

Horsley Church of England Primary School

38 Church Street, Horsley,

Derbyshire

DE21 5BR

Head Teacher: Mr Richard J Cripps

Email: info@horsleycofeprimary.school

Thursday 17th December 2020

Tel: (01332) 880782



Dear Horsley families,

We have come to the end of one of our most challenging years as a school, however it is safe to say that it has been very successful, especially during this Autumn Term. There is so much to reflect upon and the children have all been awesome! I cannot put into words how proud I am of our Horsley Heroes.

Our staff teams have been instrumental in providing so many opportunities for our children. They have been immense and unwavering in their desire to create some sense of normality for our children. For this, I am extremely grateful. It is very clear that the children have benefited from this support and progress has been made across all year groups.

We are fortunate to have such a positive and glowing team spirit at both Horsley and Mapperley and that our communities are fully behind the schools. I don't need to preach to parents about the preciousness of time and tell you to cherish the moments that we have with our children. It is clear that the manner in which 2020 has panned out has made us all consider the important things in life: family, togetherness, friendship and health. I would sincerely like to thank our families for your support this year. Your backing and encouragement have been very welcome, particularly this term, without which it would not have been possible to deliver the opportunities that we have. We look forward to working even more closely in partnership with you in 2021 and I wish every one of you a very special and happy Christmas.

No extra INSET day planned

You may have seen reports that schools were given the option to close a day earlier this term if they wished to take one of their INSET days. The announcement came at only very short notice, which in my personal opinion caused confusion for school communities. I have chosen to keep school open as planned for the following reasons:

- 👤 We planned our Christmas events for children and would not want to cancel them
- 👤 I feel that announcing an INSET day at short notice is very unhelpful to working parents, who have already been impacted by isolating or the many other disruptions this year
- 👤 For many parents, an unplanned INSET day could cost them valuable holiday time or even lost income
- 👤 Closing school on the Friday would theoretically fail to prevent any 'Christmas isolation' if a bubble was to close at school and would have little impact in many respects
- 👤 The INSET day mentioned is not additional to the days we had planned.

It appears that 'a possible INSET day addition' discussed by the government is aimed at ensuring school leaders don't potentially have to be on duty for track and trace cases for Christmas Eve. In all honesty, this is a somewhat tokenistic gesture and has very little benefit for school leaders as they would still be expected to support track and trace up to the 23rd December. Thank you in advance for your understanding as ever. I hope this communication clears up some of the uncertainties around after the announcement.

Important Information: Reporting positive COVID tests during the Christmas holiday

Remaining open on the 18th December means that I am available until the 24th December to inform you as parents and carers, staff and any visitors of any positive cases. I will therefore be on standby up to and including 24th December and can be contacted via e-mail at headteacher@horsleycofprimary.school

You can email me at any time or as soon as you receive test results. Government guidance states that *'Where a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus, having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in school, the school should not be contacted.'* Parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace. Therefore;

You only need to email me if you test positive for Covid-19 having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school

I will check my emails daily at 09.30am, up to and including 24th December. If I receive news of a positive case of Covid-19, I will make contact through Parent Hub. The identity of a family with a positive case will not be shared. Any further enquiries after 24th December will be dealt with when school reopens. Whilst this situation is not ideal, your help in preventing the spread of the virus is greatly appreciated and I thank you for your support in trying to keep everyone safe over the festive break.

Nativity

The link to our performance of "A Horsley Nativity" can be found here:

<https://horsleycofeprimary.school/nativity2020/>

To access the link you will need this password: WWTWHN2020

We ask that this link is not shared on social media or shared readily outside your family. The children would love to have performed it in front of you as our audience, but sadly haven't been able to. We hope that this brings you and your family much needed seasonal warmth!

Once again, I wish you all a joyful Christmas with your families and we look forward to seeing everyone back next year on Monday 4th January.

Yours sincerely,

R. J. Cripps

Headteacher