

Highwoods Academy,

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Head Teacher: Mr. G. R. Rhodes



Monday 11th September 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to a new school year at Highwoods Academy!

The summer break seems to have gone by so quickly – (not quick enough for some parents I expect!).

I would like to say a big welcome to our new parents whose children have started in our Nursery and Reception classes.

The children look very smart in our **updated uniform**. We have given each child a water bottle so they can have access to fresh water to drink during the day. The bottles are refilled every morning and are sterilized once a week. Each child has their own bottle that is numbered / named.

Over the summer **we have refurbished our new Nursery classroom** – it looks fantastic - please go and have a look. The children in nursery class I'm sure will love it.

We still have places available in our **nursery** and we will be taking on early starters – those children who are 3 years old. Early starters will join the nursery after Christmas and after Easter. To apply for a place, visit the Doncaster Council's website and apply on-line or ask for an application form from the school office. Successful applicants will be informed by the Council by letter in November.

Can I remind parents whose children are in **Nursery** that they need to **apply for places** in our Reception class – this can be done on-line or ask at the school office for an application form. This is also the case for our **Year 6** parents who should apply for a place at their chosen secondary school.

We place great emphasis on **regular attendance** and this year our attendance target has been set at **96%** this year (this means up to 7 days' absence over the year). Again, we plan to take all children who achieve this target on a free visit at the end of the year and a special visit for those who achieve 100%.

And now some sad news, Highwoods has lost one of its greatest supporters and friends - Mrs. Maureen Fox passed away at the beginning of September. Mrs. Fox or 'Maureen' as she preferred to be known by both adults and children has been associated with Highwoods for over 30 years. She was a parent and grandparent of children who attended Highwoods. She was a school Governor for many years and ran a very successful after school cooking club. She baked buns, cakes etc. for school events and organised our very successful bake sales.

Even when she became ill, she still kept in contact with school.

She loved being part of the Highwoods family and she will be greatly missed. Our thoughts and sympathy are with her family

School staff are organising a collection whose proceeds will be sent to the Rotherham Hospice, this is at the request of Maureen's family. Should parents wish to contribute, please leave your donations at the school office.

Highwoods will have permanent memorial to Maureen.



Maureen in full flow!

But in the meantime, we have decided to dedicate this year's **Macmillan's Biggest Coffee Morning to her memory.**

I would like to invite all parents, carers and extended family to join in with this year's **World's Biggest Coffee Morning**, in support of Macmillan Cancer Support on **Friday 29th September** – more details to follow.

I would like to thank you personally for your continued commitment and support towards the staff and pupils of our school.

Yours sincerely,

G. R. Rhodes
Head Teacher