



Horsell CofE Junior School



17th July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers:

Important Information about the full reopening of school in September

We are all really looking forward to welcoming all children back to school on Thursday, 3rd September. The government has issued extensive advice to schools to ensure that children and staff remain safe and we have been working hard to implement government advice in our setting. The principle underlying all of our decisions is that ***each year group operates as a 'bubble', with no mixing of children between bubbles.*** This is extremely important as it means that we can implement track and trace procedures if there is a case of COVID at the school. The majority of staff will also remain in their year group bubble. The exception to this is those teachers who work outside (Mr Coles, Mrs Lamb and Mr Counsell) and members of the Senior Leadership team. There will be no large gatherings of children and thorough cleaning of the site every evening to reduce the risk of infection.

The information below sets out important information that all parents and carers must read. This information can also be found in the *News and Events/School Re-opening Information* section of our website. Our whole school risk assessment will be posted on the site on Monday, once it has been approved by our Governing Body. School procedures will also be posted on this section of the website and parents should check it regularly.

Start times and finish times

We will be implementing staggered start and finish times for all children. It is very important that parents drop off their children at the time specified to minimise crowds by the gates. **Now that the school is open to all of our children parents must not linger and chat by the gates but immediately move off. As much as possible, we would encourage our parents to get 'walking home' passes for children in Years 5 and 6. The High School is operating a different finishing time to normal so there is a likelihood of some congestion around the school gates.**

Start times:

Year 6: 8 30am

Year 3: 8:35am

Year 5: 8: 40am

Year 4: 8: 45am

Finish times:

Year 6: 3:10 (Bungalow exit)

Year 3: 3:10 (LKS 2 playground)

Year 5: 3:20 (Bungalow exit)

Year 4 3:20 (Year 5 playground)

If you have children in different year groups you should drop off at the earlier time in the morning and your children should make their way straight to class. At the end of the day, you should pick up at the

later time and your children should meet you at that location. So, for example, if you have siblings in year 6 and year 5, you should drop off at 8 30 and collect at 3 20. Child minders should wait on the number square in the LKS2 playground and their children should meet them there. Please remind childminders to keep control of their children, especially if they have younger children with them.

First day for Year 3 children

On Thursday, 3rd September, our new Year 3 children will have a slightly later drop off time. Please be at the school gates for **9 30am** on this day.

Equipment

It is important that we minimise the sharing of equipment as much as possible. All children should therefore ensure that they have the following equipment, **which should be left in school**:

- ✓ 1 Pencil case containing pencil, handwriting pen (blue biro), ruler (30cm), rubber, pencil sharpener, whiteboard pens (2), glue stick, scissors
- ✓ A second pencil case containing colouring pencils and felt tip pens
- ✓ An old shirt (named) for art
- ✓ A small, named, bottle of hand sanitiser (this will also be provided in school but would it would help the school if children also had their own)

PE, forest school and cookery

PE: During the Autumn term, children will not have swimming lessons but additional PE slots. It is important that children have the correct PE kit in school at all times. We will be outside as much as possible so parents **must** ensure children have tracksuits for the winter months, appropriate footwear (sturdy trainers) and waterproofs (a cagoule, kept in your child's PE bag, would be ideal).

Forest School: Forest school will continue to operate as part of our skills provision. Children will work in groups of 15, and there will be two adults in the forest school area. All equipment will be sanitised between groups.

Cookery: This will not be running in the Autumn term as we will not be able to have parent helpers in school and there are more risks around cross-contamination. Children will be taught additional DT at this time.

Parents will be informed of when their child has PE and forest school at the start of the Autumn term.

We usually ask parents for a £45 contribution at the start of the academic year to cover costs incurred by forest school, cookery and swimming. As we will not be running cookery or swimming we will be asking for a £15 contribution at the start of the Autumn term to help us to cover the costs of forest school. When cookery and swimming recommence we will ask parents for a further contribution. As with all parental contributions, please contact the school, in confidence, if you are experiencing any difficulties with payments. Details of how to pay will be sent out when we return in September.

Lunchtimes

Lunchtimes: Year groups will not mix at lunchtime. Years 3 and 5 will eat in the hall in two separate sittings and Years 4 and 6 will eat in their classrooms. Children can still opt for hot dinners and children opting for packed lunches and hot dinners will sit together as before. We will be operating a slightly

reduced menu – but it contains all of the children’s favourites! Those children eating hot lunches in classrooms will be served their lunch in disposable takeaway containers. Lunches can still be ordered online, via our new payment system and, as before, they must be booked a week in advance. The new menu will be posted onto our website over the next few days.

After School clubs

We are planning to run a reduced number of after-school clubs. Children will remain in Year group bubbles. Further details will be sent out when we return in September.

Coming into school

Parents will not be able to come into the school building in September. This is a real shame as we appreciate the help and support provided by our volunteers. Parents should not come to the school office, unless there is an emergency, but contact the school via phone or email instead. Most information can be found on the school website and the Home School Organisers can be used to contact teachers about any specific concerns.

School Trips

We have decided not to run any off-site school trips in the Autumn term. Other schools have had difficulties in claiming on insurance for cancellations due to COVID and we have decided that things are still too uncertain to go ahead and book an off-site visit. We are operating under the assumption that the two residential trips will go ahead in 2021 and details about payment for these will be sent out in September.

After-school childcare

I have met with staff from our after school club and they are hopeful that they will be able to operate from September. Further information will be sent out from them as soon as possible.

Breakfast club

Nathan will be running Breakfast Club from September. The club will be based in the hall. Access will be via the front gate (near the office) and through the hall side door. Please accompany your child right up to the door to sign in. Nathan will publish details on his website over the summer. Children will be placed in year group areas within the hall. Children and play equipment will not be mixed across the year groups.

<http://www.ntsports.co.uk/school-clubs/breakfast-club>

Movement around the building

Children’s movement around the building will be kept to an absolute minimum to ensure that we reduce the risk of infection. Children will not be able to use the library and teaching assistants and teaching staff will ensure that books are changed.

Learning

We will be implementing a new maths programme in September called ‘Maths no Problem’. This is a proven programme, which develops pupils’ fluency and reasoning skills in maths. We will be sending out further information about this after the holidays.

We have looked carefully at the areas of the curriculum that pupils have missed and are adapting our teaching in light of this. We have reordered some of our maths learning to ensure that topics that were missed last term are taught this academic year. We will be assessing the children in the first

few weeks of September to ascertain any gaps in their learning. It is, however, important that we pace the work that we are doing with the children as some have had many months away from school and will need time to adapt to the routines of school again. As the term progresses, we will be starting booster groups. Children will be invited to these groups by their Head of Year.

Keeping up-to-date with school events

Important school dates for 2020 – 2021 will be on the school calendar from **Tuesday, 21st July**. Please keep an eye on this part of the website.

Facemasks

Children should not wear facemasks in school. This is because the wearing of masks can actually encourage young children to touch their faces more, which can increase the risk of infection. Children arriving at school with masks on will need to remove them upon entry to the classroom and place them in a clear plastic bag, which you should provide. As with all children, they will then be asked to wash their hands.

Preparing your child for September

It will take us a little time to settle into new routines. I do understand that some decisions that schools are making can seem a little strange when compared to what is happening in other sectors. Parents must understand that we are following all government guidance and all decisions are being made with your child's health, safety and wellbeing at the forefront of our minds. Sometimes, your child may complain about decisions that are made in school. This is completely normal as children adjust to a new way of working. We would appreciate your support and backing when discussing these things with your child.

I will be hosting four zoom meetings for each year group on Friday, 28th August (details below). This will give parents further information about the new school year. Details of how to access the meetings are below.

I am sure that I speak for many of you when I say how much I am looking forward to September and getting all of our children back to school once again. We wish year 6 all the best in their journey up to secondary schools. You have made us all proud! I hope you have a lovely holiday and I look forward to seeing you soon.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs C Wand (Headteacher)

ZOOM MEETING DETAILS:

Year 3 Parents	Year 4 Parents	Year 5 Parents	Year 6 Parents
Fri, Aug 28 02:00 PM Meeting: 930 1593 6941 Password: 3LjHJ5	Fri, Aug 28 03:00 PM Meeting: 988 2366 4186 Password: 1HXKmK	Fri, Aug 28 05:00 PM Meeting: 974 2828 1209 Password: 7DNFZw	Fri, Aug 28 06:00 PM Meeting: 962 0351 1270 Password: 8xAiVe

