



WEEKLY FOCUS

Friday 12th June 2020



Dear Parents and Carers

It is nice to have the newsletter up and running again! I hope that you enjoy reading about some of the things that we have been doing in school and at home over the past couple of weeks.

Like me, I am sure that you watched the Education Secretary's announcement about the wider reopening of schools with disappointment. Whilst we are working hard to maintain our home learning provision for those children away from school, it is not the same as learning in a classroom and the strain on many families during this time is considerable. I am speaking to other Headteachers, the LEA and the Diocese to see what more we can do and I will keep all of you updated as and when I can.

The LEA has just issued a booklet for parents entitled, 'CAHMS Back to School Resource Pack for Parents'. It contains lots of useful information about how to support your child during this difficult time. It is on the 'school reopening' section of our website. As we go through these testing times, it is important for us all to remember the strength that we can give to one another, even from a distance. I am reminded of a quote from Thessalonians, 'Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing'.

Thank you for all your support. For those of you still home schooling, we are all missing your children very much and I hope you have restful and enjoyable weekend together.

Best wishes, Mrs Wand

Update from Mrs Brinicombe, Deputy Headteacher

Morning drop-off may be calm. Corridors may be quiet. However the buzz for learning at Horsell is still ringing loud and clear.

Whilst the Horsell Junior that I visited in the autumn and spring may not be quite the same, the manners and behaviour of the children are still a strength and this has been a pleasure to see. Even though not all children are back, we are working hard at creating a new curriculum for the children which inspires and challenges them. We have been mapping our curriculum coverage, skills and opportunities to introduce rich texts into the classroom. Our aim is to develop the children's love of reading and develop this through our topics. Year groups have been looking at how to support children in the classroom and develop strategies to make sure all children are learning.

We have exciting plans to engage the children in maths to ensure they excel at not only their calculation skills but their reasoning skills too. Our classrooms will be enriched with many more mathematical resources which will support the teaching and learning in the classroom. We are looking forward to developing the core subjects to ensure that our Horsell students have the tools and enquiring mind to access all areas of the curriculum.

Raise funds for our school when shopping online

Did you know that whenever you buy anything online, you could be raising a free donation for Horsell CofE Junior School? There are nearly 3000 retailers on board, including Amazon, Aviva, John Lewis, the Trainline and Sainsbury's and it won't cost you any money.

To join, all you have to do is go to <https://www.easypfundraising.org.uk/causes/horsellcofeajuniorschool/> Then, every time you shop online simply go to easypfundraising first, pick the retailer you want and start shopping. After you have checked out, the retailer will make a donation for no extra cost. There are no catches, or hidden charges and Horsell Junior will be grateful for your donations!

Collection of Personal belongings

Friday 19th June 2020, 8:30—9:30am

Personal items which were left at school when we closed in March will be available for collection on Friday 19th June 2020 between 8:30 and 9:30 am.

The items will be placed on tables in the playground, grouped by year group. Please enter via the double gates and adhere to the 2 metre social distancing rules. Where possible we ask that only one family member comes to collect the items.

Home learning using Seesaw

From the moment schools closed on the 20th March, both children and teachers have been rapidly learning how to continue with education at a distance. Luckily, some teachers had only just recently been on a course where they were shown the Seesaw platform which enables teachers to set tasks and children respond to them remotely from any device connected to the internet. To begin with, Year 4 started using Seesaw with the other year groups joining a couple of weeks later. Children adapted to this new way of learning quickly and were soon submitting all types of work in all areas of the curriculum. Some teachers posted daily videos to keep the children motivated and engaged, and some classes recorded videos of themselves telling jokes to their classmates.

Examples of work 'handed-in' by Year 4 children include: making a drum-kit out of kitchen utensils (including cymbals and bass drum) in order to perform a samba rhythm; designing, making and evaluating healthy smoothies; recording a video advertising the Titanic including dressing up in 1920s era clothes; building mini-beast hotels for the garden; performing a rainforest animal dance and creating an obstacle course in the garden (or even in the house!). Year 4 is currently practising and recording a virtual video assembly about the Titanic.

Since Year 6 returned to school, one teacher in each year group has taken over the responsibility for managing all three classes in the year groups' Seesaw activity. Miss Freed for Year 3, Mr Penstone for Year 4, Mrs Collet and Mrs Collier for Year 5. Mrs Bayliss-Hare has been overseeing the work of the Year 6 children who are not in school.

It has been amazing seeing the engagement from the children and the teachers are constantly surprised by the imagination and creativity of them. They have been very busy and to date nearly 9000 pieces of work have been submitted by the hard-working children in Year 4 alone!



As an NQT, I would have never imagined my first year into teaching would end up being like this - what an experience it has been! It was a sad day saying 'see you soon' to Elm Class but seeing all their hard work from home has been amazing. I have particularly enjoyed reading and listening to their lockdown poems on SeeSaw. Since the government has partially reopened schools to specific year groups, I have been teaching a Year Six bubble. It has been lovely having this opportunity to get to know the upper school more and spending time with Year Six as they enjoy their last half term at Horsell Junior School. Jumping from Year Three to Year Six was a big change but I've enjoyed teaching the Year Six curriculum and working with different members of staff. I have loved teaching new topics like Evolution and Buddhism and having detailed discussions in our P.S.H.E. sessions about the world. I am grateful for working with such a lovely and energetic bubble and look forward to what the last few weeks will bring.

Miss Chadburn

Returning to school

—Year 6 pupil experiences:

Since coming back to school I have enjoyed being able to wear my home clothes and I have found it much easier to learn in smaller groups or "bubbles". When I first came into school, I was a bit nervous however the atmosphere was really welcoming.

Lauren S



It is really fun to be back at school again. Even though I am in a different class and have different teachers, I like it. My bubble are all girls and we play together at break and lunch. We play Granny's Footsteps, Charades and other social distancing games. It is very strange not being able to sit right next to my friends but they are there and that is what counts. The lessons are fun and less challenging with a teacher. I have already become used to the new rules and systems as well as the old ones, which I had forgotten. I had missed being at school and I am so lucky to be back, when not everybody can be.

Daisy

For the past two weeks I have been back at school. Although lots of things have changed, I'm still enjoying coming to school. I used to be in a classroom of mixed genders, but now I'm in an all girls classroom (which has its pros and cons). Our tables are apart and we aren't allowed to hug or make close contact to any of our friends. I actually enjoy my break times more because my bubble plays fun games like charades. I missed being at school when I was at home, and although there has been changes I still love seeing my friends and learning new things at Horsell Junior School.

Isabel J

We hope many of you joined in and enjoyed the Whale of a Tale art lesson at home. Our pupils in school produced some wonderful artwork, including this painting by Princess.