



Horsley CoE (VA) Primary School
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Dear parents/carers

Welcome back to the new term. I hope you had a good break. Below is an update on some key operational information for the new academic year.

Regarding COVID-19, whilst there is a general sense that we have moved to a 'new norm', at the same time, we naturally need to minimise the spread of the virus in school. Please note the LA letter sent out yesterday, as part of a text link. It outlines a number of important details relating to COVID in schools.

COVID Symptoms Management

Please be aware that, if your child displays any worrying symptoms in school, you will receive a phone call and be asked to collect your child with immediate effect. The expectation, in line with LA letter sent out yesterday, is that parents will arrange for a PCR test (not a lateral flow test) to confirm that all is well. On confirmation that your child does not have the virus, they can return to school, when they are well enough. If a child does have a cold or other non-COVID illness, we would prefer your child to remain off school until they are fit and well to return.

Please be aware that whilst we know children are not at high risk, they can still spread the virus and bring it home to you and your family. One concern, too, is that staff may become ill and be off work for 10 days, or longer. This will have a significant impact on teaching and learning for your child's class. As a small school, it will also impact on operational workings across the school. Staff may or may not be vaccinated. There is also the genuine concern relating to Long Covid.

Wearing of Face Masks at Drop-off and Pick-ups

Staff will continue to wear face masks at drop-off and pick-up times. We warmly encourage you to do so and during events in school. Please continue to operate a one-way system to avoid bottle-necking.

Assemblies and Collective Worship

You are warmly invited to attend congratulations assemblies on Fridays. Seating will be arranged in a socially distanced fashion. Please do adopt good social distancing practices. Sanitiser is available on entry/exit. The wearing of a mask is encouraged.



AND ON NON-COVID MATTERS...

Lunch Menu

The new lunch menu is available on the school website – click on the Parent Hub tab. KS1 children (Badgers and Foxes) are entitled to a free lunch. Children can make the hot meal choice on the day in question. A full menu service is currently being offered. This may change, however, if the COVID situation escalates.

Parent Pay

Please try to keep your Parent Pay account up-to-date and not in arrears. Parent Pay does not act like a credit card; payment for goods or services is made in advance. Thank you for your full support in this regard.

Coats, Lunchboxes etc.

Please ensure your child arrives with their coat, lunchbox and water bottle. It is helpful if these arrive with the children as opposed to being dropped off at the school office later in the day.

After-school pick-ups

Please ensure your child and class teacher is aware of pick-up arrangements for the end of the day. Please contact the office (admin@horsley.gloucs.sch.uk or by telephone), if there are genuine emergency changes to pick-up arrangements (e.g. as a result of a broken down vehicle, road accidents, etc.). It would be helpful if arrangements for pick-ups were consistent. As a small school, we have limited staff resources. We therefore kindly ask that parents do not use office to be the means of communication for sharing information pertaining to play dates, birthday party arrangements, etc.

Birthdays

Birthdays are, of course, very special occasions. Children are permitted to bring pre-wrapped cake or wrapped sweets on the day of their birthday to give to class mates. These will be presented to children at the end of the day (not at break or lunch time). Please note we cannot cut and distribute cake or distribute party bags, balloons, etc.

Data Collection Sheets

This year's data collection request has been issued. It is essential that we have up-to-date information about your child (e.g. emergency contact details, allergies, etc.), so please return them at your earliest convenience in order for our database to be up-to-date.

Internet safety

I am aware that there have been a number of concerns about how best to keep children safe whilst they are online at home. Staff are revisiting good internet safety practice as part of their PSHE lessons. We will be holding an internet safety evening event in the near future. We will keep you posted.

Lost Property

Please note, we do not have a lost property basket. 'Lost' items (e.g. coats, lunch boxes, etc.) are sent to classrooms for identification. If items are not claimed, they are recycled. Please encourage your child to take responsibility for their personal effects and claim personal items that become 'lost'. Staff will support the children to develop independence. Items left in the playground cannot be reclaimed until the following day as the playground is now locked at the end of each break period.



Parents Evenings

Parents Evenings are scheduled for Tuesday 19th and Wednesday 20th October. Whilst it is hoped that these will be face-to-face meetings, we will need to review this nearer the time. KS1 and KS2 staff will be holding a Zoom presentation for each Key Stage on the following days and times (Zoom link to follow). These events will give you further information (in addition to the class letter) about ways of working and information about the year ahead. If you can attend, that will be great. However, the session will also be recorded and uploaded to the website.

KS1 Presentation: Weds 15th September, 4:30-5:00pm

KS2 Presentation: Weds 15th September, 5:30-6:00pm

Horsley Primary Facebook Page

We now have a Horsley Primary Facebook. This will be used to celebrate achievement and showcase all the good things we do. We hope you 'Like' and share the page. It is hoped that this will open up the good work of the school to a wider audience, along with the school Instagram page. Letters, the bi-monthly newsletter, the school website and the text service will remain the key means of communication.

Concerns

If you have any concerns, do not hesitate to telephone the office to arrange a telephone appointment with your class teacher. Sometimes it is possible for a quick chat at the end of the school day. Staff are happy to arrange an appointment to meet. As Headteacher, I try hard to have an 'open door' policy and will gladly meet to talk through concerns, if I am available.

Please do refrain from emailing teaching staff. Unless the school is in 'Lockdown', it is school policy not to use email for responding to parents.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Yours faithfully



Gary Price
Headteacher

