

Houghton Regis

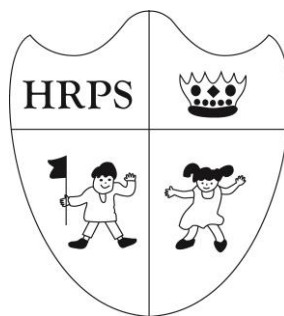
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Primary School

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4th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome Back!

I am pleased to welcome you to the Spring term at Houghton Regis after my period of absence which was due to personal circumstances. I am also pleased to share that Mrs Deborah Pargeter will continue to support our school in a new capacity as a school improvement partner this term.

'Little Christmas'

Between the 6th of January and the 13th of January children in all classes will be learning about 'Little Christmas.' Little Christmas is one of the traditional names certain Christian groups use for the feast of the Epiphany. This is when the story of the three wise men visiting Jesus is remembered. Children in every class will learn about the story of the Epiphany and complete relevant Epiphany activities. These Epiphany activities will culminate in 'Little Christmas' which will be celebrated on Wednesday, 13th January 2021, when children will be encouraged to wear a Christmas jumper. Gifts from the Town Council will also be given out for 'Little Christmas', Christmas dinner will be served in classrooms, a raffle will take place and cards will be distributed. Please ensure all Christmas cards are brought into school before Friday, 8th January 2021 to give them enough time to self-isolate in the school post box before they are given out on Wednesday 13th January. I hope these 'Little Christmas' celebrations will provide pupils with some belated extra special Christmas 'magic.'

Covid-19 Arrangements

Please note all COVID-19 arrangements, including the current risk assessment, will continue as per communications from Mrs Pargeter last term.

Key points to note are listed below:

Masks

Parents will need to continue to wear masks on the school site. Staff will also continue to wear masks when they are outside their classroom bubble.



Limited Access to Site

As part of the continued COVID-19 restrictions we will continue not to host any meetings with visitors, friends or families. If you need to contact a class teacher please in the first instance, use the class email address. This is the name of your child's class followed by @houghtonregisprimary.co.uk. My office team can also be contacted by telephone but we kindly ask parents not to enter the school building at this time.

Procedures for a positive COVID-19 Case

If a child presents with a persistent cough, temperature and or loss of taste or smell, we will call you to collect them as soon as possible. Whilst your child is waiting, they will be placed in the COVID-19 isolation room, supported by members of staff in PPE. Please ensure we have the most up to date contact details for you by contacting office staff by telephone or email.

We will then ask you to organise a Covid-19 test and share the results with us before your child is able to return to school. If a child tests positive, we have very clear guidance to follow and decisions are made in consultation with Public Health England. As you will be aware it is highly probable that the class a child tests positive in will all be sent home to self-isolate. To protect the well being of the child, we will not disclose who tests positive but will follow guidance given to us.

As a parent who has had to self-isolate at home with young children during the pandemic, I fully understand that families being asked to self-isolate is not easy, particularly if adults may also be suffering from COVID-19 symptoms. I would therefore like to thank parents for their understanding with the necessary bubble and whole school closures last term.

I absolutely aim to keep the school open this term and would like to thank you in advance for following the school's COVID-19 arrangements in full to prevent another school closure period.

Parents Evening

I will be arranging parents evening for all classes. These will be held virtually and further details around the arrangements will follow shortly. We are looking at holding these during the first week of February.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a very Happy and healthy New Year!

Yours sincerely

James Edwards

Mr J Edwards
Headteacher