



HIGHWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL - ' Always aiming HIGHER''

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12th October 2023

Dear Families,

Autumn term letter from Mrs. Staley- Executive Head Teacher

Welcome back to the new school year, we are 6 weeks in already and the children have settled back to school really well.

Just by way of introduction to our new families, I am Marie Staley, Executive Head. I'm also Head at Moulsham Juniors just a few miles away and love the partnership between our 2 settings. You will see me on site every other week (usually a Tuesday morning) and I keep in touch with Mrs Lipski, Head of School, throughout the week.

You may also see Stuart Griffiths around, always working hard, he is the site manager at Moulsham Juniors and is able to give some time to support with health and safety, maintenance and future building needs.

This year at Highwood we will be focusing on three main aspects as part of School Development.

Reading- To develop our phonics teaching with an emphasis on those pupils who need to make accelerated progress in this area. Find out more here: <https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>

Curriculum- We are working on developing our assessments in the foundation subjects so that we better understand how well the children are learning:

Attendance- To reduce number of pupils who are absent persistently (attending for 90% or less of the time.)

Regular attendance is vital for children's education, wellbeing and long-term development and evidence shows pupils with higher attendance tend to have higher attainment across all key stages.

90% sounds like a high percentage but when it comes to attending school that means missing half a day, every week. By the time our children reach secondary school if their attendance is as low as 80% it equates to missing a whole school year.

Where parents decide to have their child registered at school, they have an additional legal duty to ensure their child attends that school regularly. This means their child must attend every day that the school is open, except in a small number of allowable circumstances such as being too ill to attend or being given permission for an absence in advance from the school.

INFORMING THE SCHOOL OF AN ABSENCE

It is your responsibility to call the school office before nine o'clock if your child is not coming in that day, with a clear explanation of the reason why.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,

Mrs Marie Staley

Executive Head Teacher

UPDATED DATES FOR THE REST OF THE TERM

Monday 30th October	All children back
Tuesday 31st October	Halloween Dress up day, we will hold activities during the school day for the children to enjoy.
Friday 10th November	Remembrance Assembly 9.30 in school hall
Thursday 16th November	Parents evening 3.30 to 5.30pm by appointment
Friday 17th November	Whole school Ramble to raise money for a charity to be chosen by the children . From 1.30 pm
Tuesday 21st November	Open morning for prospective new reception parents for 2024
Tuesday 21st November	Parents evening 3.30 to 5.30 pm by appointment
Tuesday 28th November	Open morning for prospective new reception parents for 2024
Monday 11th December details to follow)	Non uniform day in return for a Jar for our annual tombola (more details to follow)
Friday 8th December	Christmas Jumper day
Thursday 14th December	Whole School Christmas Concert 5pm
Monday 18th December	Hobgoblin Theatre Panto, for all pupils during the school day, this is organised by the PTA
Tuesday 19th December	Christmas Assembly/ Carol singing at Highwood Church @ 10am, all welcome
Wednesday 20th December	Last day of Autumn Term
Monday 8th January 2024	First day back for Spring Term