



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

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

05 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

It is with real sadness that we find ourselves in a position where the school is now formally closed. Staff had planned a term of wonderful activities and learning and were very much looking forward to seeing the children. However, we appreciate it is imperative that we all remain safe and we work together to keep everyone safe. I know that you will appreciate the late announcement of the Lockdown makes responding to the brief that little bit more challenging. Please find below key information which is relevant to the immediate plan of action.

Key Worker and Vulnerable Children

If you are a Key Worker, and you wish to take up the opportunity to have provision at school, please complete the form on the website under the Covid-19 tab (<http://www.horsley.gloucs.sch.uk/covid-19.html>) and submit it electronically to: ifinlow@horsley.gloucs.sch.uk by 12:00 midday on Wednesday 6th January at the very latest. Requests for provision will be conducted on a triage basis. We hope to accommodate all requests. You will be notified of your child's place as soon as possible. If your child qualifies for a place under the remit of Vulnerable Child (e.g. as a child on an Educational Health Care Plan) we will make contact in due course.

Please note, the offer of school-based learning for Key Worker/Vulnerable Children is for full-time provision only. We are unable to accept requests for individual or part days. The children will be expected to be in school from 8:45am - 3:00pm. Please note we cannot accommodate flexi-times. The Breakfast Club and After School Club will not be available during the Lockdown, and neither will any other clubs.

Two bubbles will be formed: an EYFS/KS1 and KS2 bubble. Pupils are asked to access the building via their normal route. This will help to keep bubbles separate. Pupils will not need to be signed in (as was the case in the previous Lockdown).

Staff will plan and deliver a sequence of learning in line with the National Curriculum. Children are asked to bring a packed lunch and attend in school uniform. Your child will need to be in school PE attire on Tuesdays and Fridays.

Remote learning

Staff will be working to ensure remote learning is in place from Wednesday 6th January (for the first 3 days, this will be related to our whole school planned Epiphany topic). This will be slightly different from that of the first Lockdown. All teaching and learning will be conducted via the internet unless your child is in school as a Key Worker or Vulnerable Child. We will not be providing 'handouts' or learning packs. Staff will provide and signpost a range of learning opportunities based on the National Curriculum. They will issue a suggested timetable for learning which will comprise core learning in English and maths (for mornings) and suitable study for non-core subjects, such as science, in the afternoons. Parents are advised to adhere to the timetable as much as possible. This will mean



that the children will be more likely to return to school with fewer gaps in their learning.

The work/learning will match, as closely as possible, the programmes of study for normal school-based learning. Teachers will not be providing daily 'live' online teacher-led sessions as this is impractical. Instead, staff will use one of two approved online learning platforms: Class Dojo for KS1 and Microsoft Teams for KS2. You have already received a login for Microsoft Team and Class Dojo. Teachers will post work and short clips to support learning in the core subjects. Clips may include the teacher reading a text as a starting point for writing tasks, or the modelling of a mathematical concept. Teachers may also signpost other clips for this purpose (e.g. government-approved websites and lessons). Pupils will be directed to structured and sequences of activities, and asked to complete relevant learning tasks. These can then be uploaded to the platform for teacher feedback. For subjects other than English and maths, there will very clear signposting to online activities, which will link with topics taught for the term in question where possible.

In a small school with only 4 full-time teaching staff, this is going to be a massive undertaking for us. Teachers will be 'on-hand', as much as possible, to respond to feedback during the school day, i.e. 8:45-3:30pm. Teachers, unfortunately, will not be able to provide this service when they themselves are teaching the children of Key Workers or Vulnerable Children, or at weekends or evenings. From Wednesday to Friday this week, Mr Feldon will be available to provide on-line support via the telephone. Please do ring if you have any technical problems. This will hopefully resolve any teething problems you may experience.

In preparation for a possible school closure, in November your child was presented with an exercise book. Please do use this to record your child's learning where relevant. Please note, we will not be able to provide additional books during the Lockdown as the school will be closed. We will not be open to collect library books or other materials.

Risk Assessment

The school will continue to review its risk assessment and ensure that the school environment is managed accordingly. Please be aware that, should there be a confirmed case of COVID-19 in school during face-to-face teaching for the children of Key Workers, or Vulnerable Children, the relevant bubble will need to self-isolate in line with government advice.

Free School Meals

It is anticipated that children registered as Pupil Premium will qualify for free school meals. We anticipate that this will be in the form of hampers. We will notify you when further information is available.

Communication

Given what we are being told about the new strains of the virus, we do not recommend visiting the school unless you are dropping off your child as a Key Worker or part of our Vulnerable Child provision. The website and texting will remain a key means of communication. The office will be manned during the school day, 8:30-4:00pm.

And finally...

Thank you for your support during this difficult period. Staff will be trying their very best, as they always do. Let's hope we can resume some sense of normality as soon as possible. Thank you for your patience.

Yours faithfully



Gary Price
Headteacher

