



HORLEY INFANT SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mr Jason Walters



Friday 19th June 2020

Dear Year 2 Parents,

Can you believe it's the middle of June already!? The days are just zooming by and I have to admit, it's been tough to look through my diary this week and see some of the lovely things we had planned no longer taking place... it's difficult to think that this weekend would have been the Horley Carnival which is always such a great opportunity for the community to come together and support each other. However, I think it's important to remember that during these challenging times, the community has come together in many other ways. Some of the most recent ones include a local laptop scheme for disadvantaged children, volunteers clearing footpaths and litter-picking in communal areas within Horley, organising a fantastic drive through service at the Horley Food Bank and lots of businesses, volunteers and those who are self-employed making PPE for critical workers.

Just a few little updates into the wonderful world of Horley Infant School!

Wider re-opening

On the 1st June we increased the number of children we've had in school from between fifteen and twenty each day from the end of March to approximately sixty children by expanding our critical worker group enormously. As of the 8th June, we increased this provision from just critical workers to additional children in Reception as the Government guidance suggested that infant schools then prioritise children within Reception. This has now taken us up to an average of 95 children in school each day.

In England, the average percentage of pupils attending schools was 9.1% during the week beginning 11th June, whereas with our current setup, we have enabled 31% of our children to return – what an amazing effort by all of the staff at Horley Infant School!

Critical worker provision

Thank you



KEY WORKERS

Firstly, another enormous thank you to everyone who is classed as a critical worker for everything you are doing to support people and communities during this challenging time – you are our heroes! We have said that we will be able to provide critical worker provision for children up until Friday 17th July. At the Downing Street press conference on 19th April, the Secretary of State said there were currently no plans for schools to continue this provision during the summer break.

From what I've heard, we have one of the largest critical worker provisions within the local area and **unfortunately, at this time, we are at maximum capacity** as we have plans to give children in Year 1 and Year 2 an opportunity to return for a short period of time in order to give an element of closure and to aid transition. By doing so, we simply do not have enough staff or available classroom space to increase this critical worker provision. Until then, we will have to put your child's name on a waiting list or contact the Local Authority to see if there is a nearby or local school that is able to support. If the guidance changes then we will of course review this but our risk assessment states that with the current conditions, it would not be safe to change this.

P.E Kits, Bookbags & Exercise Books

Some parents have been requesting to pick up belongings and we have begun to collate things together so bookbags, exercise books and P.E kits can all be collected at the same time. We will be putting the children's things out on tables on the grassy area at the front of school during the following times to allow for spaced apart socially distanced pick-ups. If this isn't a convenient time for you, the items will be put on another table for parents to collect at a later date or taken back into school.



Monday 22 nd June (morning)	Dragonflies
Monday 22 nd June (afternoon)	Ladybirds
Tuesday 23 rd June (morning)	Butterflies
Tuesday 23 rd June (afternoon)	Bumblebees
Wednesday 24 th June (morning)	Magpies
Wednesday 24 th June (afternoon)	Robins
Thursday 25 th June (morning)	Starlings
Thursday 25 th June (afternoon)	Dolphins
Friday 26 th June (morning)	Turtles
Friday 26 th June (afternoon)	Penguins

Free School Meals

The government are providing food vouchers to parents of children who receive benefits related free school meals and there has been much talk in the media about these vouchers now being provided over the six week holidays thanks to the amazing work of Marcus Rashford. This is a little confusing because all infant school children receive free school meals regardless of their parent's financial circumstances, however the vouchers are *only* given to those who would be entitled to a free meal if assessed under the benefits related criteria.

If your circumstances have changed over these past few difficult months, please let us know and we can check to see whether you now qualify for benefits related free school meals; to do this we will need your full name, date of birth and National Insurance number. We would usually need you to sign a form giving consent for this check to be done but as this is not possible, if you would like us to check could you please confirm that you consent when you email us with your details.

End of Year Reports

Teachers have been working hard to write end of year reports for your children as a way to celebrate and recognise their year together. The report format will be slightly different this year as the Government have stated that attainment data does not need to be reported and some of our usual information we report on will be difficult to do owing to the circumstances. We are hoping to get end of year reports to parents in mid-July and will keep you posted on how/when they will be coming out; once you have received them, if you have any questions about the content, please get in touch with your child's teacher via the year group email address (either reception@horley.surrey.sch.uk / year1@horley.surrey.sch.uk / year2@horley.surrey.sch.uk)

"Summer School" & "Catch Up Programmes"

You may have heard through the media that there is a great deal of speculation around schools and their provision throughout summer. One thing that I am finding increasingly frustrating is the belief that schools have been closed and teaching staff have not been working from 20th March until 1st June and do not want the children to return. Whilst I appreciate that this isn't the view of parents here, as you are aware of the tremendous efforts of all of the staff at Horley Infant School, this is the rather frustrating image that is being portrayed.

The government are promising to share information about what the additional support to schools will look like and for which age groups. I just want to reiterate again that as a school, we find out the information at exactly the same time as the public do. Once it is published on the GOV.UK website, schools receive a daily "update" regarding the information that has been published. At this stage, Horley Infant School plans to close in July for the usual summer break and no plans to remain open during the summer for an internally run summer school/catch up service. This is because there is planned maintenance and cleaning within school and because staff will need a break and an opportunity to put plans and preparations in place for the Autumn term as part of the COVID-19 curriculum recovery.

Today there has also been speculation around additional funding being made available to schools regarding helping reduce any gaps in learning that have appeared as a result of COVID-19 and also talks of a tutoring programme for the next few years. Once firmer details of these have been released, we will adapt our School Development Plan to align with this additional support.



Year 2 Information

As I mentioned within the newsletter on Friday 22nd May, we are still hoping to press ahead with our "COVID-19 Roadmap" which will allow us to bring back children in Year 2 for three days (**either** Monday 6th July – Wednesday 8th July **or** Wednesday 15th July – Friday 17th July) in their current classes with their current Year 2 teacher. We have had to split into two groups because there is still guidance in place which states that bubbles should remain at a maximum of 15. Because children in these bubbles will be using the same room (their normal classroom), resources and adults consecutively, we want to allow enough time in between for cleaning, preparation and any possible symptoms to take place. We believe this is important to allow the children to have an element of closure, to promote social and emotional wellbeing as many of the children will not have seen friends in 3D form (only 2D on a screen!) and to support them with their transition into Year 3. We have been liaising with Yattendon and Meath Green Junior School (the two schools where all of our children are moving on to) and I know that some of you may have received letters from them detailing some transition information and opportunities. We believe that our plans complement these plans nicely and hope they will help you and your children during this unusually challenging times.

We now need to work out which families would like to have their child return for three days in July so we can organise the two bubbles per class. Please can I ask all Year 2 parents to fill out this form by Wednesday 24th June so we can put plans in place and share these with you in good time.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=IA12Tu1PeUmjaSdaN1tmRV-qVN3MJp1JilSKf9ofPTJUMjdOUkdEV1Q3N1UzVUM5STNMrvZLWkROMC4u>

Of course, if you do not want to take up this offer, you do not have to. Some families have decided it is safer for them, their child or other family members to continue with home learning and reduced contact with others and we respect this decision.

September 2020

I have started to now use what I am referring to as my "Horley Infant School Crystal Ball" for any query or question with regards to September 2020. And before you say anything, no – it is certainly not a paperweight with our logo engraved on it, it *definitely* has mystical powers...! At this stage, we are of course putting plans and preparations in place but there is no certainty around what life will be like in three months' time. I think back to three months ago from today and all of the children were still in school, enjoying their final few days before the nation went into lockdown. Considering how dramatically the world has changed in those three months, it seems impossible to imagine what life might be like here in September. We will do our best to keep you posted as much as we can but hope that you appreciate that things are ever-changing and this is why our plans often need to remain fluid.



Yattendon Transition Information (from Mr. Perkins)

Hello Parents and Carers of children coming to Yattendon in September! In light of the fact that we will not be holding an information evening for you in school this term, I have recorded a message for you which you can view on our website <https://yattendon-school.secure-primariesite.net/intake-september-2020/> or here https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kQp3_S4u2nI&t=47s. Please note that the information pack referred to in the video will, for a majority of you, be in the post. For a few families, we have managed to send these home with older siblings. Please contact the Yattendon School office if you have not received the pack by Friday 26th June. The packs include information about your child's class teacher. Once you know who this is, please see the video recorded by the relevant class teacher at <https://yattendon-school.secure-primariesite.net/intake-september-2020/>. I am very sorry that I am not able to see you in person this term, but hope this can happen in September.

And finally...

I just want to take the time to thank everyone who has sent in kind messages of support or thanks to staff in school. As many of you are aware, the amount of work and effort that has gone in to create the plans has been monumental. Whilst I know it hasn't always been easy and some difficult and tough conversations have had to be had, I just want to thank everyone who has remained calm, polite and understanding throughout. I know



I've said it before but I am immensely proud to be a part of the Horley Infant School family. I can't begin to tell you how much I've missed seeing you all at the gate in the mornings and hearing the school full to the brim with laughter and learning. In the words of the great, late Dame Vera Lynn, "we'll meet again, don't know where, don't know when, but I know we'll meet again some sunny day. Keep smiling through, just like you always do, 'til the blue skies drive the dark clouds far away."

Take care, stay kind and keep safe.

Mr. J. Walters



Headteacher

