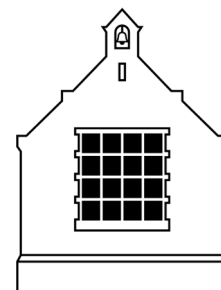


Horrington Primary School



NEWSLETTER 3 | SUMMER TERM 2 | FRIDAY 19th JUNE 2020

Dates for Diaries - Summer Term

Friday 10th July	Reports sent to parents
Friday 17th July	End of term
Monday 20th July	INSET Day

Google Classroom – weekly update

Following our first week of fully using Google Classroom to set work for the children, it is fantastic to be able to let you know that we now have over 90% of our school community signed up and using this new platform.

The school have joined the government funded EdTech Demonstrator Programme which means Mrs McKie is able to access further training webinars for the school and to have the support of a Digital Mentor from another school where they exemplify excellence in their use of technology. The Digital Mentor assigned to our school has been impressed with the take up from our families, and the pace at which both staff and families at our school have made use of this technology to support our remote education provision at this time.

Over the week, teachers have been delighted to see the work that has been submitted and we hope this is motivating the children to keep going with their learning at home. Mrs McKie's top tips for this week are:

- ◆ Remember to hit the "Turn in" or "Hand in" button, otherwise your document is not visible for marking.
- ◆ If your document is "returned" then this means your teacher has acknowledged receipt of the work.

Next week, we will send out a short questionnaire for parents to get some feedback about the platform – what is going well and any areas we could develop or improve.

Phased re-opening of schools – weekly update

Each week, we aim to keep you updated on the phased re-opening of schools. Julian Wooster, Director of Children's Services has sent a letter to schools for parents and this letter is attached with this week's newsletter

Currently, at Horrington we have three 'bubbles' of keyworker/ vulnerable children attending school and two other part-time 'bubbles' for Year 6 and for Reception/ Year 1 using all available spaces and staffing. The children returning to school have all been fantastic - they have adapted quickly to the new procedures and have settled really well into their 'bubbles' and daily routines.

As the weeks go by, we have seen a steady increase in the requests for provision under the keyworker criteria and for children in the eligible year groups (Reception, Year 1 and Year 6). To date, we are so pleased to have been able to accommodate all requests for provision. Due to the current guidance we have to follow around safe working and protective measures in school, we are now at the stage where two of our keyworker bubbles are at capacity; and we only a small number of spaces available in our other bubbles. The government guidelines are clear that schools need to continue to prioritise keyworker and vulnerable groups of children before other eligible groups for the remainder of the summer term.

Going forwards, we can see that there may be a time in the next four weeks of this term when we reach full capacity in all bubbles. If this occurs then additional/ new requests for keyworker provision or Reception/ Year 1 and Year 6 provision may mean that we need to reduce our provision for the children in Reception/ Year 1 and Year 6. We will keep you updated as required should this situation occur. Where new requests are made by parents, the school will require sufficient time to process and respond to these. We will, therefore, need to request at least a week's notice.

The government have not published any guidance for schools for September, so at the present time we are unable to update you further on plans for the autumn term. We will provide more information as soon as we are able to.

Year 6 Leavers' assembly

Marking the end of primary school is a really important occasion and the staff are currently busy planning how we can hold a virtual or video assembly for our Year 6 pupils and families. We will share more details with you in the coming weeks.

Well-being assembly

This week, the Duchess of Cambridge lead an online assembly for the Oak National Academy during which she spoke about the importance of mental wellbeing among children. The theme of the Duchess' assembly is 'spread a little kindness' and is based on a lesson plan which is available on the Mentally Healthy Schools platform. This platform was developed in collaboration with children's mental health charity Place2Be and encourages children to explore ways in which they can show kindness and recognise the benefits of kindness to others.

The Mentally Healthy Schools platform can be accessed here:

<https://www.mentallyhealthyschools.org.uk/>

A recording of the assembly can be accessed here:

<https://classroom.thenational.academy/assemblies/>


British Library

If you would like to provide some extra inspiration and creative activities to do with your children, the British Library has some fabulous ideas and resources on their website. See links below:

<https://www.bl.uk/childrens-books>

<https://www.bl.uk/childrens-books/activities/activity-pack>

Yours sincerely



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