

**Gawthorpe Lane  
Ossett  
West Yorkshire  
WF5 9BS**

**Acting Headteacher:  
Mrs R Thompson**



Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I would like to begin by thanking all parents and carers for your support to school this term in what continues to be these challenging times. It has presented many last minute plans to support isolation periods and school leaders appreciate how difficult this can be for students and families.

The students have been a shining example of resilience and embraced and adapted to the changes needed to be made in the school setting, including timetable and curriculum amendments in line with our risk assessment.

We received a visit from HSE to look at the measures in place to minimise the risk of Covid infection. The inspector gave positive feedback and in particular was pleased with the level of communication between school and families, and our openness by having our documents, including our risk assessment being published on the website along with support materials for students. Some recommendations were made, which are not mandatory, such as recording the evidence when equipment has been cleaned and this is something we will have in place for next term.

Next term will also see us introducing a pilot for the rapid test with some staff who have volunteered to take part with Public Health England. We will also be receiving some training from PHE so that named staff will be able to carry out the tests. This will enable us to test staff twice a week and catch any asymptomatic cases. The first one will take place during our inset day on January the 4<sup>th</sup>.

There is currently media speculation which you may have seen regarding whether schools will be opening on January the 4<sup>th</sup> or if the government will keep them closed for a further week. We have not received any confirmation from the DFE regarding this so please do continue to plan for your child to return on Tuesday January the 5<sup>th</sup>. If this changes we will contact you directly over the holidays to let you know as soon as possible.

During the holidays we ask that should your child, or member of your household or bubble with whom you and your child may have had direct contact with is confirmed positive with Covid that you report this to our absence line mobile (07531746427) please can you ensure that you leave a voice message or text stating who is positive, what symptoms they have and the date they became unwell. This helps us to support



**Tel:** 01924 264240 **Email:** [admin@highfield.wakefield.sch.uk](mailto:admin@highfield.wakefield.sch.uk) **Web:** [www.highfield-school.co.uk](http://www.highfield-school.co.uk)

trace and trace we would ask that you do this throughout the holidays. If your child test positive please contact this number as soon as possible with the information so we may contact others from school who may need to isolate.

I would also like to say thank you for engaging in the new virtual working ways we find ourselves having to adopt which for some has included virtual EHCP reviews. I hope you have also enjoyed the various shared performances on line in particular the Christmas concert. The students were all fantastic!

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and that you and your families and friends keep well and safe .

Kind Regards

**Rebecca Thompson**  
**Acting Head Teacher**

