face and something that we have really missed. I hope that you found the meetings useful and feel well informed about how your child is progressing in school. Our next face to face meetings will take place in February but please remember that if you wish to speak to the teacher in the meantime you are very welcome to email them and request an appointment.

There are quite a few things that I wish to share with you:

### **Year 3 provision after half term:**

Earlier this week I had a meeting with Mrs Cooper and I'm delighted to say that her pregnancy is progressing well and that she will be returning to work after half term. However, her maternity leave will commence at some point during the next half term so in order to maintain consistency and stability in Year 3 Mrs Cooper is not going to return as the year 3 class teacher. Mr Saville, who has taught Y3 for the past few weeks, has agreed to stay here until the end of the academic year but is unable to work full time. Mary Strefford is going to job share the role. Mary has worked here previously and is a fantastic teacher; I have full confidence that between them they will have a great year in Year 3. Mrs Strefford will be teaching the class on Mondays and Wednesdays and Mr Saville will be teaching the class on the other three days.

### **Children and the use of social media:**

Sadly this week we have been made aware that some of our children have been having what we consider to be inappropriate conversations using the social media platform WhatsApp. WhatsApp is a very popular social media platform and is used by millions of people across the globe. **You may not be aware of this but there are actually legal age restrictions for using this app – you must be 16 years old to download and use it.**

Whilst we cannot condone our pupils using this site due to the legal age limit we are realistic and understand that social media platforms like these are now a large part of everyday life. Therefore it is vital that the children are able to use these in the correct way, and that parents are aware of what children are using the app for. We are asking you as parents to support us in reinforcing this message at home by discussing this issue with your children and reminding them to report anything inappropriate to yourselves or an adult. **We strongly advise that if you let your children access such apps that you remain vigilant about what your child posts and who they are talking to online.**

I have included a link here that you may find useful, with further information/guidance around WhatsApp. If you have any concerns about social media please do contact us, we are very happy to discuss this with you and support you in any way we can.

<https://parentzone.org.uk/article/whatsapp#:~:text=Minimum%20age%20restriction,r esponse%20to%20data%2Dprotection%20legislation.>

### **Mrs Newport:**

It is with great sadness that I have to tell you that Mrs Newport will be leaving us at the end of the Autumn term. Mrs Newport has worked here for 9 years and has led our provision for pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. She will be very sadly missed but we wish her well in her new ventures and thank her sincerely for everything that she has done during her time here. I will keep you posted regarding the recruitment process.

### **A job opportunity (not here):**

I am sharing this on behalf of one of our parents who runs a business. This opportunity is in no way endorsed by Highfields but I'm always happy to try and help parents if I can. If this is of any interest to you please contact Louise directly:

Are you interested in a career in sales? Looking for somewhere local to your home town? Are you someone who understands the difficulties of balancing school hours with your own personal career growth? I have a number of trainee sales roles available, based at our Nantwich office; including daily incentives and early finishes aplenty. If working in a relaxed office environment, calling businesses, selling a range of products by phone, on teams calls and face to face, with excellent earning potential is something you are interested in and you believe you have what it takes apply for this position with me! [Louise.ashby@img-limited.co.uk](mailto:Louise.ashby@img-limited.co.uk)

### **School trips**

We find ourselves in a difficult position at the moment of trying to provide a wide range of opportunities / trips / experiences for pupils whilst being fully aware that these do come at a cost and with the increase in the costs of living and increased bills/fuel etc many people may be feeling 'the pinch'. I just want to make sure that all of our families know that we are here to help wherever we can. I know that Y4 in particular have had an expensive term with the residential and other trips and we have been able to put plans in place to spread the cost over a longer period of time. Please talk to me if you need to, we will do all we can to support our families.

On that note, I wish you all a very happy half term holiday and I thank you for your continued support,

Simon Dyson  
Principal

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