



# Highfield Primary School

## NEWSLETTER



### **Message from Headteacher - OCTOBER 2020**

It has been lovely to be fully open this half term and have all the children return to school. I know the children have really enjoyed being back and we have really enjoyed them being here. They have been doing work related to their theme 'A kaleidoscope of colours'. Our younger children have been using Kaleidoscopes, camouflage and reading Elmer the Elephant and our older children have been making kaleidoscopes and studying colours in nature. We have also been giving the children time to discuss our value for the term, kindness. Different year groups have been discussing what kindness means to them and what being kind to each other really means.

Although this week we have had our first bubbles shut down and the partial closure of the school, everything that we have experienced since March has shown us the importance of school and the joy that it brings to children, our staff and indeed parents. I fundamentally believe that school is where children should be and education needs to continue.

Have a lovely half term.

Mr Wilson

Headteacher



**Our three core values are Respect, Co-Operation and Kindness.  
This term's value is Kindness**

### **Governors:**

I would like to congratulate Tanya Ahmed and Nikesh Tailor on being successfully elected to the Governing body. I am looking forward to working with you. I am always appreciative of those who give up their time in order to support the school.

I would also like to thank Eamonn Dempsey and Naomi Bulliard, the outgoing parent Governors. During my time as headteacher, and prior to this, they have both done an excellent job in offering support and using their knowledge and experience to offer the school guidance. It was a pleasure to have both of them on the Governing body.

**Mr Wilson**

### **Friends of Highfield:**

I would like to thank the Friends of Highfield for donating money to the school this term in order for to fund new wet play games for the children. Due to Covid restrictions we no longer allow the children to freely move around the classroom during wet play so more games were needed for them to play and I thank the Friends for helping to fund that.

**Mr Wilson**

### **Wear what you want day:**

On Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October the Friends of Highfield organised 'Wear what you want day'. The children really enjoyed being in their weekend clothes. I know the Friends only asked for £1 per child so please donate.



### **School Streets:**

A number of parents have mentioned the School Streets Initiative to us. Some of you may have seen 'School Streets' in place at other nearby primary schools. A school street is when the roads immediately surrounding a school are closed to motor traffic. They operate Monday - Friday in term time, during set times at drop-off and pick up. School streets stay open to only pedestrians, cyclists, and residents of the street who have an exemption. Our children's health and mental wellbeing is of the highest importance and there are many benefits of School Streets:

- Improved air quality - reduced traffic volumes leading to reductions in local emissions
- Improved road safety - reduced risk of potential conflict between road traffic and pupils
- Increased physical activity - making the school gate cleaner and safer will encourage more active travel to school

At Highfield, this is something we are very much interested in applying for. We are currently at the 'expression of interest' stage and are hoping to be able to formally apply soon after. Unfortunately however, although the team are happy to engage with schools and take applications, there is not currently funding to implement any further schemes at present. Hopefully, given the success of the schools already part of the initiative, School Streets may be able to secure funding for more schools to join in the not-so-distant future. In time we may need parent support for this so please do keep your eye out for any future emails.

### **Well-being and Safety Section:**

This half term we have focused more than ever on the children's well-being, based on the NHS 5 Ways to Wellbeing approach:

- Connect with other people 2. Be physically active 3. Learn new skills 4. Give to others 5. Pay attention to the present moment (mindfulness). See <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/improve-mental-wellbeing/> for further details.
- Children are spending an increasing amount of time online. Online safety is something that we regularly discuss at school. It is also very important that you talk to your child about how to stay safe and happy in the online environment. Please follow the link from the school website homepage to the online safety section, for further information and useful links for parents.
- Please note that parents have a duty to notify the Local Authority if a child will not be living with a blood relative for more than 28 days.
- If you are considering getting a private tutor for your child, we would strongly recommend that you ask for and check references and that they have a current certificate to show that they have undergone an Enhanced DBS Check with Barred List.

### **Lost Property:**

Please ensure that your child's clothes, lunch box and water bottle ***are all clearly labelled with their name and class***. Due to the current restrictions in the school there is no way that we can have a lost property box, which means if items are not labelled there is very little chance of them finding their way back to your child.



### **DRIVING SAFELY & PARKING AROUND THE SCHOOL:**

We would like to remind parents to park considerately, thinking about where you leave your cars whilst dropping your children off to school. It is absolutely vital that parents/carers DO NOT park over our neighbours' driveways or directly in front of the school gates (as seen in the image below). We appreciate that parking is limited, but the relationship we have with local residents is really important to the success of our school and as always, the safety of our children remains paramount. Please also remember you do have the option to park in Sainsbury's and walk over. We also encourage as many of our families as possible to walk, scoot or cycle to school. Thank you for your cooperation

### **Flu vaccine:**

You will have recently been sent information about the flu vaccine that is available to all primary school children. This year it will be more important than ever to get children vaccinated. Colds and flu like symptoms are very common, especially in young children, but this year, if your child has these symptoms it will mean household self-isolation and having to book a test. We have already seen what testing is currently like and it will have to significantly increase if the system is going to cope through the Winter months. This could mean even more time at school lost. It is of course your right to decide whether your child has the vaccination or not but our advice would be, that unless there is a good medical reason for your child not to have the vaccination, to give permission for your child to have it.

### **Classroom Ventilation:**

In order to further minimise the risk of the spread of Coronavirus (Covid-19), it is important to ensure a well ventilated and comfortable teaching environment is maintained. This means that windows in classrooms will often be open despite the weather getting cooler. In order to ensure your child remains comfortable, you may wish to send them in wearing an extra layer on colder days. A vest or additional t-shirt beneath what they would usually wear is advised.



# Pick up/ Drop off service between Highfield Nursery and Carey Hall Preschool



*5 minute walking distance*  
*Funding available for qualifying families*

**Call Hollie: 07786 107 161**

**Email: [careyhallpreschool@gmail.com](mailto:careyhallpreschool@gmail.com)**

**Website: [www.careyhallpreschool.com](http://www.careyhallpreschool.com)**

**Facebook: [@careyhallpreschool](https://www.facebook.com/careyhallpreschool)**

## **Competition Time**

The Mayor of Enfield has launched a t-shirt designing competition to raise money for local NHS and COVID -19 related causes. The winning designs will be printed on t-shirts and sold with all the proceeds going to charity. The theme of the competition is 'You are not alone'. This is to show solidarity, friendship and support. Please see your class Google Classroom for further details and a t-shirt template.

