

Highfield Middle School

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Dear Parents and Carers

We are already at the end of the first half-term. It has been a long and busy one, with lots to celebrate. Our pupils have been fantastic and have made the most of all the opportunities they have been offered. Behaviour and attitudes to learning have been excellent and attendance levels are better than the past few years. Let's make sure we continue on this positive trajectory next half-term and beyond!

I'd like to take this opportunity to highlight a few things which will help to ensure that next half-term is just as successful as this one:

We have been really impressed to see our pupils dressed very smartly for 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). You can get further information on school uniform on our new website [here](#). Also, all clothing should be labelled with your child's name, to avoid the ever-growing pile of lost property.

As we enter the winter months, please note that **shorts are not permitted** as part of school uniform from now until after the Easter break. Wherever possible, we still do **outdoor PE and Games** throughout the winter and pupils need to be dressed for the cold weather during PE and Games lessons. Hoodies, base layers, hats and gloves should be worn as appropriate. Pupils must have suitable change of footwear (trainers) for every PE lesson, wearing school shoes is not permitted.

As always, 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.

Remembrance Day is fast approaching and we will be selling poppies, wrist bands and a few other items during morning break on the first week back. Suggested donations for different items are 50p or £1. We will hold a remembrance assembly on Friday 10th to mark the occasion.

A quick reminder that that £60 deposits for the **Year 5 Dearne Valley residential** are due by Tuesday 7th November.

We will be celebrating **Anti-Bullying Week** in school, starting with **Odd Socks Day** and an Anti-Bullying assembly on Monday 13th November. Pupils are encouraged to express themselves and celebrate their individuality and what makes them unique by wearing odd socks to school. There will also be other anti-bullying activities throughout the week and ongoing across the year, both within lessons and the wider curriculum.

Our **Breakfast Club** is up and running. We recently wrote to many of you inviting your child to come to our Breakfast Club. Initially, this provision is open (and free of charge) to pupils who are eligible for free school meals or in receipt of pupil premium funding. Pupils can arrive between 8:15am and 8:35am and choose from cereal and/or a bagel. If you have received an invite and would like a place for your child for the first week back, please follow the link on MCAS. A new link will be shared each week and names must be added no later than Friday lunchtime, for the following week. We would love to see more pupils taking advantage of this great free provision – if you would like any further information, please do not hesitate to contact school.

We know that **parking** on Highfield Lane can be difficult, for parents and residents alike. We encourage pupils to walk, cycle or scoot 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. We encourage 'green' ways to travel, but 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. 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](#). This is the same portal for our **Year 8 pupils applying to Prudhoe Community High School**. Applications for Middle and High school places should be made by the 31st October.

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 and experienced 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 have loved working with them all this half-term. Wishing everyone a Happy Halloween and a great week with family and friends!

Regards



Richard Oades
Headteacher