



Horsley CoE (VA) Primary School
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21 September 2020

Dear Parents

Please find some important information regarding the management of COVID-19 at Horsley Primary School. I hope it proves a useful reference point in the weeks and months ahead. We will also keep you updated with relevant Local Authority and Government advice as it is made available.

What if my child feels ill?

If your child has symptoms of COVID-19, please keep your child at home and get a test. Please notify the school using the telephone messaging service by 9:00 am on the day in question. If we have not been notified, we will ring you to ascertain your child's absence. If we are unable to make contact, we have to do a home visit (in line with the school's safeguarding and attendance procedures). Be mindful, we are a very small team trying our very best, so this does place a big strain on resources - it really does help us if you notify us. If your child receives a positive COVID-19 test result at the weekend, please notify the school by email immediately. This will enable us to take relevant action which will safeguard the children, staff and wider community.

If your child is poorly but does not have symptoms of COVID-19, please ensure your child is well before they return to school. The season of snivels is upon us. If your child has a mild seasonal snivel (i.e. non-COVID-19 symptoms), we would suggest you send them to school as normal. For further information about COVID-19 symptoms in children please see the link below: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

What will happen if there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 in Horsley school?

The school will quickly consult with relevant outside agencies; however, the likelihood is that one or more of the bubbles will shut down immediately and the children and staff will need to self-isolate for 14 days. You will be notified by text in the first instance. If the confirmed case arises on a weekday morning, the school will close at 12:15pm. If the confirmed case presents at the weekend, you will receive a text stating the relevant bubble or whole school is closed as from the Monday following. We will keep you posted by text with links to the school website with relevant updates.

What will happen about my child's learning if the school closes?

If one or more bubbles 'close', staff will provide online learning (providing they are well enough to do so). We will be signposting various resources for your child via the website. In addition, we will be providing two on-line learning platforms: Microsoft Teams (for KS2) and ClassDojo (for KS1). In the event of the school closing, we will not be able to provide print-outs of resources. Please notify us by Friday 25th September if you do not have access to the internet. Please note, we may be in a situation whereby nobody is in school. Email, text and the website will therefore be the key means of communication. Staff will manage this from home, providing they are well enough to do so. It is essential we have an email address registered to activate on-line learning. If you have not provided us with an email account, we will not be able to set your child up for online learning.

Please be patient. Rest assured, we will try our very best to help you keep your child's learning during a school closure. Suggested activities will prioritise English and maths.

What will happen if my child is self-isolating and the school is open?

Your class teacher will be teaching his/her class during the day. As a small school (comprising four class teachers), there will not, unfortunately, be capacity in Horsley Primary School to provide 1:1 or bespoke support. You will be



directed to a bank of approved online resources via the school website. The government has approved, or commissioned, a range of resources for online learning (e. Hamilton and Oak Academy). Many of these were tried and tested during the Lockdown. We will not have the capacity to print off resources in school and it may not be safe to provide this service.

PARENTS' EVENING

In line with recent LA COVID-19 guidance, the school will alas not be holding a traditional Parent's Evening this Autumn. We will be offering telephone appointments in the coming weeks. You will be notified when the window is open for booking appointments via text. A discussion around pupil well-being will be a key priority for staff. Teachers will also be keen to discuss the results of recent assessment data and pupil catch-up. If your child has a My Plan, a virtual meeting via Zoom can be set up to map the pathway forward.

CATCH-UP

You will no doubt have heard about the government's drive for pupil catch-up. Over the coming months, staff will be really keen to maximise all opportunities to ensure that children catch up on missed learning. We know many of our children had rich learning experiences during Lockdown (e.g. gardening, yoga, art, ceramics, etc.). One of the challenges we face is that every child will have had a very different experience. We will want to continue with a balanced curriculum (including opportunities for art with Miss Barr, yoga with Ginny and PE with James), but there will also be a drive to plug gaps in the three Rs. Staff will be organising teaching and learning according to the needs of the pupils, which may involve catch-up in English and/or maths in the afternoons. Staff will also be eager to talk to parents about how we can work together to support your child's learning so they can catch-up as quickly as possible.

OPEN DAYS

In line with recent LA COVID-19 guidance, the school will now not be able to hold an Open Day. This is a great shame. However, if you have a sibling who is hoping to start at Horsley in September 2021, do contact the school so we can discuss your child starting Reception at Horsley. If you have friends who are considering sending their child to Horsley, do encourage them to make contact.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

Most of us are doing a good job of maintaining social distance. I appreciate it is a real challenge for all of us. As we go through the coming months, please continue to be mindful of social distancing at drop-off and pick-up times. Please do also adhere to the recommended one-way system. I would also ask that parents step aside from the path, for pupils, as they exit the building. Whilst I would not normally encourage us all to walk on the grassed area (technically the graveyard), in the interests of keeping safe, please do use all available space for respectful social distancing.

AND FINALLY...

I appreciate this is a challenging time for all. Our highest priority is keeping pupils and staff safe. Pupil well-being is of paramount importance and I am desperate to keep the school looking and feeling as normal as possible.

If you need further information, please do not hesitate to make contact. Further information about the school's approach to managing the virus in school is available in the school's risk assessment, which is on the website. If you are finding the COVID situation particularly stressful, there are a number of charities and support groups available. The NHS website provides a reference link. I think this is particularly useful. See below:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/mental-health-helplines/>

Rest assured, Horsley staff are trying their best to help you and your child through this. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours faithfully

Gary Price
Headteacher

