

# Houghton Regis

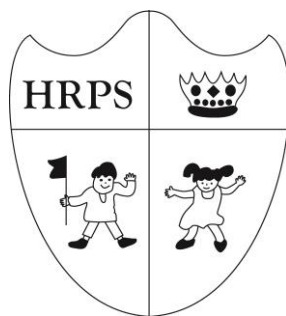
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# Primary School

St Michaels Avenue  
Houghton Regis  
Dunstable  
Beds  
LU5 5DH

10<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you again for all of your patience during this challenging time. Sadly, we had to make the decision to close the school because of the increasing number of cases of COVID. In consultation with Public Health England, it was felt that the adults are becoming infected by pupils who may be a-symptomatic or do not present with the classic COVID symptoms we expected to see in adults.

The symptoms in children can be lethargy, stomach pains or general cold-type symptoms, including a sore throat. If your child exhibits one of these symptoms, we urge you to book a test, using the 'at the request of the local authority' reason. If your child has a negative test, they will still need to self-isolate, if the test result is positive, the entire family must self isolate and you must notify the school. Public Health England were concerned that all pupils may have had exposure to COVID because the children who have become unwell and then been absent would have been contagious for the 48 hours prior to feeling unwell.

## Christmas Plans

It is so sad not to be able to celebrate the lead up to Christmas and we are hoping to have an alternative Christmas day in the new year. If your child has written cards and not been able to distribute them, we will ask you to bring them in at the start of next term, we can isolate them in the school Christmas post box, before giving them out. The Town Council has also provided presents for every child and we were not able to distribute them before the school closure, so these will be given out on the alternative Christmas Day.

## Staff Changes

Miss Diamond will be leaving us at the end of this term. She has been a lovely colleague to work with and we will all miss her. Mrs Norris will also be leaving Gold class at Christmas. We wish them both every success in their future endeavours. Mrs Helen Ingram will be starting as the Early Years Leader in Gold Class. Mrs Ingram has an exceptional track record in Early Years, having worked in several outstanding settings and led professional development for schools. She will be well supported by the existing Early Years team and we will give parents an opportunity to meet her as soon as we are able.



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Also, it is with regret that Lynne Simper has decided to leave Houghton Regis Primary School and please join us in wishing her all the best for the future. We have welcomed Mrs Fiona Jones as Interim School Business Manager to replace Ms Simper and Mrs Malik and Mrs Brooke are now permanent members of staff in the front office. We have been really pleased, that despite the challenges of socially distancing, we have been able to appoint a strong team to take the school forwards into 2021.

### Home Learning

All pupils, except those in Early Years, are being provided with on-line learning using google classroom. In the Home Learning section of the school website we have provided families with information on how to use google classroom; accessing and submitting work. If you have no access to the internet, please let us know because we have hard copies of work packs for all classes. These can either be collected from school by a non-isolating adult or sent out to you by post. Children in Early Years should all have home learning packs as these were delivered to your door.

Please keep an eye out for further correspondence before the end of term. All letters will be emailed and put onto the school website. If you need advice or have a query, please do not hesitate to contact the school office between 9am and 3pm.

Keep safe.

Regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'DP', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Deborah Pargeter  
Executive Headteacher