



HIGHFIELD LITTLEPORT ACADEMY

An Active Learning Trust School

Executive Headteacher: Simon Bainbridge
Head of School: Yvonne Skillern

Monday 16th September, 2019

Dear Parents & Carers,

Welcome to the new year at Highfield Littleport Academy. A very warm welcome to all of our new parents and carers, we look forward to working closely with you over the coming year. All of the students have settled into school extremely well and as I walk around school I see lots of happy, engaged learners which is lovely to see.

We have a few staff changes this year as we grow as a school. I would like to welcome Rachel, Fran & Cheryl as new class teachers to our team. We have Angela now in post as our Intervention Coordinator who will be covering some PPA sessions as well as leading on TEACCH and Lego Therapy interventions. Our school also welcomes Laura who is in a teaching role covering some of our management and PPA time. As our school grows, we now have a larger Leadership Team. We have Kirsty who is Department Lead for classes downstairs and Tilly who is Department Lead for upstairs reporting to Lyn our Assistant Head. I would like to urge any concerns to be initially directed to the class teacher as they are best placed to deal with any queries that may arise. Then the appropriate leadership chain can be followed if at all necessary.

A big thank you to all of the parents and carers who attended our Curriculum Information session on Thursday last week. Anyone who missed the session can find the entire curriculum developments detailed on our website. I have uploaded the presentation and we have developed parent handbooks for each pathway should you like one for more information.

This September we have fully adopted the Evidence for Learning software to use as an evidence collection and assessment tool. Evidence of learning towards our curriculum frameworks and progress towards Education Health Care Plan outcomes are recorded within this software. In order to fully maximise the learning partnership between home and school we will be opening up this software for parents to view and contribute to at home. The software enables you to view progress at school on a real time basis. Parents and carers will also be able to upload and share evidence from home with us to contribute towards your child's progress. We see our work as a partnership between home and school and are excited to be able to offer this facility. We will be trialling this with a few parents over the coming weeks and aiming to have all parents connected by October half term. In order to facilitate this please ensure you have completed your data collection sheets with your email address and returned them to the school office. When we are ready to 'go live' with all parents we will circulate a step-by-step guide as to how to get started and get everyone connected. I will send out a separate information letter at a later date with more information about these exciting developments.

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We are now fortunate enough to have secured some Music Therapists to work at Highfield Littleport. Owls class will be having a group session each week as well as other individual students on a referral basis. Your child's class teacher will be in touch with more information if they have secured a slot.

Here at Highfield we aim to provide the students with as many rich learning opportunities as possible. Classes are lucky to benefit from cooking, sensory activities and creative curriculum opportunities. In order for us to continue this we ask for a £5 donation per term, per child. These payments are made via the school ParentPay account. If you need any assistance with registering for this account please do not hesitate to contact the school office. We thank you in advance for your assistance in this matter.

At Highfield Littleport we have a friends and parents association called Supporters of Highfield Littleport Academy (SOHLA). So far the group has been successful in raising over £2000 but it relies upon willing volunteers to help. In order for the group to continue we need more helpers. SOHLA will circulate details of their next meeting shortly. Our joint chairpersons Anita Thursby and Mandy Darville can be contacted on ptachair@highfieldlittleport.org for more information.

Just to finish with a few housekeeping notes. Could you please ensure each child has their PE kit left in school all week? We will send it home when it needs washing or re-sizing! Please ensure students in Eagles class have wellies and waterproofs as they will be taking part in Forest Schools this half term with Maria. Could I also remind you to regularly check your child's hair for head lice and treat if necessary as we are getting quite a few confirmed cases? In addition, attendance at school is extremely important to facilitate good progress and wellbeing. We would encourage you to support us with this and in helping us to maintain our baseline target of 92% attendance as a school. Attendance levels are continually monitored and any persistent absences mean that the school and local authority will take action.

We thank you for your co-operation and support.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yvonne Skillern', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Yvonne Skillern
Head of School

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Important Dates for your Diary – Autumn Term 2019

Date	Detail
02/10/19	Nasal Flu Vaccinations (times to be confirmed)
02/10/19 16.00 – 18.30pm	Parents Evening (appointments to be arranged by teachers shortly)
16/10/19	Restart a Heart Event Day – S Classes
17/10/19 16.30 – 18.30	Moving On Careers Event (Year 9 and up) based at Highfield Ely
21/10/19 – 25/10/19	HALF TERM HOLIDAY
29/10/19 morning	Individual School Photographs
13/12/19 13.45 – 15.00	Christmas Performance – more details to follow
More dates are to be added once events are confirmed	

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