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15th May 2020

Dear Parents / Carers of our new F2 children,

Welcome to Highwood! We received the list of our new parents for September 2020 from the Local Authority today, so I thought I would make initial contact with you to share some useful information. Obviously, it is a really strange time in schools with us currently being partially closed and now going through the planning process of how to reopen for the class groups identified by the government.

I recognise that this will be an anxious time for you as your children are preparing to start 'big school'. To help overcome some of the worries, we have created a page on the school website with information that you will hopefully find useful – the link is here:

<https://www.highwood.wokingham.sch.uk/page/?title=Information+for+new+parents&pid=141>

On this page are all of the documents we would normally give you in our Starter Packs and we also have included the presentation we use for our New Parent Meetings. If you attended one of our school tours, you will recognise a lot of the information, but this presentation adds specific details about our curriculum and daily routines, for example.

If you have any additional questions that are not answered in the information on the website, then please send queries to the school office – the email address is: admin@highwood.wokingham.sch.uk

I also Tweet regularly about school updates from the account @headhighwood, so please feel free to follow me and find out the things that the school are up to during this term.

I will keep you all up to date with any information around the transition process once the plan is in place. To give you an idea of our thoughts at this stage: if the school is not open before Summer, then we plan to create video messages for the children to meet their new teachers and see some photographs of the classrooms etc. In this scenario, it is likely that we would delay our start dates in September to allow us to do a more phased entry to school. This would give us the opportunity to provide your children with taster sessions before starting full time, to hopefully make the start of school as smooth as possible. We will still plan on doing home visits in September and then we can discuss the process in more detail much closer to the time.

Thank you for choosing Highwood and I look forward to you all becoming members of our Highwood community. Have a great weekend.

Best wishes,

Matt Hickey

Headteacher.