



HLA News

Friday 17th December 2021



Dear Families,

Here we are with the last newsletter of 2021. It is hard to believe we are heading swiftly into 2022, where has the time gone?!

This week we have had to take the difficult decision to close two classes on health and safety grounds. The combination of normal staff sickness at this time of the year, an increase in Covid cases and self-isolation has had a huge impact. This is something that is out of our control and we hope you understand that we have to prioritise the health and safety of our students at all times. We recognise some parent's frustrations with the situation around Covid at the moment. Unfortunately we are bound by guidance from the Department for Education and Public Health and need to keep schools running as normally as possible despite the pandemic. Please be assured that some of the guidance is frustrating for us as a school but we have to follow the direction that we are given.

Our learners in the S Classes have been learning all about their local Fenland area. They have produced some fantastic artwork of the Fens. Take a look at the galleries on the school website to see the great work they have been completing.

Learners in Owls have been engaging brilliantly in their Christmas activities. They have loved all of the sensory elements of tinsel and fake snow. A lovely sight to see!

Today our learners enjoyed their Christmas Dinner along with celebrating Christmas Jumper Day. Hopefully there weren't too many gravy or custard spillages! Huge thanks to the kitchen team for providing us with a lovely lunch.

Yesterday saw us holding our school Christmas Fayre. There were great actions in order to keep the event Covid safe with two Fayre's being held for each of our ring fenced groups. Students enjoyed games and purchased some lovely treats (the shortbread is AMAZING!). Well done to S5 for organising such a great event and applying lots of their enterprise learning. They were successful in raising £300 well done everyone. We will be giving £50 to Education East Africa – a charity supported by Simon Conway who sends a free, weekly current affairs quiz to over 4,000 teachers. S5 really enjoy doing the quiz each week, and it was their suggestion to use some of the profits as a 'thank you' to Mr Conway. The rest will be split between HLA, SOHLA and KS4.

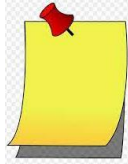
We look forward to welcoming the students back to school on **Wednesday 5th January 2022**. Thank you for your support over these difficult times we have been having recently, we really do appreciate it. Thank you to parents sending in supportive comments – it really does keep us upbeat!

I hope you have a great Christmas and I hope everyone stays safe and well.

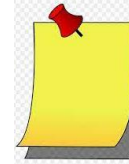
With all best wishes,

Yvonne Skillern

Head of School



Important Information



- Secondary aged students are reminded to continue LFT testing over the Christmas holidays.
- All secondary aged students will be required to have an LFT test in school at the beginning of term in January. If you have previously provided consent this will still stand.
- Can I remind everyone that we are nut free school. If students bring products in containing nuts it will be necessary to confiscate them for the health and safety of all our learners. We also have some learners with other allergies so would request your understanding if we communicate some items are not bought in. This is to ensure the safety of all concerned.
- **Students return to school on Wednesday 5th January 2022.** Tuesday 4th January is a staff training day.
- Secondary aged students please don't forget to test twice weekly and report results to Covid.HLA@highfieldlittleport.org as well as the government website. Thank you to those who routinely test and report, this really is making a difference to identify cases at an early stage to help prevent the spread of Covid.

Online Safety Tips for the Christmas Period:



With a huge increase in sales of devices (around 13 million people receive smartphones for Christmas each year) it is important to ensure that you and your children are safe when playing with new kit. Our advice is to set some ground rules, and ensure they understand them. For example:

Screen Time

Agree a time limit or number of games beforehand, to avoid repeated disagreements around how long they can spend online.

Sleep comes first

It is advisable that the phone stays out of the bedroom to avoid those night time interruptions.

Request access

If you're genuinely concerned about them, ask them to allow you access to the phone.

Monitoring vs having a conversation

It is possible to install software onto devices that monitors online activity, alerts you to inappropriate behaviour, and can block access to certain content. This kind of software is becoming increasingly popular, but while this might sound tempting, it does pose a number of issues around your child's right to privacy & could have an impact upon your relationship with them. The best advice we can give is to talk to your child regularly and openly about behaviour and risk.

Mental Health Tip of the Week

