



Horsley CoE (VA) Primary School
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Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you are well, and managing things in the best way possible. Staff are continuing to work hard to ensure that we are responding to the government agenda to provide school-based learning for the children of Key Workers and Vulnerable children, and a minimum of 3-4 hours of online learning too. As yet, we have no indication as to when we will be able to open in full. Throughout the pandemic, information about school closures/re-openings has tended to first be reported through the media rather than to schools directly. You may have heard that schools are being told (by the media) that we will be given two weeks' notice. Rest assured that we will keep you updated as information becomes available. We very much look forward to the time that we can be fully open again. We are all missing the children greatly.

Key Worker and Vulnerable Provision

At present, we have approximately 25% of the children in school (in two bubbles) who qualify for school-based learning. At present, we do not have capacity to take on any additional children; there is however an ever growing waiting list. Given the high demand for this provision, if your child has secured a place, please continue to send your child in full-time. It does seem unfair if a child misses days, when there are others eager to return to school, or whose parents cannot work because they are having to supervise home learning. If your child is ill, however, please ensure they stay home. If you suspect that your child has COVID-19 please continue to follow government self-isolation advice and procedure. There are increasing cases where children are staying off school because they are tired. I appreciate that we all get tired from time to time; this is perfectly normal. However, please do send your child into school unless they are ill.

Reminders for Key Worker Parents

Please continue to send your child to school with a winter coat and appropriate footwear. To help prevent the spread of the virus, children should bring a water bottle. These should be filled daily at home prior to coming to school and taken home at the end of each day. Children should continue to come dressed in their Horsley PE kit on Tuesdays and Fridays. To help prevent the spread of the virus, please ensure your child does not bring into school any toys or other items, e.g. for show and tell.

Preventing the spread of the virus in and at out of school

Staff and children are continuing to adopt good hygiene practices in school to help prevent the spread of the virus. Please do continue to adopt the one-way system on the school 'campus'. Entrance to the KS2 door should be made from the direction of the church. This helps to prevent crossover and bottle



necking. To help prevent the spread of the virus, **parents are kindly asked to wear face masks at school drop-offs and pick-ups.** Thank you for your support in this regard.

Online learning Update

The online systems are now fully in place to support children with on-line learning, and are generally working well. It has been a real joy to see the whole school engage so positively in this. If you have problems, please do continue to ring the office: a designated member of staff is 'on hand' to help with any specific queries regarding learning or technical matters. Over the past few weeks there has been a significant reduction in calls. One assumes this is because there are fewer problems? Please do keep us posted if you are having difficulties, however small they may seem. There have been times when the internet has been a barrier to staff responding to requests, or uploading work from school, particularly in terms of staff recording videos for the children. Your patience in this regard is much appreciated. Staff will continue to respond to learning during the school day, 8:30am- 3:30pm. Alas, whilst staff will want to reply as soon as possible, in the interests of staff well-being (especially during these challenging times for all), I am asking staff not to reply outside of office hours and during weekends. Thank you for your support in this regard.

School closure due to incumbent weather

The children have taken great delight in playing in the snow. Should the school need to close at short notice due to incumbent weather, you will receive a text message accordingly. The school website and Gloucestershire Schools website will be updated. If we do not have your latest phone number, please contact the office as soon as possible so that we may update our records accordingly. Now that we are set up for remote learning, should the school need to close, learning will move to online provision! The anticipation is that this would be accessed by all.

Yours faithfully



Gary Price

