



Highwood Primary School,
Fairwater Drive,
Woodley,
READING,
Berkshire.
RG5 3JE

Tel: 0118 926 5493
Fax: 0118 926 6819

Email: admin@highwood.wokingham.sch.uk
www.highwood.wokingham.sch.uk

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

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Laptop Scheme

Dear Parents / Carers,

I wanted to update you with the situation regarding the laptops that are being allocated to schools. The way that this scheme is portrayed in the media not does given you an accurate reflection of reality in schools, particularly primary schools.

Through the Department for Education (DfE) Laptop scheme, Highwood was originally allocated 20 laptops but this reduced in October to an allocation of 4 for the entire school. These laptops could only be ordered when the school had any closure for Covid-19 related reasons – when our Year 4 bubble closed last term, I ordered the 4 that were available.

Currently, the DfE are prioritising secondary schools, so I am not able to order the remaining 16 laptops for our school. They will contact me as soon as the ordering process opens, which we are being told will be in the next couple of weeks.

Highwood had a very kind donation from Bluecoats school which has allowed us to purchase 2 additional laptops. We are also looking at converting some of our school laptops to ones that can be used at home by the pupils. We are doing this as quickly as we can, but we want to make sure that they are as safe as possible for children to use when accessing the internet.

We have staff members that are kindly donating laptops they no longer require and again we will build these for pupil use as soon as we can. If any families have laptops that they no longer need or use, then I would be happy to accept them to use for our children – please get in contact if this is a possibility.

Through our phone calls yesterday, we have built up a list of families that would benefit from having a laptop, but this list far outweighs the number of devices we have. I have a meeting this afternoon to go through our prioritisation process, so that we can allocate the devices to those in most need.

I hope this adds some clarity as to the laptop situation at Highwood.

Thank you for your understanding.

Best Wishes,

Matt Hickey

Headteacher