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Headteacher: Richard Oades

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Just a quick note to wish everyone a very Happy Easter!

It has been another difficult and unusual term, and we all hope for a smoother ride after the holiday. However, there is much to be celebrated about the way that pupils, parents and staff have risen to every challenge. It has been fantastic to see our classrooms buzzing with learning again and it has been clear that lots of pupils have made great progress during remote learning ... well done!

Unfortunately we have had a small number of Covid cases since schools reopened on 8th March and some of our pupils are isolating at the start of the holiday, we are very grateful to everyone who is following this advice. These cases are clear reminders that we are still in the midst of a serious situation and we must all do our part to keep our families and our community safe.

Our Year 7 and 8 pupils should continue to engage with home testing through the holidays, as previously shared. Parents may also wish to obtain rapid testing kits for yourself and other family members. These can be ordered [here](#). It is important to note that taking a Covid test and receiving a negative result at any point during a 10 day isolation period **does not** stop the need to isolate; it can take many days for the virus to develop. Government guidance on how to keep yourselves and others safe can be found [here](#).

We also want to help you stay safe online, as we are all using the internet more than ever. We know that the internet is a great way for children and young people to learn and stay in touch with their friends but we all know that it can also bring risks. At school, we regularly address internet safety with our pupils and remind them of the importance of staying safe online. As parents, it is important to talk to your child about the apps and sites that they are using, but it can be difficult to know how to start a conversation, find out what they're doing online or who they might be speaking to.

Talking to your child regularly, like you would about their day at school, will help them feel relaxed and mean that, when they do have any worries, they're more likely to come and speak to you. It can help to reassure them that you're interested in their life, offline and online. Ask your child to show you what they enjoy doing online or apps they're using so you can understand them. Ask them about their friends online and how they know they are who they say they are and encourage them to talk to you if there is anything that they are worried about. The following sites are highly recommended and offer lots of tips and advice to help you keep your child safe online:

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-child-online-safety/>

Next week brings a little more freedom, with the return of the 'rule of 6 outdoors' and some organised outdoor sports and activities. This is great news for us all – the benefits of social interaction, fresh air and exercise are immeasurable - but we are not out of the woods yet. Large gatherings of any kind are still banned, and mixing indoors beyond your family bubble is still not allowed.

We really hope that everyone has a safe and happy holiday. If you need any support in the next 2 weeks, please email us at admin@highfield.northumberland.sch.uk or send a message to our Facebook page and we will help however we can. It is vital that any positive Covid cases are reported to us as soon as possible via email ... fingers crossed that there aren't any!

Stay safe



Richard Oades
Headteacher