



Horsley CoE (VA) Primary School
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Dear parents/carers

As you are aware, the government has put pressure on schools to re-open from Monday 1st June. The decision to open has been supported by Gloucestershire County Council. Opening the school at this point is contentious and, as you may know, not widely supported within the teaching profession. You will no doubt be aware, via the media, that the government has asked schools to respond by giving priority to the children of Key Workers, followed by a phased return of pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 respectively. Schools are having to find their own solutions to the challenge and are orchestrating a phased return based on their own context. In the interests of pupil and staff physical and mental well-being, Horsley School will be taking a cautious, tentative approach. Details of how this will unfold are provided below.

In order to be completely prepared, and to ensure that we are compliant with government and local authority guidance for keeping children and staff safe, Monday 1st June will be a designated INSET day. Please note the school will then be open from Tuesday 2nd June, but initially for Key Workers and children in Reception only. We will review this in early June with the idea of opening the doors to Year 1 and Year 6 as soon as possible. We are mindful that this may cause some disruption for some parents. We are equally mindful that some parents will not feel comfortable returning their child/ren to school and will not wish to do so until a later point at which they feel it is safe to do so.

The school has undertaken a detailed risk assessment following local authority and government advice. This has been produced collaboratively with teachers and with governor consultation. This will be made available for parents on the website next week (before school reopens). Please be aware that we will have to adhere to health and safety guidelines to prevent the spread of the virus. However, the mental well-being of the children is also paramount and we will endeavour to create an environment that is as normal as possible.

Further Information for Parents of Key Worker Children

Children of Key Workers will continue to be able to access school provision/childcare. However, to help ensure we are ready to receive children from 2nd June, we will not be open for children of Key Workers during May Half Term. If you think you qualify as a Key Worker and intend to send your child to school from June 2nd, please notify the school via email at admin@horsley.gloucs.sch.uk. Please do so by Tuesday 26th May. For Key Workers' children, the school will be open 8:45am-3:15pm Monday-Friday. Children are asked to bring a packed lunch. They will form their own social bubble and receive provision and support accordingly. Existing measures in place to prevent the spread of the virus for this group will continue.



Further Information for Parents of children in Reception (Foxes)

Children in Reception are invited from Tuesday 2nd June. Initially this will be for mornings only: 8:45am-12:15pm. This will be for two weeks (w.c. 1st June and w.c. 8th June). It is anticipated that this will move to a full-time timetable (8:45-3:15pm) from Monday 15th June. This will be reviewed in line with government guidelines and on-going advice from the local authority.

Children in Reception will continue to follow an EYFS curriculum. Reception provision will not be operating on a flexi-basis. It is anticipated that, should you choose to send your child to school, they attend daily, in line with the school timetable on offer.

Maintaining social distance in the Early Years presents a major challenge. We will be taking on board a pragmatic approach. A number of specific actions are being taken to prevent the spread of the virus in the Early Years. These include (but not exclusively) the following measures:

- Reception children will form their own social bubble (or two bubbles, if appropriate) and receive provision and support accordingly.
- Use of an individual designated separate boys and girls toilet.
- As much outdoor learning as possible.
- Soft furnishings will be removed from the classroom.
- Resources will be limited to those least likely to facilitate transmission of germs (e.g. no play dough, etc.).
- Daily washing of play equipment undertaken.
- Allocated carpet sitting space.
- No toys/book bags to be brought into school.
- Personal hat (as we will not be able to share).
- Parents to apply sun cream prior to school (daily), if necessary.

It must be stressed, that we will try to make the day to day experience as normal as possible for all children in EYFS. In real terms, complete social distancing in EYFS is virtually impossible. Please email admin@horsley.gloucs.sch.uk to confirm that your child will/will not be attending from Term 6 from 2nd June by Weds 27th May.

Collection and Drop-off arrangements for Reception Children and Key Workers

Children of Key Workers will need to enter via the main school entrance (not the KS2 entrance). Parents are asked to adopt social distancing measures as seen in supermarkets. Should there need to be a queue, please queue accordingly (2 metres apart). Only one family unit should enter the foyer at any given moment. A member of staff will sign you in. Parents of Reception children will need to queue by the back gate/entrance point to the decking. A member of staff will collect your child and take them to class. Please ensure only one parent/guardian undertakes dropping off/collection duties. We also ask that children are collected by their parent/guardian as opposed to family friends.

Hygiene

Class teachers will be maintaining a good hygiene routine. Children should wash their hands prior to coming to school each day. Please also ensure your child comes to school in a fresh set of clothes daily. Children need to bring a clean water bottle daily as we will not be providing cups.

What happens if your child becomes unwell?

If your child develops a new continuous cough, a high temperature, or has a loss, or change in their normal sense of taste or smell, they must not attend school. If these symptoms occur in school they must be collected immediately and follow government quarantine guidelines. If your child tests positive for COVID-19, please notify us immediately and self-isolate in line with government guidance. All parents



within the designated bubble will then be contacted within 24 hours. If a member of staff tests positive for COVID-19, we will contact you so that all in their relevant bubble can self-isolate, again in line with government guidance. Please help us to help you and others by keeping us up-to-date with contact details.

Lunchtime Arrangements

Children of Key Workers who are present from 2nd June onwards are advised to bring in sandwiches in the first instance. Reception children will need to bring sandwiches from w.c. 15th June. Lunches will be eaten outside where possible.

School Clubs/Sports Events

The Breakfast Club and Afterschool Club will not be in operation until further notice. There will not be any sports events until it is safe to do so. Mr Feldon is however hoping to undertake a virtual sports event later in the term.

Collective Worship/Class Assemblies/Events

There will be no whole-school collective worship nor Friday Congratulations Assemblies until further notice. We are really hoping we can still mark Year 6's departure from Horsley in an appropriate way. We remain optimistic and hopeful that we can do this. We will consult with Year 6 parents next term so that we can work together to mark the occasion appropriately.

Support for parents of pupils not in attendance

As a small school we have limited adult capacity, and as teachers resume normal teaching responsibilities, it will become increasingly challenging to provide the kind of support for parents that has been adopted since lockdown. We will continue to provide Hamilton packs on line for home learning.

And finally...

To reiterate, at this moment in time, it is entirely discretionary whether you choose to send your child to school. Rest assured, we will make the school a safe place to be, following all the relevant advice, and we will work really hard to keep your child happy. We appreciate, this is a really tough decision for parents. Whatever your stance, we will support you either way. In the meantime, enjoy your time with your child/ren and have a restful half term break.

If you need further information, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours faithfully

Gary Price
Headteacher

