

Horsley & Mapperley Church of England  
Primary Schools

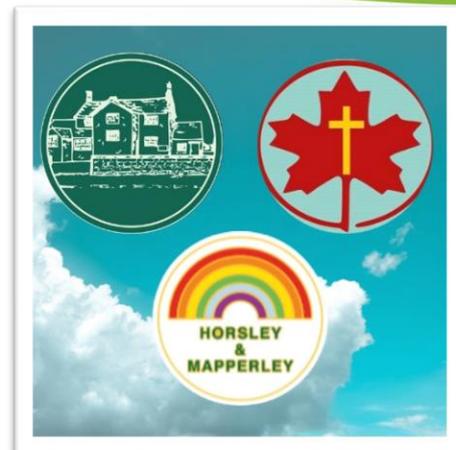
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Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2021

### **COVID-19 – Lockdown 3 January 2021 Update**

Dear Horsley & Mapperley families,

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy new year- it really hasn't been the start to the year or term that any of us were hoping for. I hope that you are keeping well and coping with the impact of another national lockdown. I am very grateful for the lovely comments and support that so many of you have shared. The next few months are likely to present a real challenge to us all and it is vital that we give support to each other and work together. With putting together our 'in school' and 'at home' plans so quickly, it has meant that there are things that we will need to alter to ensure that they work as well as they can for everyone. We are looking to introduce some virtual contact with children at home, which will be through Microsoft Teams, which is being set up for all children by our IT providers. More information about this will follow next week.

**In School:** I would like to personally thank our families for your patience, understanding and support this week and last week, whilst we have been organising staffing and pupil places in school. Guidance to schools has changed frequently and often with very little notice or clarity. The DfE has now advised that parents and carers of children who are eligible for a school place, should keep them at home if at all possible. During the first lockdown we had very low percentage of children in school. We now have over 30% in both schools and are unable to offer any further places due to control measures and staffing. We will operate COVID 19 rates around our schools continue to rise, as can be seen at [www.schoolcovidmap.org.uk](http://www.schoolcovidmap.org.uk). If at all possible, please consider keeping your child at home.

I am duty bound to ensure that all staff feel safe coming to work. With more children attending school than during the previous partial closure, all staff (teachers, TAs, the office staff, midday-supervisors, cleaners and the caretaker) need to be on site full-time in order to safely run the school. With fewer children in school and social distancing in place, we hope to keep the virus out of our school. However, the more children that attend, the more likely it is that we will need to close bubbles when a pupil tests positive. This will then obviously mean our parents of frontline services will not be able to work. At the moment all staff (who are able to) are willing to come to school, but I'm sure you will appreciate that anxiety levels are high. Please be assured that staff want to do their best for your children, but I ask that you continue to show understanding of the anxieties that they may have being in school.

**At home:** We know home learning is a real challenge for many of you – especially if you are trying to work from home at the same time – or have children in different year groups with sessions online at different times. We know that you'd rather have your children here with us at school, so would we.

For the children who are at home, remote learning is in place and covers the same learning objectives that the children in school are learning. Children can access this through our school websites and Purple Mash. We are looking forward to introducing TEAMS meetings soon. It will take staff time to become familiar with using TEAMS, as it is new to them.

Children can email their teacher through their Purple Mash email. Parents please use the teacher emails to contact class teachers. Please be aware that teachers are in school teaching, so will not be able to reply during school hours. Please could I request that emails are sent to teachers during the school week, unless urgent, as staff need to have some time to recharge with their own families at the weekend.

We are aware that some children have difficulties with accessing the technology to help them with their learning. If this is the case please email [info@mapperleycont.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:info@mapperleycont.derbyshire.sch.uk) or [info@horsleycofeprimary.school](mailto:info@horsleycofeprimary.school) detailing issues you are having so we can support you. We should receive a small number of laptops from the Government soon which can be allocated to those most in need. We have a small number of devices that we can loan out. We have been told it is also possible to log in to TEAMS with an Xbox or PlayStation (as long as it is connected to the internet). If you do not have wi-fi – or think that all the internet use may drain your 4G/mobile data – again let us know. There are ways to access extra mobile data.

The Government have set out a greater expectation for the completion of home learning so that children do not fall further behind. The expectation is that for EYFS, Y1 & Y2 they complete 3 hours per day and for Y3, Y4, Y5 & Y6 they complete 4 hours per day. The response to home learning so far has been brilliant – well done! The Mapperley & Horsley staff teams are fully committed to the importance of ensuring home-learning is of as high a quality as the learning for the children in school.

We know that some of the materials planned for children may prove tricky- some of the White Rose materials haven't always been clear to teachers. Should you feel that your child needs to access different work, then please look at planning for a lower year group on the websites.

At the end of the letter we will put a list of useful links and areas where there are learning from home resources (free) that might find useful – if you spot any that you know about – please let me know – I'll add them all to the website & social media so they're easy to access there too.

**Safeguarding** If you have any concerns about the safety and well-being of a child please use [headteacher@mapperleycont.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@mapperleycont.derbyshire.sch.uk) or [headteacher@horsleycofeprimary.school](mailto:headteacher@horsleycofeprimary.school) to inform us. If you are concerned that a child is suffering or is at risk of significant harm please contact **Call Derbyshire – Starting Point** on Tel: 01629 533190 immediately.





## **General Updates**

### **Times Tables Rockstars...School versus School!**

Times Tables Rockstars have introduced a new feature that allows schools to 'battle' other schools. For the next 15 days there is a tournament between Horsley & Mapperley. If you have any questions about TTRockstars, then please get in touch.

## **Skylark Cluster**



Horsley & Mapperley belong to the 'Skylark Small School Cluster'. This group started in 2017 as a collaboration between 10 local small schools. As we are all of similar size, and all within the local area, we have a range of similar development needs and interests. The collaboration will enable pupils to mix in greater numbers, and staff to work together to continue to move our schools forwards.

The 10 school Skylark schools are:

*Breadsall CE (VC) Primary  
Denby Free CE (A) Primary  
Horsley CE Primary  
Kilburn Infant and Nursery  
Lons Infants*

*Morley Primary  
Mapperley CE Primary  
Stanley Common CE Primary  
Stanley St Andrews CE Primary  
Streetlane Primary*

## **4 Derbyshire Teaching School Alliance**



Both Horsley & Mapperley are part of 4Derbyshire Teaching School Alliance which is an alliance of 25 schools including infant, primary and special schools. It offers schools the opportunity to become part of a school led self-improving system. It is also how we provide teacher training opportunities (both Miss Bridges in Class 1 & Miss Drury in Discoverers are having their placements with us through 4 Derbyshire). For more information, please visit [www.4derbyshiretsa.com](http://www.4derbyshiretsa.com)

As always, we will keep the Horsley & Mapperley school communities and your families in our prayers.

Please take care and look after yourselves.

God bless.

Yours sincerely,

Mr R. J. Cripps

Headteacher

## Learn at Home Resources

[www.spongelephant.com/srscmat/](http://www.spongelephant.com/srscmat/)

An excellent 'one stop shop' for links to all sorts of great websites.

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/free-ebooks/>

Reading books – free to access and book-banded – you will need to create your own log in – they're available up to Y6

<https://play.ttrockstars.com>

<https://login.mathletics.com>

[www.purplemash.com](http://www.purplemash.com)

All children should have their log-ins for TTRockstars, Mathletics/Readiwriter and Purple Mash. If you need your login details for TTRockstars, Purple Mash or Mathletics/Readiwriter then email:

[headteacher@horsleycofeprimary.school](mailto:headteacher@horsleycofeprimary.school)

<https://classroom.thenational.academy>

Additional lessons in additional subjects- we will be using some of these sessions.

<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk>

Phonics Play is a great resource for all infant children...and it's free again. Username: jan21

Password: home

<https://www.twinkl.co.uk/home-learning-hub>

The Twinkl Home Learning Hub (all free)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/primary>

BBC Bitesize – lots of great general resources

<https://chatterpack.net/blogs/blog/resources-list-for-home-learning>

A list of general resources

PE: [www.youtube.com/user/thebodycoach1/videos](https://www.youtube.com/user/thebodycoach1/videos) Joe Wicks is back!

More links will come as we find them! We will add links to the websites on the [Home Learning Hub](#) pages.

### Public Service Announcement

Parents: What we are being asked to do is not humanly possible. There is a reason we are either a working parent, a stay-at-home parent, or a part-time working parent.

Working, parenting, and teaching are three different jobs that cannot be done at the same time.

It's not hard because you are doing it wrong. It's hard because it's too much.

Do the best you can.

Emily W King, PhD

