

# Highfield Middle School

Highfield Lane, Prudhoe  
Northumberland, NE42 6EY  
Headteacher: Richard Oades  
T 01661 833922  
E [info@hms.cheviotlt.co.uk](mailto:info@hms.cheviotlt.co.uk)  
[hms.cheviotlt.co.uk](https://hms.cheviotlt.co.uk)



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Dear Parents and Carers

Where have those first 5 weeks gone?

We have had a very positive start to the new school year here at Highfield. Our Year 5 pupils are settling in extremely well and we have been really impressed with their independence and maturity. Pupils across all year groups have been very well behaved and keen to learn. We have handed out thousands of Highfield points already – in case you didn't know, we operate a rewards system where pupils are awarded points for: **Achievement; Effort; Respect; Contribution and Readiness to learn**. Our prize shop will open next week, where pupils can cash in their points at key milestones for a range of exciting prizes, ranging from stationery to 'experiences' such as marshmallow roasts around the campfire. Lots of pupils have already reached their 100 points certificate and are looking forward to visiting the prize shop for the first time this year. Parents can track their child's Highfield points total in the MCAS app.

You are probably aware that Highfield is now part of **Cheviot Learning Trust** along with 4 other middle schools, 2 high schools and 11 first schools, in the Prudhoe and Morpeth areas. This represents the coming together of 2 strong trusts – Tyne Community Learning Trust and 3 Rivers Learning Trust – into an even stronger trust, with fantastic scope for collaboration and school improvement, for the benefit of all of our pupils. As part of this process, we are transitioning to a new website at [hms.cheviotlt.co.uk](https://hms.cheviotlt.co.uk) and a new email address for general enquiries [info@hms.cheviotlt.sch.uk](mailto:info@hms.cheviotlt.sch.uk). The old versions will also remain active for a period of time but please begin to use these straight away.

We have been really impressed to see our pupils dressed very smartly on their return to school. It has been the best start in recent memory regarding **uniform**. Just a gentle reminder that socks should be plain black and shoes should be leather (or leather look). Also, all clothing should be labelled with your child's name, to avoid the ever-growing pile of lost property. If you have any problems providing your child with correct uniform, please do not hesitate to get in touch and we will be happy to help.

We would like to encourage parents to support children to complete **homework** wherever possible, on time and to a good standard. Engagement with homework has reduced since the Covid pandemic, both here at Highfield and across the country. It will really help pupils to progress if we can return to those previous higher levels. Please note that we have several lunchtime 'drop in' homework clubs running in school for pupils who need support, or just a quiet place to work.

We know that **parking** on Highfield Lane can be difficult, for parents and residents alike. We encourage pupils to walk, cycle or scoot (see more below) to school wherever possible. This reduces traffic and is good for our planet too! If you are dropping your child off, we suggest dropping off at Fair View or Highfield Park. Please note, **dropping off in the school car park is not permitted** without a Blue Badge or prior agreement for exceptional circumstances.

Whilst we encourage 'green' ways to travel, we must ensure that **pupils use their bikes or scooters safely**. Pupils **must wear a helmet** if cycling or scooting and they **must** be safe and respectful to other road and pavement users. We reserve the right to confiscate bikes and scooters or ban children from travelling in this way if they act in a rude or dangerous manner. We will speak (again) to pupils in school about this and will be grateful if you can enforce the same message at home. There are some good deals on helmets [here](#). If anyone has spare helmets that you would like to donate to school, please drop them in to us and we will share them with children that need them.

For those families with younger siblings or friends joining middle school next September, **the admissions portal is now open** and can be accessed [here](#). Applications should be made by the 31<sup>st</sup> October. Thank you to everyone who attended our Year 3 and 4 open evening on Tuesday. It was great to see so many new faces – and some familiar ones too.

We currently have a great **job opportunity** in school. We are looking for a new **Higher-Level Teaching Assistant** and welcome applications from suitably qualified candidates. The job advert can be found [here](#), or if you would like an informal chat about the role, please feel free to get in touch.

As always, thank you to all of our families for working with the school to get the best for your children. We couldn't have had such a positive start to the year without your support.

Have a great weekend!



Richard Oades  
Headteacher