



Horsley CoE (VA) Primary School  
The Street  
Horsley  
Gloucestershire  
GL6 0PU  
01453 833625

admin@horsley.gloucs.sch.uk  
www.horsley.gloucs.sch.uk

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Dear Parents/Carers

During the pandemic, whilst Horsley seems to have escaped the full and devastating impact of the virus, the situation now is very different. You will be aware of high numbers of cases locally. The virus is very much here in the village and the broader community. Over the past few days, we have had a number of confirmed cases of COVID in school, both pupils and staff. Three of our teaching staff are currently ill with COVID and are self-isolating for a minimum of ten days. Numbers of cases amongst pupils are steadily rising across the school. We are therefore now working with relevant outside agencies to help minimise the spread of the virus. In order to prevent further cases, the school now needs to immediately put additional measures into place. Please note the following.

### COVID 19 Symptoms

I think we are all now knowledgeable about COVID symptoms. For the latest information about the symptoms of COVID, please consult the NHS website. <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/> Please remain vigilant.

### Testing

We encourage you and your family to regularly take lateral flow tests. If your child tests positive on a lateral flow test, please keep your child at home and arrange for an immediate PCR test to confirm whether or not they have COVID-19. If your child displays any symptoms of COVID-19, please keep your child at home and organise a PCR test. If your child is ill but does not have COVID, please keep your child at home until they are fit and well enough to re-engage in learning at school. If your child takes a PCR test, please send an electronic copy of your positive or negative PCR result to the office ([admin@horsley.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@horsley.gloucs.sch.uk)). If your child tests positive and you are concerned about a sibling potentially spreading the virus, please do make contact to discuss your options.

### Bubbles

Responding to external advice, please note, from Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> November (until further notice), we will return to KS1 and KS2 Bubbles. As before, day-to-day school life will take place within the context of the assigned Bubble. Staff will be continuing to encourage good classroom hygiene and will re-boot a range of measures to help prevent further spreading on the virus. Your child will need to come to school in PE attire on days in which they have PE (from tomorrow – Thursday - onwards). Children should avoid bringing in artefacts for 'show and tell.' Please make sure they bring in their own, named, water bottle which they must take home and which must be washed daily. Lunchtimes will be managed within Bubbles. We will continue to provide a hot meal for those who normally choose hot lunches. School pick-up and drop-off times will remain the same as normal.



## Social Distancing Measures

We kindly ask you to now to consider wearing a mask at the beginning and end of the school day. Please adopt good social distancing habits and adhere to the one-way system that was previously in place. Parents are encouraged not to access the building, unless it is absolutely necessary. Please help to build on the preventative measures that staff are now having to adopt in school by supporting behaviours outside of school; for example, discouraging children from playing with children from outside their Bubble in the Horsley park.

## Clubs

Wrap-around care will continue with additional measures in place. Clubs will continue but will be Bubble specific (e.g. KS2 sports Club, KS2 Art club, etc.).

## Events

Please be aware that this Friday's Children in Need celebration and non-uniform day have been postponed; we hope to come back to this as soon as we can. We will, however, be making a donation as originally planned. If you wish to contribute, please do so via Parentpay. Collective worship and public congratulations assemblies are 'on hold' until further notice. We will provide you with further information about other events (e.g. the Christingle Service, Nativity, etc.) in due course. Whether such events can take place will depend on whether we can reduce infection within the community. We will also continue to act upon guidance from the LA and the DfE.

## And finally...

I am very mindful of the potential and likely impact of these re-booted measures on pupil and staff well-being. I therefore hope we can take a step back to the 'new norm' fairly quickly. Let's hope, together, we are able to prevent the spread of the virus. Please also be aware that, should cases continue to rise amongst staff, we may need to engage supply teachers (if available) to cover children across the school. As a last resort, we may need to revert to remote learning. This could, in theory, be class, year or Bubble specific.

Thank you so much for your ongoing support and understanding during this difficult time. Please also be mindful that schools have to act on the advice of the relevant external agencies to prevent the spread of the virus. Together, I am sure we can bring about a downward trajectory of cases within the community, so that that the children of Horsley do not experience any further disruption to their learning and well-being.

If you require further information, please do not hesitate to make contact.

Yours faithfully



Mr Price  
Headteacher



