



Highampton Primary School
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Mrs Deirdre A Petersen (Principal)

Learn, Care, Grow Together

Friday 3rd December 2021

Dear Parent/ carer

The term is closing in fast as we approach the countdown to Christmas holidays. We have seen the cold weather biting hard this week and we have all battled against the chill. This has been particularly challenging given our need for ventilating the school building as part of our COVID safety measures. The virus has not gone away and so it is vital we all take responsibility for each other's safety. Our latest risk assessment and letter to parents can be found on our website.



I would like to thank all staff, children and parents of Highampton this week for braving the challenges we have faced with our recent Covid-19 outbreak. In such a small school and close community, this has posed some thoughtful and considered responses and we understand how the situation can raise anxiety and uncertainty in the community.

What has been clear is how we have all pulled together to ensure the children attending school are as safe as possible and how staff have adjusted their planning to make remote learning available once more.

We hope that our measures taken will prevent any more cases and we continue to work with you to ensure this happens. Unfortunately, we will not be able to have parents to view our upcoming Christmas play *'The Nutcracker'* but instead we will film the production for parents to see. Apologies we are not able to facilitate what we hoped for at this special time of year.

Newsletter

Attendance

Our attendance expectations are in line with the DfE (Department for Education) guidance which state that:

Attendance is mandatory. The usual rules on attendance continue to apply. Non attendance in relation to Covid 19 is set out in line with government and PHE guidance. Only pupils who are symptomatic or have a positive test result are required to self-isolate. In summary, to remind you of the guidance -

- Pupils who have symptoms of COVID-19, or have had a positive lateral flow device (LFD) test, should self-isolate and get a PCR test to confirm.
- If a pupil tests negative and if they feel well, they can stop self-isolating and return to school. If the pupil remains unwell following the test (such as with a different illness), then they will be recorded as ill.
- If a pupil tests positive, they should continue to self-isolate in line with public health guidance.

We want all pupils who are well and able to attend in school and learning until the end of term. Non-attendance will affect learning progress and we want to work with you to ensure pupils are safe in school. Many thanks for your support in this important matter.

Inclusion

To enact our Trust value, EQUITY, and to mark 'International Day of People with Disability' on 3rd December, Highampton children will be thinking about the theme 'Fighting for rights in the post-COVID era.' Pupils were able to discuss what they know about disability and if the pandemic has made us more aware of disabilities. Pupils were able to reflect on the universal experience of lockdown and how restrictions have prompted us to be more mindful of what everyday life can be like for many people living with disability.

Good behaviour update

Highampton Primary School encourages all children to value themselves and each other, to become caring members of the community by taking responsibility for themselves, their actions and their choices.

Learn, Care, Grow together

The expectation is that everyone in our school: -

- Follows our Golden Rules (co-constructed with the children)
- Respects our Trust co-operative values
- Shows courtesy, care and respect for others
- Is honest and truthful
- Works and plays together cooperatively
- Moves about the school in a quiet, orderly manner
- Has respect for school property and the property of others

Through collaboration with the children we have revamped our school rules to a set of 'Golden Rules' that we are all expected to follow.



Our Golden Rules

Learn, Care, Grow together



Listen to each other



Show resilience in our learning



Be respectful and show good manners



Stay safe and look out for one another

Please talk to your child at home about the Golden Rules and how they are displaying them in school. We wish to maintain our high levels of good behaviour at Highampton and the children have been amazing at following the rules so far!

Reading over the Christmas break

We are not home learning over the Christmas period but encourage you to continue listening and recording hearing your child read. A child that loves reading often finds school more enjoyable, learns better and gets more opportunities. Reading with your child at home helps to promote a love of reading as well as help them to improve their reading skills.

▲ Things that can get in the way of reading together

It's one of those things that feels like it might take up a lot of time – many of us worry “how am I going to fit it in” - and then feel guilty when we don't manage it! It's important to remember just 10 minutes a day can make a huge difference – and skipping the odd day isn't the end of the world either.

Some parents might also worry if they can read well enough, or if they are sharing the right books – but there is no right or wrong way to read together. It can even be a good thing for you to learn together.

When your child starts learning to read – they can be really frustrated at not being able to do it. It can take a bit of persistence and patience to make sure it doesn't turn into a battle.

More information for parents can be found here - [Place2Be: Parenting Smart: Reading with your child](#). Thank you for your ongoing support with your child's reading. Together, we are helping children love reading and through practising their skills we can make such a difference to their learning!

Our main aim over the next fortnight is to ensure the safety of our staff, pupils and families so that we can enjoy some much needed family time over the Christmas break.

Stay safe, stay well and have a wonderful weekend!

Kind regards,



Our values. Our promise. The SEEDSS of our transformation

DMAT	Transformation	Together, we are a family of schools, united in our mission to sustain and strengthen our communities through exceptional education; based on the needs and aspirations of our children and the communities we serve. We will transform the life chances of children and adults alike, within and beyond our Trust.
S	Self-help	We believe that we are all special and unique. We will inspire, and be inspired, so that we all develop the knowledge, skills and understanding, as well as resilience, aspiration and confidence to find our niche and consciously chart our own destiny. We will embrace our vulnerabilities and will know when and how to seek help.
E	Equality	Inclusion is the soul of our Trust opportunities are given to reveal the champion within all of us. We nurture everyone, especially those in greatest need, to ensure equality for all. Every member of our Trust family is unconditionally loved and respected.
E	Equity	We believe every child, regardless of background, has the right to the best education. Through the development of skills and knowledge, and opportunities and experiences, we prepare them for their life now and the future. We value every member of our Trust family.
D	Democracy	We serve our communities as leaders; committed to improving the social and economic health of our children, families and wider society. We create opportunities to provide for and nurture the most vulnerable. Diverse voices are encouraged, represented and valued so that we can understand and best serve our whole community.
S	Solidarity	We stand together to overcome challenges, have high aspirations and celebrate achievement. Our mutual respect is lived through language and behaviour to enhance unity and achieve our vision. Positive relationships, embracing and promoting difference and the understanding of varying viewpoints, enable us to flourish together, leaving no one behind.
S	Self-Responsibility	We are all responsible for the choices we make, our behaviours and attitudes, and the way we think and feel. We are liberated to take ownership of our responsibilities. Actively engaging in living and contributing to the vision and values of our Trust is our individual and collective responsibility.



POPPY APPEAL

Highampton School collected £56 in aid of The Royal British Legion during its recent Poppy Appeal. Thank you.

FOR SALE: Do you need a new fleece? There is a brand new school uniform fleece (size 9/10yrs) available immediately from Mrs Dimmock-Wright available at cost of £12.75.

Celebration Assemblies

Week ending 19th November



Learner of the Week: Ellarose for wonderful independent learning all week



Tarka Class: Santiago for always being ready to learn

Ruby Class: Kit for taking pride in his presentation

Ruby Heart: Hugo for always displaying kind and caring behaviour and good sharing



Week ending 26th November



Learner of the Week: Sophia for being confident enough to articulate your learning to support others



Tarka Class: Albie for showing improved effort and concentration in writing

Ruby Class: Ruben for showing resilience in Maths with column subtraction

Ruby Heart: Isla for being so sweet to Lexi when she was upset after a fall



GALLERY



Homework celebration - sharing learning with parents



Materials learning - building a dinosaur in Tarka class



Ruby Class writing their reaction to a real fire for poetry.



Tarka Class – Materials Learning: Testing materials; What is waterproof and what is not.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursdays: PE with Mr Pugh
Fridays: French with Mrs Jordan KS2
Drama with Show Up (Mrs Davis)

8TH DECEMBER: DEVON WILDLIFE TRUST SESSION
10TH DECEMBER: 2PM THE NUTCRACKER – SCHOOL PRODUCTION IN VILLAGE HALL.
& CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY
13TH DECEMBER: CHRISTMAS LUNCH
16TH DECEMBER: SANTA VISIT
17TH DECEMBER: LAST DAY OF TERM

SPRING TERM – 5th January – 9 April 2022 | NON-PUPIL DAY 4th January 2022

HALF TERM BREAK – 21st -25th February inclusive 2022