

Houghton Regis

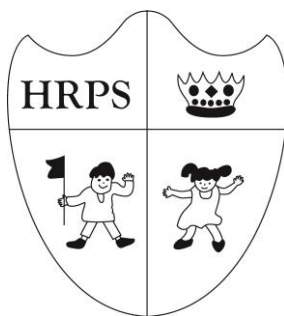
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Primary School

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Newsletter

5 March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

The staff and I are greatly looking forward to welcoming all pupils back to school on Monday.

Following on from my re-opening letter dated 26 February 2021 I thought I would share some final reminders before re-opening.

Attendance

Attendance for all children is mandatory. Children who are self-isolating due to presenting with symptoms of coronavirus, or have been exposed to somebody presenting with symptoms of coronavirus, must not attend school until the self-isolation period has passed or they test negative for coronavirus. If your child presents with coronavirus symptoms, the self-isolation period is ten days; if a member of your household presents with coronavirus symptoms, the self-isolation period for your child is 10 days.

Infection control and social distancing measures as of March

It is important that we maintain proportionate infection control and social distancing measures when we welcome back all children and staff.

To ensure everyone's safety, we will be enforcing the following as part of our risk management plan:

- Face coverings will be worn by all staff in communal areas. Guidance from the DfE states: 'In primary schools and early years settings it is recommended that staff and visitors wear face coverings where social distancing cannot be maintained between adults. These measures will be in place until Easter. As with all measures, we will keep this under review and update guidance as needed.'

The DfE also states: 'Children in primary schools do not need to wear a face covering and they should not be asked to wear one. Dr Susan Hopkins, the Chief Medical Adviser for NHS Test and Trace, has said that "the consensus among educationalists, public health and clinical specialists is that it is not advisable for primary school children to wear face coverings. That is why Public Health England has not recommended to the Department for Education that they should be worn by primary pupils in the classroom.

Children need to see facial expressions to develop their communication and language skills and practically, they can have difficulties keeping them on all day.'



- Anyone who is unwell and displaying symptoms of coronavirus will be asked to stay at home for 10 days.
- Robust hand and respiratory hygiene practises will be encouraged and enforced.
- Enhanced cleaning will be undertaken as necessary, including cleaning any frequently touched surfaces throughout the day.
- The NHS 'Test and Trace' system will be actively used and followed
- Limitations will be placed on the number of people staff and children encounter during the school day.
- Large gatherings will be avoided. Some assemblies will take place during the week however, this will be one bubble per day and the children will be kept separate in their class groups.
- Children will be grouped together in bubbles and will remain in these bubbles.
- Contact between bubbles will be avoided.
- Classrooms in Key Stage 2 will be arranged to encourage social distancing and desks will be faced forwards to minimise face-to-face interaction between children.
- It is recognised that younger children cannot socially distance from staff or from each other, therefore in Early Years the classroom configuration reflects this.
- In KS1 desks will be faced forward to minimise face to face interaction but we again recognise that younger children are less able to socially distance from staff or each other.
- Children will be asked to remain at least two metres away from members of staff, where practicable.
- Children will also be aware which staff are allocated to their bubble. Members of staff will wear masks if temporarily visiting other bubbles. This may be necessary to carry on with the usual business of the school but will only happen for short periods of time. Staff will not be encouraged to wear masks when working inside their own allocated bubble classrooms as masks would interfere with communication, teaching and learning.

Should any of the above protective measures change at any time, including the need to close the school due to a local lockdown, we will contact you immediately.

Star Awards

Now all pupils are planned to be learning in school we will return to the previous programme of giving out two star awards per class, per week. These will either be given out in a 'bubble assembly' or by the child's phase leader/class teacher within the bubble classrooms.

World Book Day

It was wonderful seeing so many children in their 'book outfits' yesterday. Highlights from class photos and the lower school world book day 'parade' will be available to view on either the school website or google classroom.

Yours sincerely

James Edwards

Mr J Edwards
Headteacher