



## Horsell C of E Junior School



16<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers:

As you know, I have been consulting with colleagues and taking advice from the LEA about the possibility of opening the school to more of our pupils before the summer vacation. Whilst we have a relatively large site, the size of our classrooms and the number of teaching staff that we have available makes opening to more children challenging. Recent government guidelines have made it clear that we can only open if we have sufficient staffing from our current pool and that funding to cover any additional staffing costs will not be provided.

Having considered all of the options, we have decided to open on a **part-time basis** for our current Year 5 pupils, whilst maintaining our Year 6 provision. As with Year 6, the children will be taught in bubbles of between 10 and 15 children (depending on the size of the classroom). The children will be split into two 'cohorts' – one being taught every Monday and Tuesday morning between 8 30am and 11 30am and the other being taught every Thursday and Friday morning between 8 30am and 11 30am. Key worker children requiring childcare outside of these times will not be able to join a Year 5 cohort but will need to remain in their key worker bubble. To outline how this part-time offer will work, I will be hosting a zoom meeting for Year 5 parents on Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> June at 6 30pm. The details of how to join the meeting are below. It will not be possible to answer questions at the meeting, so if you have any questions that you would like covering in the presentation, please email Mrs Brinicombe on [deputy@horsell-junior.surry.sch.uk](mailto:deputy@horsell-junior.surry.sch.uk) by **9 00am on Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> June**.

I understand that this will be extremely frustrating news for those of you with children in Years 3 and 4. I have been through all of the various permutations of opening to more children and it is simply impossible whilst current guidelines around social distancing are in place. We have prioritised our Year 5 children because they have the least time with us before high school. We are thinking hard about our teaching and how we help our younger children to readjust when they return to school, and we will do all that we can when we are able to open more widely.

Our Year 3 and 4 teachers are missing the children and we want to find a way for the children to meet with their teacher before the end of term. **School will therefore close to children in Years 5 and 6 on Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> July**. We will invite Year 3 and Year 4 children back to school in small groups on **Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> July (Year 3) and Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> July (Year 4)** to say goodbye to their current teacher (in a socially distanced way). These meetings will take place outside and further information will be sent out nearer the time.

I am aware that, with the increased opening of shops and other retail outlets, there is a sense that things are becoming more relaxed as we slowly move out of lockdown. It is, however, very important for our risk assessment that parents maintain 2 metre social distancing when collecting children from school at the end of the day and that children do not get close to other children, or their siblings, who are not in their school 'bubble'. Once children have been collected, adults need to leave the site as promptly as possible. We are grateful for your cooperation with this.

Kind regards

*Celia D. Wand*

Mrs C Wand (Headteacher)

ZOOM MEETING LOGIN: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83731879825>