



# THE HOWARD PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Square, Elford, Tamworth, Staffordshire, B79 9DB

Chief Executive Officer: Mr Paul Lovern

Headteacher: Miss Rachel Mills

Telephone: 01827 383292

e-mail: [howardoffice@tssmat.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:howardoffice@tssmat.staffs.sch.uk)

website: [www.howard.staffs.sch.uk](http://www.howard.staffs.sch.uk)

15<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Dear Parents

As another eventful academic year draws to a close, I would again like to thank you all for your commitment and support during these challenging times. It has certainly been another year full of challenges. Again, we have faced these challenges head on to ensure the safety and continued academic support for all our children. Yet again, I am proud of our Howard family, and I am certainly proud to be the Headteacher of such an amazing school and community.

On behalf of all the staff, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your generous gifts and cards; they are very much appreciated. What we thank you for the most is the thoughtful words in the many cards we have received. They bring tears to our eyes and those words continue to motivate us to make our school the very best it can be.

It's that time of year when we have to say our goodbyes. First, we will say goodbye to our FANTASTIC Year 6 children. All of them will be an asset to their chosen High school and they are lucky to have them. We will miss Year 6 and the families who leave with them. We say goodbye to the Malcolm, Hickey, Bate, Lewis, Castanheira-Tell families. We wish them good luck and best wishes for the future and hope you leave with many treasured memories.

In terms of staff, we say goodbye to Mrs Bennett, who stepped in to cover class 3. She has done a fantastic job and ensured that Year 6 has made great memories. We wish her luck in her new role at Richard Crosse.

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you, goodbye and good luck to Mr. Lovern, who has been a great CEO. I know that the staff, children and families will miss him greatly. Thank you to everyone who contributed to his leaving gifts. I will let you know what we got for him once he has received them.

In September, we look forward to welcoming our new Reception children. We will make sure that they settle into life at The Howard as smoothly as possible and we know that you will all warmly welcome them.

In terms of staffing, we welcome Mrs Dyer, an experienced teacher, who will certainly be an asset to our existing team and take over in Class 3. We also welcome Mrs Rowland and Mrs Aminu who will share morning and afternoon Care Club, Class 3 and lead KS2 interventions.

With our last day being **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> July**, we wish you all a safe and happy holiday. Please be reminded that we welcome everyone back on **Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> August at 8.30 am**.

I have included the information about arrangements for September at the end of this letter, so please make sure that you read the information carefully so that you and your child are fully prepared.

If you have any questions or queries, however small, then please do not hesitate to contact the office.

Happy Holidays and best wishes,



company registration number: 9616362

[www.tssmat.staffs.sch.uk](http://www.tssmat.staffs.sch.uk)

Rachel Mills  
Headteacher

Summer Reading Challenge 2021

### Summer Reading Challenges

As you know, at Howard we believe reading is an essential skill for life. Therefore, we would encourage you to take part in the Summer Reading Challenge which could be at your local library or online. For more detail, please visit.

<https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/news/general/wild-world-heroes-intro>



### Book Bingo

We would also like to promote the love of reading even further through a Book Bingo challenge. Our Summer Reading Bingo is an activity for children (and adults if they wish!) to complete over the summer holidays. The focus is on reading for pleasure experiences rather than specific texts, with activities like make a den and read inside, read in the dark using a torch and read to a pet or a soft toy. Children can choose what they read for the challenges, although we have included

some Summer 2021 recommended reads for those looking for new ideas.

Cards can be printed by parents at home or contact the office if you would like a paper copy. When they return to school after the holidays, they will be awarded a special Super Reader Dojo and a certificate for a full house which will be awarded in Achievement Assembly.

Happy Reading!

### School Organisation from September

We will be following government guidance to ensure safety. From the autumn term, we hope that 'bubbles' will no longer apply to schools. We hope to go back to 'normal'. However, we do have a Plan A and a Plan B, just in case. Handwashing and hand sanitising will continue to be a regular feature through the school day.

Due to the size of classes, Class 2 and Class 3 will need to swap classrooms. Class 3 will now be in the larger classroom at the back of the school and Class 2 will now be at the front.

From September Year 3 and 4 will enter through the red door, straight into the classroom and Year 5 and 6 will enter via the main entrance, next to the office. Class 1 will continue to enter via the Class 1 gates.

### Transition for children

We are lucky to have such a small school where we really know all the children. Our usual transition arrangements to prepare pupils for moving into their next class have not been able to take place during the summer term. Therefore, it is our intention for our transition for these year groups to take place during the first week of the autumn term. This will enable children to be able to get to know their new teacher and it will ease them back into school life where any issues or worries the children may have coming back to school will be able to be addressed. We will be using the book, 'Here We Are' by Oliver Jeffers, as a whole-school text. This book is a witty, tender introduction to the world.

### Recovery Curriculum Continues

We are really pleased with how our 'Catch up' curriculum has enabled our children to succeed this year. Mrs Lowe, from Connex has worked with target children in KS2 and it has been most effective in addressing gaps in learning. We will continue to provide this extra tuition for new target children in the autumn term.

Miss Stretton and Mrs Carter have provided excellent support and intervention for the children in Class 1, and they are in an excellent position, with many exceeding expectations. This fantastic provision and intervention will continue again in September.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my amazing staff for ensuring that our children have not been disadvantaged by the lockdowns and I know this will continue next year, so thank you staff!

### **School Uniform**

Full school uniform is expected. Please see <https://www.howard.staffs.sch.uk/parents/uniform> for more details. Please make sure that the uniform and resources are CLEARLY LABELLED with your child's name. You would not believe the amount of lost uniform we have due to it not being labelled correctly. Please minimise this by using a label or writing your child's name on the tag with biro.

### **School Attendance**

School attendance will be mandatory and the usual rules on school attendance will apply,

If your child is ill or unable to attend school for any reason, you must let us know by telephone on the first morning of absence. Mrs Robertson will telephone you if no message is received. Any child absent without an appropriate reason, will be recorded as unauthorised and this may result in a penalty notice being issued by the local authority.

Our target is 98% attendance.

### **P.E.**

Children will need the correct PE kit (see website for list). Remember jewellery is not allowed to be worn, including earrings, and long hair must be tied up.

### **School Equipment**

For children in Class 1, school will provide all the resources and equipment required.

Due to the success last year, we request that children in Class 2 and 3, bring in their own labelled pencil case and equipment. We suggest that children have their own pencil case with a pencil, rubber, sharpener, ruler, Pritt stick, a highlighter and colouring pencils. For those children writing in pen, they are encouraged to have a blue rub-out Frixion pen (see link below).

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/Frixion-Rollerball-Erasable-0-35mm-BL-FR7/dp/B00MAGM032/ref=sr\\_1\\_6?hvadid=80539258930353&hvbmmt=bp&hvdev=c&hvqmt=p&keywords=rub+out+pen&qid=1571825128&sr=8-6](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Frixion-Rollerball-Erasable-0-35mm-BL-FR7/dp/B00MAGM032/ref=sr_1_6?hvadid=80539258930353&hvbmmt=bp&hvdev=c&hvqmt=p&keywords=rub+out+pen&qid=1571825128&sr=8-6)

Again, labelling items will ensure that items do not go missing or are returned to their rightful owner.

### **Home Reading**

Children will continue to bring home a school reading book. We actively encourage children to regularly read at home. It has such a positive impact on all areas of your child's learning and confidence. Little and often is best. Please sign the Home Reading planner each time your child reads. We will continue with our '**5 times a reader**' from September. If your child reads **five times a week** and their planner is signed, they will be entered into the weekly draw. The winner will be announced during the weekly achievement assembly, and they will receive a prize of a book.

### **Achievement Assembly**

Achievement Assemblies will now take place on a **Monday afternoon at 3pm**. The first assembly will be held online on Monday 6th September. We will continue with online assemblies until October half-term, when we will review this provision and see if it is possible to go back to face to face assemblies, inviting parents to attend in person. I would be interested in your feedback, as I know as a working parent, it is difficult to get out of work to attend these assemblies and personally prefer online. I will send out a google form in September to assess the consensus about this.

### **Before & After School Provision**

Before & After School Provision will be available from Tuesday 31st August. Booking forms are on the website. Once completed, they should be sent to the office and the payment made on Parent Pay.

### **Infant School Lunches**

Children in Reception, Y1 & Y2 will be provided with a school meal each day in line with the Universal Offer for Free School Meals for infant-aged children and so will not require a packed lunch from home. Children in Key Stage 2 (Years 3-6) can order a school lunch for £2.60, or they can bring in a healthy packed lunch from home.

## **COVID-19 Update- Step 4**

You will find the latest information about step 4 in, What parents need to know <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/step-4-update-what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges>

Main recommendations:

- No need for bubbles or face masks
- No contact tracing via school
- Remote learning should be provided for those children who are self-isolating or who have tested positive but feel well enough to learn. Therefore, Google Classroom will be in use throughout the year for remote learning.

## **Parent Communication**

From September, we urge you to contact staff via the office email. Staff have been extremely conscientious over the last two years and have been contactable constantly on email, Class Dojo etc. I need to be mindful of the well-being of my staff so therefore urge you to contact the office for any queries. Please be mindful that staff are teaching for the duration of the day therefore staff will endeavour to return your emails within 48hours. Staff are not expected to answer emails outside their working hours.

Our ethos of an 'open door policy' very much remains, again, Miss Mills is on the gate each day, you can email the office, or you can catch the teacher at the end of the day.

We would like to minimise the number of visits to the school office in the mornings at drop off times. Therefore, we ask that you do not come to the school office in the morning but email, ring or speak to Miss Mills instead. We will continue to keep you informed via regular letters, email and through the Schudio app. Please make sure you have downloaded the app; this will ensure that you don't miss any essential messages. Information will also be available on the school website.

As always, it is imperative that we can reach you in an emergency, so please ensure that the office has your most up to date contact details which includes your mobile number and most used email address. Please regularly check the website for updates. The website is the first port of call so please always check what information is already available to you before contacting the school office. Please be mindful that the office and phones are unmanned after 1pm, so emails to [r.mills@tssmat.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:r.mills@tssmat.staffs.sch.uk) is the best form of contact from 1pm onwards.

If you do need to speak with a member of staff, please contact the office or speak to Miss Mills on the gate.