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Head Teacher: Mr M Hickey BA(Ed), PE QTS

29th May 2020

Headteacher Update

This communication is primarily for parents of F1, F2, Year 1 and Year 6 parents, but I wanted to share with all the Highwood community.

Dear Parents / Carers,

I hope this email finds you well. I just wanted to communicate with you, so that those of you who are eligible and are returning on Monday have got the most up to date information.

Before I outline the changes, I just want to reiterate a few key messages:

1. It is entirely your choice about whether or not you send your children into school – there will be no repercussions about non-attendance.
2. We have minimised the risks as much as possible, but like many things in school, we cannot guarantee that all risks have been eliminated. We have a thorough risk assessment to make sure that all staff are aware of the systems and procedures to follow.
3. As mentioned in previous communication, our bubbles have been organised based on the surveys that we received. If you have not indicated to the school already that you wish your child to attend, then we will not be able to have them in school on Monday 1st June. We will put the children onto our waiting list and then reassess our staffing provision during the week to potentially allocate them to a bubble from 8th June.
4. Please be aware that decisions may change at very short notice. These decisions could result in certain bubbles being closed due to staffing changes. The teaching unions will be giving their members advice today and over the weekend and this could significantly impact the offer that we are able to provide on Monday. As soon as I know if any bubbles are impacted, then I will inform parents accordingly.

Please note, that whilst any last-minute changes may have an impact on families, the staff have my full support to follow the advice that their unions give them in order to safeguard themselves.

School based updates:

- All the learning spaces are ready.
- The external parts of the site have a combination of signs and footprints to inform parents about social distancing and how to navigate the one-way system.

- Inside the school, all doors are labelled, so children and adults know which spaces have been allocated to them. This will help us keep bubbles separated.
- All the children will spend the first parts of the trial week going through the changes and discussing any worries they have. Senior staff will review the systems in action during the trial week and make any necessary adjustments based on feedback.

Disabled access:

If you require disabled access, then please:

- Arrive in school as normal at your allocated time.
- Once parked, please phone through to the school office.
- Please wait in your car until a member of school staff comes to collect your child and takes them to their allocated room.

Please remember that if your child is experiencing any Covid-19 symptoms, that the protocols of self-isolation are still required and we would not expect the children to be in school.

Thank you for your continued patience and support. Enjoy your weekend!

Best wishes,

Matt Hickey

Headteacher