



Highters Heath Community School

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Dear parents and carers

First of all, I hope you had a wonderful break, and that you have a Happy New Year. We look forward to welcoming the children back to school tomorrow, Wednesday 5th January.

Unfortunately, Covid cases are extremely high at the moment, and so we have had to think about how we will make sure we are able to continue to deliver high quality education to all the children through these difficult times.

Any children who are asked to isolate, or have a positive Covid test result, will receive remote learning. During any time of isolation, we will ring each day to check on the children's' well-being, and their ability to complete the online learning. When we set remote learning it is really important that the children complete it, unless of course, they are unwell and unable to.

If you do not have appropriate devices for the children to complete the online learning, please let us know as we can help you with that.

Also, we are experiencing really high levels of staff absence at the moment, and it is really important that you are aware of the possible consequences of this. We will do everything we can to ensure each class still has a teacher, including using supply agencies, support staff and switching staff from other areas of school where possible. However, it may come to a point where we have exhausted all options and are unable to teach a class. In this case, and this would be a last resort, we may need to close the school to specific classes or groups. If this happens, we will let you know as soon as we possibly can, and those children affected will receive remote learning. We will also try to provide a space in school for children of key workers and vulnerable children as before.

This all feels really negative, but just remember that this time last year we being told to close the school, with no notice, and we remained that way until March. This will not happen this year! Hopefully we will be able to get through this term without too much disruption, and again I say, we will do everything we can to ensure this. Our first priority will always be the safety of our children.

It is clear that Covid may be here for some time to come, so in order to keep school running as effectively as possible, please remember the basic rules of Covid; regular self-testing (parents and children where possible), mask wearing in public, limiting social contact and regular hand washing.

If you need any help with anything, please get in touch. We are here to help!

Kind regards always

Brian Doherty