



Highfields Academy

Together we inspire, always aiming higher

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Dear Parents, Carers and Pupils,

It is 12 months to the day since the first lockdown was put into place. What a 12 months it has been! This time last year we couldn't possibly have envisaged what the next 12 months would look like. I remember thinking when schools closed that it would only be for a couple of weeks and after the Easter holiday we could start to return to normality. How wrong I was!

We all hope that we never see another year like the last one but today I have been reflecting on the positive things that have come out of the last 12 months. I honestly believe that once we get through this situation we will be a far stronger school than we were before. The community spirit and 'togetherness' is stronger than ever before. Your support over the last year has been fantastic, and very much appreciated – we would have struggled to manage the situation without this so thank you!! I've also reflected on the outstanding charity work that some of our pupils have been involved in over the last year – truly inspiring! The development of our IT skills is another major plus point. Whilst we never want to return to full time remote learning the staff and pupils have developed skills that will certainly enhance our future provision.

I do feel very positive at the moment. Two weeks ago we saw all our children return to on-site education and it has been wonderful – attendance has been extremely high so thank you for that too. Last week two parents sent me some photographs that they took when collecting their children and I think they perfectly symbolise where we are currently:



We are getting excited about the summer term and are hopeful that we can very soon start to plan some of our usual events such as Sports Day. Further information about these things will follow shortly after the Easter break.

Next week we will be having our in-school birthday parties for all of the children that have had a birthday during January, February or March. The parties will take place on the last day of term (Thursday 1st April). We have 3 pupils whose birthdays actually fall on the 1st April so they will be included too.

A reminder:

Since November we have not had to close any classes due to positive cases of Covid-19 and we are desperate for this to continue. If your child displays any potential symptoms of Covid-19, **however mild** they are, **please** do not send them into school and arrange for a PCR test. The four main symptoms to look out for are:

- A cough
- A high temperature (37.8 degrees or over)
- Loss of smell
- Loss of taste

Please note that if your child shows any of these symptoms then it is a PCR test (at a test site) that is required. The LFD tests that you can source are only for people who do not demonstrate any symptoms.

If your child has an upset tummy (diarrhoea) or has been sick then you must keep them off school for 48 hours from the last episode. If your child is unwell in any other way then please give us a call to discuss before bringing them into school.

If a child shows any of these symptoms in school (however mild) we will place them in isolation and ask you to collect them as soon as is possible. We have to strictly follow this guidance in order to protect all other pupils, staff and the wider community.

School breaks up for the Easter holidays on Thursday 1st April and we return to school on Monday 19th April. Our holiday club is open but we will only accept bookings if this is to cover working commitments or other exceptional circumstances. We have extended the closing date for bookings to this Friday (26th). Please note that it will not be possible to arrange any sessions after this date.

Once again, thank you all for your support.

Simon Dyson
Principal