



## Highfield Middle School

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Headteacher: Richard Oades

26<sup>th</sup> May 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is the last day of half-term already! It has been a really busy time since the Easter holidays and we have crammed in so much!

Residential Trip season is underway and lots of Year 5's are heading back from South Yorkshire this afternoon after a brilliant few days of adventure at Dearne Valley Outdoor Activity Centre. The pupils have been absolutely fantastic, supporting each other to try new things and overcome fears on what, for many, was their first real trip away from home. We are really proud of them! We are looking forward to more residential adventures in the coming weeks, when Year 6 visit Ford Castle and Year 7 head to Edinburgh in June, before Year 8 head hit London in July. The pupils always get so much from these opportunities and we are so happy that we can offer a full set of trips this year.

Our Year 6's did us proud earlier this month when they undertook formal SATs exams. They showed fantastic commitment, maturity and resilience during test week and I'm sure this will all pay off when they receive their results in July.

I'd like to take this opportunity to remind pupils about the rules for **cycling or scooting to school. Pupils MUST wear a helmet if travelling in this way and they MUST ride responsibly**, with consideration for the safety of themselves and others. We reserve the right to withhold bikes/scooters or ban pupils from travelling to school this way if we feel pupils are acting dangerously. We are grateful for parental support in this matter.

Having spoken with partner schools, listened to pupils and parents (and watched several pupils walk from the field with broken shoes from breaktime football in recent weeks), we will be making some **small tweaks to our uniform policy. From September, we will allow plain black leather (or leather look) sports shoes as part of daily uniform. Plain black, hard wearing, sturdy sensible footwear such as Nike Airforce 1 and Converse All Star (Leather) will be permitted.** The following footwear will still not be permitted - Running trainers, chunky boots (such as Dr Marten's or Uggs), canvas trainers, coloured (or white) stitching, designs and logos, 'air bubble' soles and high fashion footwear. Of course, more traditional shoes will continue to be allowed.

As parents, we hope you can support this change and there will be no need for difficult conversations in the new term - we are grateful to all the parents who have supported us this year. As always, if you need support with uniform or any other equipment for school, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

We break up today for a well-deserved half-term break. We wish you all a fantastic time and hope you are able to enjoy some good weather and time with loved ones. School will be back in full swing on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June for another busy term.

Regards  
Richard Oades  
Headteacher