



High Down Schools

Believing | Achieving | Learning for life

**Friday 11th
September
2020**

NEWSLETTER 1

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back – it's lovely to see you all!

Welcome back to a new school year. It was wonderful to see all our children back in class last week. I would like to add a BIG welcome to all of our new families to High Down Schools.

I want to thank our parents and carers for their patience and understanding so far. There are new ways of doing things. The staggered start and finish to the day, which I understand is inconvenient for some, is just one of the necessary measures needed to ensure we reduce the amount of people in the school grounds at any one time. This, together with other safety measures like frequent hand washing, in school cleaning during the day, children in specific class group bubbles taking staggered playtimes and lunches in class rather than the dining hall, all help us keep your children and our staff safe and crucially ensure school stays fully open. After a difficult first morning, I am pleased that the staggered start and finish times are much smoother. This just shows how when we collaborate over something to make it work it does. Thank you.

Wearing of face masks

Thank you for your support with wearing face masks on the school site. We are continuing to review this, especially when dropping off and at collection times. Due to the increased numbers of cases nationally and locally, we are trying all we can to keep us all safe.



School Values

Our School Value this term is **Care and Kindness** one of the school's five Core Values. We want the children to be happy and successful at school and have set high expectations for how we treat each other around the school and in class - being and trying our best!

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FHDJS AGM 16 September 2020

Dear All,

We hope the return to school has gone well for all our juniors. Welcome aboard to our new Year 3 families!

The mandatory AGM of the Friends of High Down School is due to take place, the annual chair and treasury reports will be tabled and the committee are also voted in for the coming year. The AGM will be held on Wednesday 16 September at 19:30. This will be held via Zoom. Staff and parents are all invited.

Should you wish to attend - please email friendshdjs@gmail.com for the meeting link and password.

Thank you to all of you that have supported the FHDJS over the last academic year. The FHDJS are proud to have been able to help the school with funding towards essential resources during the last few months. Funds raised by you!

FHDJS

New NHS-endorsed guidance launched to support the mental wellbeing of children



Most families have experienced upheaval in their daily lives during the pandemic. With children now back at school, Public Health England's (PHE) new 'Better Health – Every Mind Matters' campaign provides NHS endorsed tips and advice to look after children and young people's mental wellbeing. The advice available on the 'Better Health - Every Mind Matters' website has been developed in partnership with leading children and young people's mental health charities. It is designed to help parents and carers spot the signs that children may be struggling with their mental health and show the actions they can take to support them. In addition to the advice for parents and carers the site also provides tools to help young people build resilience and equips them to look after their mental wellbeing. For more information search Every Mind Matters.

Reception

It's amazing to see how well the new Reception children are adapting to our new ways of working and lovely to see how much fun they are having in class. Staff are already uploading observations to the Interactive learning Diary, so please make sure you are able to access this. Check with your child's teacher if you don't know how to do this.

Year One and Two Curriculum information

You should either have received, or be receiving shortly, information about the year group curriculum and routines for your child's individual class. If you have any questions about this, please send them to the staff email provided.

Junior Year Group Curriculum sessions

We hope you found the Junior Year group sessions useful on Microsoft Teams this week. If you were unable to attend the live session, the video will be saved within the Year Group Team's page. If you are unable to locate the video or you have any further questions, please contact the school office.

Infant School Celebration Service:

11th September 2020

Year Two – Owls, Elsie and Elijah, Falcons, Daniel and Elizabeth, Pelicans, Manon and Louis.

Year One – Ducks, Tilly H and Elliott, Swans, Henry and Millie, Penguins, Elena and Zachary.

Junior Golden Book Service:

11th September 2020

Years 3 & 4 – The whole of Year 3, Jack and Maria 4F, Mason and Zoe 4D, Indie and Jack 4W

Years 5 & 6 – Flo and Joel 5CH, Jacob and Lenia 5W, Sophia and Dexter 5D, Will and Alice 5S, Chase and Dylan 6B, Joe and Megan 6H, Jacob and Laura 6G

Key Diary Dates-

Updated dates will be highlighted in red within each newsletter

Infant school Junior school Both schools

Term 1

Tuesday 13th October 15/6 Assembly with Kooth

Thursday 22nd October Last day of Term 1 for children

Friday 23rd October INSET day

Term 2

Monday 2nd November INSET day

Tuesday 3rd November Children back in school to begin Term 2

Have a lovely weekend

Yours sincerely,

Mr Rhodri Hopkins

Executive Deputy Headteacher