



Horsley CoE (VA) Primary School
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27 August 2020

Dear Parents

Welcome back and a special welcome to our new Reception children and their families! I hope you have had a restful summer break and had the chance to get away. With the new term about to start, I thought I would update you on a few matters.

Throughout the summer, staff have been busy preparing classrooms and ensuring everything is in place for the term ahead. All the staff are so looking forward to seeing the children again. I know many of the children will be eager to get back to school and see their friends. I anticipate that all children will be returning to school on Wednesday 2nd September, in line with the government directive to ensure children are able to continue with their education in schools up and down the country.

I want parents to feel reassured that the school is a safe environment to return to. I am also keen to convince parents that we want to return to something that is as close to a normal teaching and learning experience for everybody, as is possible. During the summer, the staff have been working hard to ensure that school really does feel as normal as possible and have been planning exciting lessons and opportunities for learning.

I am aware that some children may be feeling particularly anxious about returning to school. This is quite normal in any academic year, but has greater resonance this year. Rest assured, staff have already given this much thought and will be giving priority to the emotional well-being of the children on their return. Please continue to keep us up-to-date with any other concerns you may have about your child.

COVID-19 – Assessing the Risks

At the beginning of the pandemic the school undertook a COVID-19 risk assessment. This involved the staff and the governors, and was made available on the website for parents and carers. In the light of the changing situation regarding COVID-19, the risks have now been reviewed and appropriate measures put in place, all in response to new government advice. The new risk assessment will be made available on the school website in due course.

Whilst the children are returning at a time when the risk of contracting the virus has been significantly reduced, a number of simple measures will be in place to continue to help control the spread of virus. These are good practice measures that reflect the current situation and are a response to government advice for schools. Adopting good hygiene practices are at the heart of this. Good hygiene routines will be established for all classes from the beginning of the term. Please therefore ensure your child washes their hands before they come to school and when they return home. Staff will also be helping the children to adopt good respiratory hygiene - we will be using the 'catch it, bin it and kill it approach.'



Neither children nor adults will not be expected to wear masks in school. I do ask that parents and staff adopt social distancing, wherever possible, in line with government recommendations. Enhanced cleaning procedures of the building will continue until further notice.

Bubbles

The school will now be split into two bubbles or pods: infants and juniors. Movement between these bubbles will be minimised (although is naturally not impossible). As the school operates within these informal boundaries, it should not feel too different for the pupils.

Lunchtimes and Playtimes

There will be a split lunch. Infants and Juniors will receive separate lunch breaks and playtimes. Children will be able to continue to play with their friends within their Key Stage. Reception and KS1 children will not be expected to social distance within their Bubble. It is anticipated that playtimes will feel very normal. Lunches will be eaten in the classroom – quite a normal occurrence in many small schools. Hot lunches are not available at present. A packed lunch will be provided by Caterlink upon request, and can be ordered on a daily basis.

Pick-up and Drop-Off

As detailed in the letter dated 8th July the pick-up and drop-off times for pupils is staggered. Please help us to manage this by ensuring your child arrives on time.

Reception: 8:45am (see timetable for weeks 1-2)

Year 3/4: 8:45am - 3:00pm

Year 1/2: 9:00am – 3:15pm

Year 5/6: 9:00am - 3:15pm

Class Set-up

Classes in KS1 will be set up as they normally are; they should 'feel' as they have done prior to Lockdown. In KS2 tables will be arranged to encourage some degree of distancing, although there are limitations given the nature of the classrooms. In upper Key Stage 2 (Years 5/6) children will be supported to maintain distance and not touch peers, staff, etc. There will be a range of simple good practice measures in line with government guidance (e.g. personalised pens, pencil, etc.).

School Uniform

Children will be expected to wear school uniform (e.g. stout school shoes, as opposed to trainers/crocs, plain black/white/grey socks, green jumper with school logo, etc.). Children will however be asked to attend in their Horsley PE kit on days in which PE is taking place. Your class teacher will let you know your child's PE day. Please continue to send your child to school with a named coat and named water bottle. Personalised water bottles should be filled at home and taken home daily for daily washing.

The School Curriculum – The Horsley Curriculum

Teachers will be continuing to teach our exciting Horsley Curriculum with lots of the usual enrichment opportunities such as art with Elizabeth Barr and yoga with Ginny Burbage. I firmly believe that the children at Horsley will have had a rich learning experience during Lockdown but it is inevitable that each child will have had a different and bespoke learning experience. There will naturally be a need to 'close the gap' in some key areas of learning such as reading, writing and maths. Staff will therefore be assessing children accordingly in the early stage of the term so that they can best respond to the children's needs.

Extra-Curricular Provision

The Breakfast Club and After-School Club are available to book via the printable form on the website. Payment is made via Parentpay. If you need help with this, do contact Julia in the Office. Clubs will be



available from Term 1. Further information will follow in due course. School Sports competitions are temporarily 'on hold' but we will keep you posted on this as circumstances change. Staff will be planning curriculum-based school trips throughout the year. Individual class teachers will keep you posted. School residential, however, are not possible at this moment in time; it is hoped that this may change before the end of the academic year. Instrumental lessons (e.g. flute, clarinet, piano, keyboard, violin and viola) will now resume. Please let the office know if you would like your child to resume tuition or start playing from scratch.

Communication

Texting and communication via the school website will remain key means of communication. Letters will continue to be issued, where necessary, and uploaded to the website for you to refer to at a later date. Please check book bags regularly for letters. The newsletter will be produced every other week (Fridays) and uploaded to the school website.

In line with pre-Lockdown school procedures, if you need to make contact with your class teacher do so via the school email: admin@horsley.gloucs.sch.uk or telephone the school office to make an appointment. It is always easier to 'touch base' with KS1 teachers at the end of the day. Staff are always happy to ring you or make an appointment to discuss any concerns.

Data Protection Sheets

Data Collection sheets will be issued in the first week. Please, please, return these ASAP. It is imperative we have all your contact details so that we can contact you in an emergency.

Procedures for a Potential Lockdown

Should there be an outbreak in school, we will follow government procedures and liaise with Public Health, England accordingly. We ask that parents engage with the NHS Test and Trace and notify the school immediately of a positive COVID-19 test result. We will naturally keep you posted regarding information about school closure in relation to COVID-19. Please ensure we have your most up-to-date mobile number (two can be added to the Teachers2Parents system). Staff will be ready to adopt home and remote learning if the school needs to close and staff and pupils need to self-isolate.

On a Final Note...

As you are aware, the guidance for schools has frequently changed. It's likely to change again as the situation evolves, and hopefully improves. I will keep you posted on key and relevant developments as they arise. Staff are very positive and upbeat about the year ahead. I am too and looking forward to taking the school forward on the next stage of its journey. I very much look forward to welcoming you on the first day back. But in the meantime, if you have any concerns, do not hesitate to contact me personally via email: head@horsley.gloucs.sch.uk

Yours faithfully

Gary Price
Headteacher

