



Hutton Lane, Guisborough, TS14 8AA

Tel: 01287/632293

Website: <http://www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk/highcliffe>

---

12<sup>th</sup> July 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,

*With belief and hard work, anything is possible*



A very warm welcome to all children to the new school year 2016-17. We are delighted with how the children have quickly settled into their new classes, ready to learn.

Many thanks to parents and carers who attended "Welcome meetings" last week: the EYFS attendance was excellent, although for other phases of school it was around 35%. Feedback from parents and carers who did attend was very positive, so we hope that attendance will increase for such meetings, giving valuable information about how we can work in partnership to support your child's learning and wellbeing.

### **Staffing**

We are very sorry to say goodbye to some highly valued members of staff at the end of term. Mrs Beedle (KS1) and Mrs Noble (Wednesdays in Y4) are retiring (early), although we hope that they may both be persuaded to return for some supply work. Many thanks to both teachers for their positive contribution to school, and the care and commitment shown to children, families and the school community. We look forward to our paths continuing to cross!

We also hope that Mrs Stephenson (EYFS TA) may return for supply work in the future. We have allocated our existing teaching assistants more flexibly over the coming year to a range of roles across school, depending upon the needs of individual children, groups and cohorts.

### **School uniform**

Thank you for ensuring that children continue to attend school smartly in uniform. Uniform helps to set the right tone for learning in school and helps children to feel that they belong to the school community. Please ensure that all clothing is named clearly, including PE kit. We do ask that children wear suitable black shoes for school, and not brightly coloured training shoes. This helps children to develop good habits before transferring to secondary school, where non-compliance with uniform incurs disciplinary sanctions.

The school's policy on jewellery states that **no jewellery should be worn at school, including earrings**, although we do encourage children to wear wrist watches, except in PE lessons. This jewellery policy supports our approach to uniform but is primarily to create a safer environment for the children in lessons and on the playground. A child's ear can be seriously damaged as earrings can easily be caught on clothing or hair, when children are playing. A number of children are wearing earrings and they should be removed as soon as possible please. Children will not be allowed to participate in PE unless earrings are removed or covered, and it is preferable if they are covered at all times, to prevent an accident on the yard.

The start of the summer break provides a more appropriate time for children to have their ears pierced, if you so wish, allowing their ears to heal and for earrings be removed in September. Your support in this matter is greatly appreciated.

### **Medicines in School**

Our school policy continues to support the inclusion of children with medical needs. If children require prescribed medication to be given in school time, please complete a form available from the school office. **Non-prescribed medication cannot be administered by school staff.** We would ask that parents of asthmatic children complete a new form (available from the school office) so that our records are updated with the current needs of each child. Inhalers should be brought to school in their original labelled boxes, and children should only bring reliever (generally **blue**) inhalers to school. Inhalers and spacers should be taken home at the end of each half term so that spacers can be cleaned and inhalers checked for expiry dates. **It is the responsibility of parents to ensure that inhalers sent to school are within the expiry date, and regularly cleaned.** The summer break provides an ideal time for these matters to be checked.

### **Thrive**

As you know, we want all of our children to make good progress academically and in their social and emotional development, so that they enjoy school and learning, and have positive relationships with adults and their peers. Our staff have recently been trained in the “Thrive” approach to support us to achieve these aims for all children in our care.

“Thrive” is a dynamic developmental approach to working with children to promote their emotional wellbeing at the right time; to support emotional learning at key times; and to support early signs of difficulty within time.

Miss Heslop (Lead Thrive Practitioner), Mrs Walker (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Co-ordinator), Mrs Pearson (Nurture Group Teacher) and Mrs Scott (Nurture Group Teaching Assistant) are trained to use the Thrive programme to check all children’s personal, social and emotional development, and to ensure that individual children with any specific needs have an Action Plan in place.

### **Counselling**

We are also continuing to fund a counselling service for the children again this year, offering additional, specialist provision to enhance the work we have in place to support and develop children’s emotional wellbeing. Referrals can be made by class teachers or parents and carers. If you feel that your child may benefit from the counselling service, please initially contact your child’s class teacher or myself. A waiting list is maintained for the service. If parents and carers would like to speak confidentially to our counsellor, Andrea Pyne, before the start of school on a Tuesday, please telephone or call in to make an appointment.

We are very pleased that the East Cleveland Co-operative Learning Trust, of which we are a member, has successfully secured funding for additional, specialist counselling services this year. Referrals for this additional service can be made in conjunction with parents/carers.

### **Private Fostering**

A privately fostered child is a child under 16 years old (18 years if disabled) who is being cared for and lives in the carer’s home continually for 28 days or more by someone who is not a parent or close relative. The child could be the child of a friend. Relatives who are not classed as private foster carers are:

- Grandparents
- Siblings
- Aunts or Uncles
- Step-relatives (this must be by marriage or civil partnership)

Private foster carers have a legal duty to inform children’s services of the arrangement under the Children’s (Private Arrangements for Fostering) Regulations 2005. If you are privately fostering a child, or know someone who is, please contact the Children’s First Contact Team on 01642-771500.

## Road Safety

We have had a number of complaints from the Council's Engineering Department and local residents about inconsiderate, and potentially dangerous, parking across driveways during school drop off and collection times. This seems to be particularly problematic on Latimer Lane. We would ask that all parents and carers show consideration to our school neighbours, but also remember that such parking causes vision problems for drivers, putting our children's safety at risk.

## Questionnaires

Thank you so much for such positive responses to our parental questionnaire in the summer term, and, on behalf of staff, for the very kind cards, gifts and notes of thanks. A full analysis of the questionnaires will be undertaken and shared with you in September.



## Diary dates

We are in the process of drafting a provisional calendar of events for the whole year, which will be given out to you as soon as possible after the summer break. However, please be aware that these dates, particularly in the spring and summer terms, may be subject to change, due to unforeseen issues arising in coming months. In addition, we are yet to be notified about some events organised by, or dependent upon, external parties.

## Summer works

We have a very limited budget for any premises work this year, but hope to continue our programme of carpet replacement and decoration in the main corridors of the KS2 building over the summer break.

## Good news

100% attendance certificates were presented to 164 children for full attendance in the spring term, including 21 children in Nursery! Below is an update of the class attendance awards until the end of May. The children chose to spend their reward money on a variety of enhancement activities, such as a subsidy for the Air Trail visit in Y5/6; icecreams on the Guisborough Branch Walkway visit in Y3/4; visiting birds and mammals in Reception and KS1.

<b>Class</b>	<b>Total</b>
Y6P	£75
Y2S	£73
Y3A	£70
Y5D	£65
Y5W	£65
Y4S	£62
Y6T	£61
Y3N	£56
Y4N	£44
Y1K	£43
RBW	£42
Y2A	£40
RNR	£38
Y1B	£27

Thank you to Highcliffe Friends for organising another highly successful “Highcliffe’s Got Talent” competition this term.

Half termly Merit Awards were presented at the end of the summer term, and end of year awards were presented on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> June: Endeavour, Avid Reader, Magical Mathematician and runner-up/winners of art and handwriting competitions- this year based upon the theme “Water Under the Bridge”.

The Y6 production was an excellent collection of short performances, written and produced by the children themselves. Brilliant!

Visits this term have included Nursery to Saltburn Beach, KS1 on a train journey to the Head of Steam, Y4 residential visit to Whitby, upper KS2 visit to Tees Barrage and Air Trail, and Y6 residential visit to Evron, France.

Our children have had success in recent sports competitions. The Change4Life dodgeball team has competed in the next round of this tournament, and the Y5/6 cricket team also got through to the next round. Y3 participated in a tennis tournament and one of our children competed in an athletics tournament, specifically for children with special educational needs. An intra-school athletics event was held with our Y5/6 team selected to compete at the next level.

Outdoor pursuit themed playleader reward days were organised for children from across KS2 to thank them for their support of active play at break and lunchtimes.

A lunchtime Change4Life Club also continues to be highly successful, with the involvement of children targeted for confidence and increased participation in physical activity, alongside their friends.

As part of the Sports Premium action plan strand to increase family participation in physical activity, Miss Krywicznanin organised a further family campout on our school field in June (in spite of the rain!).



In addition, our KS1/2 Sports day this year had a strong focus on family participation. Themed on the “Road to Rio”, the full day event was preceded by a visit from Olympian, Chris Tomlinson, and then launched by our school choir and a whole school Zumba warm-up before activities began, including: children’s competitive athletics, non-competitive family walk challenge, tennis, tri-golf, football, mini marathon, climbing wall challenge, pedometer challenge, zumba, and a lunchtime family barbecue. It was a truly exciting and inspiring event – thank you to parents and carers for attending with such enthusiasm!

Finally, our school choir joined children from across East Cleveland to perform brilliantly as part of the Trust choir at Eston Sports Academy on 22<sup>nd</sup> June.

Another busy term at Highcliffe!

Enjoy the summer break, when it arrives, and we look forward to seeing the children to resume their learning on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> September.

Yours sincerely,

J Woodhead  
Headteacher