



Highters Heath Community School

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Headteacher: Mr B Doherty **B.Ed (Hons)** Deputy Headteacher: Mrs E Mudge **Ba (Hons) PGCE**

16/09/20

School Updates

Hello everyone. We felt it was time for an update on how things are going.

The latest round of restrictions are now in place, and this means we can't visit anybody else's house and they can't visit ours. There is an exception where you need to have your child collected by somebody else, that is still allowed, thank goodness! The rule of 6 is also now in place, so we can't gather anywhere in groups of more than 6 people.

A reminder about self-isolation: If one of your family members has symptoms and has been advised to get a test, the **WHOLE HOUSEHOLD MUST ISOLATE** until the result of the test is known. This is vital if we are to be able to minimise the risk of infection in school and the wider community. Please let us know as soon as possible if you or your children are symptomatic (for a list of symptoms please visit the school website), or have been advised to get a test, and please keep us up to date with the outcomes.

In school, the staggered starts seem to be going very well, and the mornings are calm with the children arriving at the right time, and parents all socially distancing, while they wait patiently to release their children. The afternoons have proved to be more of a challenge, but as the days go on, they have become easier, and we will continue to work towards improvement there. I would like to thank you all for your patience with all of this, we need you with us!

It has been great to see the children all back in school, and they have all come back after such a long time away with amazing enthusiasm and real commitment to catch up with the learning they lost during lockdown. Most of the work we have been doing in class up to now has been around mental health and well-being. This week we are doing assessments so that we can accurately gauge exactly where the children are in their learning, so that catch up sessions are designed to meet children's needs precisely.

I would like to remind you that there is a survey online at the moment, asking about devices in your household. There is a possibility that we might be able to access some equipment for home learning (although we have been promised this before!!) so we need to find out which of our families are in greatest need of support. The survey is here

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1xk7J8y8xF9naY9oXL6Tnp_OTXKbYxg2oI0Z37qgku38/edit so please fill it in as soon as you can. We need to close the survey on Friday.

Mrs Mudge and the staff are working very hard to develop our home learning platform for children who can't come to school, and for homework activities. She will let you know more about this at the end of this week.