



Hutton Lane, Guisborough, TS14 8AA

Website: www.highcliffeprimary.org



Tel: 01287/632293

With belief and hard work anything is possible

5th October 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is astonishing that we are already approaching autumn. We hope that all of our Highcliffe families enjoyed the summer break together, and we were delighted with how settled the children were on their return to school, having already moved into their new classes in July. We would value any further feedback about this early transition experience for your child.



Calendar of Events

Please find attached a calendar of key events for your diary across the year. Please note that we have tried to confirm as many dates as possible through to the summer term, but there may be some changes over the year, due to circumstances beyond our control.

PD Days

As you will see on the calendar, we have set 4 out of the 5 PD Days well in advance: **Friday 23rd September, Friday 11th November, Friday 23rd June** and **Friday 30th June**, when school is closed to the children for staff training. The 5th PD Day, focusing on writing moderation, will be organised for the spring term. More details to follow.

Harvest Festival

On **Monday 10th October**, we will be holding a Harvest Festival on the theme of children's rights around the world. We will be organising a silver coin collection for the rest of that week to raise funds for "Wateraid" and their international campaign to fulfil the right of every child to access a basic, hygienic toilet. Every £60 raised can provide a school or community toilet. Thank you in anticipation of your support.

Safeguarding

A reminder that the Designated Safeguarding Lead in school is Jackie Woodhead, Headteacher. Luke Parnaby, Deputy Head, is the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead and members of the Governing Body with a special responsibility for safeguarding are Derek Benn, Sheila Holyoake and Douglas Forteach.

There have been a number of near misses in the school car parks this term, when children have been allowed to play in, or walk across, the main car park, when being dropped off early for morning clubs and activities, or collected from after school clubs on an evening. Please insist, as we do, that children only use the pedestrian path at all times, even when holding an adult's hand. Please also ensure that you supervise children before and after school, not allowing them to break school rules, such as climbing on fences and "playfighting", as parents and carers are responsible for their child's behaviour and wellbeing at this time.

Several children have returned to school wearing pierced earrings. I have explained to the children about distressing accidents with earrings that I have witnessed first hand in schools, and request that earrings are removed completely as soon as possible.

Uniform

Thank you for ensuring that the children have returned to school looking very smart in their school uniform. A reminder that school shoes should be black (no brightly coloured trainers, thank you) and that our simple PE uniform consists of a plain white t-shirt and black or blue shorts (not expensive football kits). Thank you for your support in helping children to feel ready to learn, and to feel part of our Highcliffe family.

“Boys Will Be Brilliant”

It was lovely to work with those parents who supported the parents’ session on raising boys’ achievement last week. Feedback from the session was very positive, as was staff feedback from the following day’s PD Day, which gave us lots of strategies to implement in school. One of our actions from the day is to compile a leaflet to support parents and carers unable to attend the session last week, which we will circulate as soon as possible.



“Book and Breakfast”

One of the key messages from the training on supporting achievement for all children, including boys, was the huge importance of reading and enjoying fiction with adults, particularly with dads, grandads and male family friends. All are welcome at our weekly Book and Breakfast sessions held from 8.00am on Wednesdays for EYFS and lower KS2 (Y3/4); and Fridays for KS1 (Y1/2) and upper KS2 (Y5/6). Come along and enjoy a coffee, some toast and the chance to share a book or two with your children.

A reminder that KS2 children are encouraged to bring fruit in for breaktime. Please do not send other food items, such as biscuits.

Parental Questionnaire

Many thanks for your continued support and the highly positive feedback shown in our 2016 parental questionnaire. A summary of the results is attached. Below are the actions we are taking in response to your suggestions for further improvement:

School meals

We will contact the catering company, Creative Catering, and arrange a drop-in for parents and carers to share ideas and concerns, and to ask questions or arrange visits to find out more about the school meal service.

Earlier notification of events

Each year, we try to set key dates for the year, as far as possible, to support busy family lives and calendars. New dates are published on the school calendar on our website, which we are in the process of updating. Obviously, some events have not yet been set, such as class school visits later in the year, and we will endeavour to notify you of these in good time.

Communication – Twitter

A number of parents and carers made useful suggestions for improving our communication tools, having found “pupil post” unreliable, at times. We have investigated some e-mail and text solutions, but the school budget is unable to support this in the current financial year. We are, therefore, considering a “Twitter” account solution, as recommended by Northern Grid. This would be linked to our website, allowing for brief messages, reminders and information to be disseminated for free to parents and carers who sign up to “follow” a school Twitter account on mobile phones or devices. For example, this could give immediate messages about sports days, return times for visits, club cancellations, publication of newsletters on the website. More news of this to follow.

Clubs for younger children

We have organised a wide range of free activities for children across Y1 to Y6 this year, including twice weekly Football and Food morning sessions, lunchtime clubs and at least four after school clubs a week. A huge thank you to staff who have volunteered to give their time to support these activities.

As always, please do not wait until a questionnaire if you have any more great ideas to share with us.

Yours sincerely,

J Woodhead
Headteacher

Highcliffe Primary School 2016

	Please tick	Agree		Disagree	
1	My child enjoys school.	99%		1%	
2	The school keeps my child safe.	98%		2%	
3	I am pleased with the progress my child is making.	98%		2%	
4	The school meets my child's particular needs.	97%		3%	
5	Teaching is good.	99%		1%	
6	The school keeps me well informed.	95%		5%	
7	The school helps me to support my child's learning.	99%		1%	
8	I feel comfortable about approaching the school with questions or concerns.	98%		2%	
9	Highcliffe listens to, and responds to, the views of children and parents.	99%		1%	
10	The school is led and managed well.	99%		1%	
11	My child is encouraged to be sensible and independent.	100%			
12	Inappropriate behaviour and/or bullying in school is dealt with effectively.	95%		3%	
13	There is a good range of classroom activities that my child finds interesting and enjoyable.	99%		1%	
14	Highcliffe provides a good range of activities for children outside of lessons e.g. before school, lunch-time, after school, visits, residential.	93%		8%	
15	My child is encouraged to make a positive contribution to school and the community.	98%		2%	
16	I would recommend Highcliffe Primary to another parent/carer.	Yes 98%		No 1%	
	Overall, Highcliffe Primary is:	Excellent 65%	Good 34%	Satisfactory 1%	Unsatisfactory

Please tell us one or two things that we do well:

Football and Food; Book and Breakfast; progress checks; keeping children safe; clubs; parents' evening; communication; children's progress; friendly staff; school trips; support

Please give one or two suggestions for further improvement:

School meals; give out information earlier; e-mail letters so that they don't get lost; more clubs for younger children

Calendar of Events (Autumn 2016)

w/c	Event
01-09	Thursday 1 st - children return
05-09	
12-09	
19-09	Thursday 6.00pm "Boys will be brilliant" parents' session Friday PD Day - school closed to all children
26-09	
03-10	Thursday 6 th to Wednesday 12 th "Travelling Book Fair" after school
10-10	Harvest Festival - "Wateraid" silver collection
17-10	
Half term	School Closed
31-10	Book Week Visiting Author Monday/Tuesday 31 st and 1 st Friday 4 th Book themed dressing up competition (This will be our annual dress up day to conclude our Book Week, rather than on World Book Day in March)
07-11	Thursday 10 th Parental consultations and interim reports
14-11	Tuesday 15 th Parental consultations and interim reports
21-11	
28-11	Thursday 1 st Christmas Grotto and Raffle
05-12	Tuesday 6 th EYFS Christmas Crafts Tuesday 6 th Choir singing in St Nicholas' Church for Guisborough Town Parade Wednesday 7 th am EYFS performance; Christmas Lunch day Thursday 8 th pm EYFS performance/KS1 pantomime visit Friday 9 th pm EYFS pantomime visit
12-12	Monday 12 th all day East Cleveland Co-operative Learning Trust choir Monday 12 th pm KS1 performance Tuesday 13 th pm KS1 performance/KS2 church rehearsal Wednesday 14 th am KS2 performance at St Nicholas' Church/pm KS1 parties Thursday 15 th pm KS2 parties Friday 16 th am Nursery party/pm Reception party

Calendar of Events (Spring 2017)

w/c	Event
02-01	Tuesday 3 rd - children return
09-01	
16-01	
23-01	
30-01	
06-02	
Half term	School closed
20-02	Y5 residential Barnard Castle Monday 20 th to Friday 24 th
27-02	
06-03	Thursday 9 th Parental consultations and interim reports
13-03	Tuesday 14 th Parental consultations and interim reports
20-03	
27-03	
03-04	Easter Egg design competition Thursday 6 th School Disco

Calendar of Events (Summer 2017)

w/c	Event
24-04	
01-05	Monday - Bank Holiday Thursday 4 th Nursery visit whilst Nursery used as polling station
08-05	Y6 SATs week
15-05	Y2 SATs
22-05	Y2 SATs Y4 Whitby residential visit Tuesday 3 rd /Wednesday 4 th
Half term	School closed
05-06	Y6 Derbyshire residential visit Tuesday 6 th to Friday 9 th
12-06	Phonic Screening Y1/2/3
19-06	EYFS and KS1/KS2 Sports Days Family Barbecue Friday 23rd PD Day - school closed to children
26-06	Monday 26 th reports and new class allocations Wednesday 28 th parental consultations (option to discuss report) Thursday 29 th Celebration Assembly (Endeavour, Avid Reader, Magical Mathematician)/Y6 Leavers' Performance and Celebration after school Friday 30th PD Day - school closed to children
03-07	Children move up to new classes - 'Take One Image, Take One Sound' theme: "Indian Summer" Art and Handwriting Competition Y6 to secondary induction all week
10-07	Y6 to secondary induction all week Friday - Celebration Assembly (Art and Handwriting)
17-07	Y6 to secondary induction all week Enterprise Galleries/new class "Welcome Meetings" Friday - Break up for summer