



Alsager Highfields Community Primary School

Mighty oaks from small acorns grow

Fairview Avenue
Alsager
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www.alsagerhighfields.com
Acting Headteacher: Mr R Middlebrook



Monthly Newsletter – October 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

It is my intention to send out a newsletter at the start of each month. For that week, it will replace the regular communication update that we send out every Thursday. The monthly newsletter will serve a slightly different purpose, in that I want to use it to give you as parents / carers, an update on the school's path to improvement. I feel it is important that you understand what changes are being made here at Alsager Highfields and what progress we are making in the areas for improvement identified by Ofsted in November 2019. On behalf of the school, I can assure you that we are all working incredibly hard to secure the rapid improvement that is needed here at Alsager Highfields to give our fantastic children the best possible start in life.

As I am sure you are aware, I started here as Acting Headteacher on 1st September and the following actions have been taken during September;

- We have secured the services of Mr Carl Leech for two days per week (he started working with the school in January '20 and so knows the school well). Mr Leech is a highly experienced and successful primary Headteacher. He is also Headteacher at Rode Heath Primary School.
- We have re-structured the senior leadership team of the school, with clear roles and responsibilities and given Mrs Henshall and Mrs Dyde (our two Assistant Headteachers) more management time.
All of the above changes in the senior leadership team have been funded externally by the Department of Education and so at no cost to the school.
- The previous Governing Body have been replaced by a new Interim Board, comprising of 9 specialist individuals with a proven track record of school leadership, school improvement or governance. Each member of the board will work with a named leader in school and focus on a key priority.
- We have identified Subject Leaders for all curriculum areas within school and given time and support to staff to allow them to fulfil the role effectively.
- We have identified key priorities for the year ahead based on the Ofsted report and these will be the focus of all our actions and are made clear in our School Improvement Plan. They centre around
 - Improving leadership of the school at all levels.
 - Improving the quality of teaching and consistency in approach, in the core areas of maths, reading and writing. This will lead to rapidly improved outcomes achieved by all children in these three key areas.
 - Ensuring a safe and supportive return to school for all children, following the national closure of schools, while also securing strong attendance and good standards of behaviour.
- Designed a calendar for the year which includes a robust monitoring and evaluation process and a clear professional development cycle for all staff based on our School Improvement Plan.
- All staff have adopted a consistent approach when it comes to the teaching of reading, writing and maths. This applies across all classes and is based on an evidenced based



approach to best practice. We have identified three experienced and highly effective teachers to lead each of these three core areas.

- Performance targets for all teachers have been set based on our priorities and a robust system for monitoring performance is in place.
- Improved communication between school and home with our weekly updates, use of social media our 'Meet & Greet' and other on line meetings for all classes, our soon to be launched new website and use of the 'class pages' on the website

I can reassure you that everyone here at Alsager Highfields is fully committed to improving our school and we are all working incredibly hard. We are very lucky to have such a fantastic group of talented, dedicated and professional staff working with our children.

If you have any feedback on the school, can I please encourage you to go to the Ofsted Parent View feedback site to submit any comments about our school since we have returned in September www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk. In addition, I intend to send out a Parent Voice questionnaire in the near future, once we have hopefully all seen the impact of the changes we are making.

Covid – 19 Update

I would like to reassure all parents and carers that we are continuing to follow government guidelines here in school when it comes to Covid-19 and the health and safety of our children and adults. We are really pleased with how our systems and procedures are working in school, but I do have concerns that some parents / carers are allowing their children to mix with others too freely outside of school, especially in the play park before and after school. The national picture is not looking good at the moment and more and more schools are having to send pupils or staff home. Fortunately, so far this academic year here at Highfields (and across all three schools in AMAT) we have not needed to do this or deal with any confirmed cases of Covid-19. However, **if** this does happen (and we all hope it does not) then we will communicate with you directly in the following way (please do not listen to any speculation or 'unofficial' social media comments)

1. **Parents / Carers of the affected bubble only** will receive a text message from school stating that there is a confirmed Covid-19 case in your child's 'bubble' and will be asked to come and collect your child as soon as possible.
2. **Parents / Carers of the affected bubble only** will then receive an e mail from school with further details and that your child will need to access the remote learning on their 'class page' on the website.
3. **Parents / Carers of the affected bubble only** will be sent a letter from Public Health England with specific details about Covid-19 (symptoms, isolation etc).
4. **All parents / carers** will receive a reassuring letter confirming that we have had to send some children home / close a 'bubble', due to a positive Covid-19 case. Your child is not in that bubble and so therefore should continue to attend school as normal.

Clearly, all this relies on school having your correct mobile phone number and e mail address. **If they have changed recently, please contact school** to let us know 01270 882472 or e mail admin@alsagerhighfields.cheshire.sch.uk

Reminder of changes to the school day starting Monday 5th Oct

We have reviewed our systems and procedures, listened to feedback and are making the following changes as from 5/10/20



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- **Miss Keatman's and Mrs Harry's classes** will begin their day at **8.55am** and end the day at **3.15pm**. this presents a problem please let school know. All other classes have the same start and end times as now.
- We are introducing hot dinners.

Key Dates / Events coming up

Reminder about Year 6 parents evening – Wednesday 7th October 3.30pm onwards.

Highfields Celebrations

Stars of the week for this week are...

- Mrs Millichap: **George S** for following our Golden Rule 'We listen'
- Mrs Harry: **Myla RF** for following our Golden Rules 'We listen' and 'We work hard'
- Miss Keatman: **Evie J** for following our Golden Rules 'We listen' and for working brilliantly as part of a team!
- Mrs Lindblad: **James W** for following our Golden Rules 'We listen' and 'We work hard'
- Mr Golds: **Marcello H** for following our Golden Rules 'We listen' and 'We work hard'
- Mrs Windel: **Jamie ML** for following our Golden Rules 'We work hard' and rewriting his whole story to improve it even further!
- Miss Crowther Green: **Nathan H** for following our Golden Rules 'We work hard' especially developing his fantastic handwriting!
- Mrs Dyde: **George J** for following our Golden Rules 'We work hard'
- Mrs Walker: **Ava D** for following our Golden Rules 'We work hard' and 'We are kind', she is such a kind member of our class

HOUSE POINTS

Elm House (**green**) : 134

Maple House (**red**) : 93

Beech House (**yellow**) : 90

Ash House (**blue**) : 113

The winning team this week is...

ELM HOUSE!

Congratulations to everyone who followed the Golden Rules and tried their very best this week!

Best wishes and many thanks for your continued support.

Richard Middlebrook

Acting Headteacher and Executive Headteacher of AMAT