



Horton St. Michael's CE First School & Nursery

AUTUMN TERM 2020 NEWSLETTER

Welcome back everyone.

It has been lovely to welcome everyone back to school. The children seem to have settled into their new classes really well and are all coping with our new routines including lots of handwashing, staggered lunch and breaks and looking after their own equipment. Some children have said they are really enjoying having the lunchtime space to themselves! I want to take this opportunity to thank all of the staff for making sure that school is not only safe but is welcoming and fun for the children. I have no doubt that over the coming months we will face many challenges as a school (in fact last week we were three teachers down!) but I know that we will do our best to keep school running and provide the best experiences we can for the children.

Drop off and Pick Up

Please make sure that you adhere to the timings for drop off and pick up. We have noticed that some children are being dropped off after the allocated time. This means that learning is either delayed or interrupted. Times for drop off are either 8.35 or 8.45. We would also request that you do not come onto school grounds before these times. Pick up times are either 3.00 or 3.10. Please do not come onto school grounds before this—if children see you in the playground they are distracted and often stop working thinking that it is time to go! Thank you to everyone for adhering to the one way system, it is helping to reduce congestion.

Face Coverings

In the light of the new government guidelines earlier this week and the fact that we are experiencing an increase in cases, we are requesting that you wear a face covering when on school grounds (including for pick up and drop off). We are really keen to keep everyone as safe as possible, for children to attend school every day and for staff to be able to remain in school. Therefore we are asking if you could do your bit to help by wearing a face covering.

At this time teachers will not be wearing them in school as much of our day is communicating (including showing children how to make the sound of letters and groups of letters).

You may see teachers in face coverings if they need to collect reluctant children from parents in the mornings. Often, in these circumstances we need to come closer than the recommended 2 metres).

Children are not required to wear them.

Colds, Sneezes and Coughs

I know that this is a very grey area and some of you are concerned about when to keep your child off school. If your child has a cold but is well enough to attend school then you are welcome to bring them in, it would be very helpful if you could make sure that they are able to use a tissue to look after themselves when they have a cold.

If you have any doubts about your child's health in relation to covid19 please use the 111 NHS online service

<https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19/>

Building Works

We have had lots of work done over the summer. Our carpark now looks amazing! We have also had repairs and a new refit in the resources room (following a flood earlier this year!). Our hall looks fantastic and is so much lighter and cleaner following the installation of a new ceiling and lighting. All of this has been paid for by SUAT so we are very grateful to them for investing so heavily in our school. I think this year we have had more spent on us per child than any other school in the trust.

School Celebrations

As many of you are aware we have many celebrations this term, including harvest, remembrance and Christmas. We want to mark these special occasions with the children and are coming up with ideas to make these happen. Our first celebration will be our harvest festival. We are hoping to hold this outside so that all the children can come together on the playground while remaining in their bubbles. We are hoping to video this celebration and send this out to you. We are still looking into the practicalities of this and will let you know more details soon. We hope to make sure that children still have experiences which make school life special while being mindful of our new procedures.

EXTRA PUPIL FUNDING—THE PUPIL PREMIUM

Your child might be eligible to receive extra funding to pay for things such as learning interventions, school trips, morning snack, a free after school club. If you currently claim benefits, or in the event that your circumstances change, please contact the office in the strictest confidence for further information.

Consultation Evenings - Week beginning 12 October

We will be running our parent consultation evenings by phone this term. This will be an opportunity to discuss how your child has settled into school. We will be in touch with appointment dates and times in the near future.

Term Dates 2020-2021

Half term: 26 October—30 October
School Opens: 2 November
Christmas Holiday: 21 December—4 January
School opens: 5 January
Half term: 15—19 February
School opens: 22 February
Easter Holiday: 2 April—16 April
School opens: 19 April
Bank holiday: 3 May
Half Term: 31 May—4 June
School opens: 7 June
School closes for summer: 16 July

KIPLING CLUB

Every day, our Morning Club runs from 8.00am until the start of school and our After School Club runs from 3.10-5.05pm. If you need your child to attend, please contact Angela Goulding on 07921 921291. Please be aware that numbers are limited so you are requested to book your child's place as early as possible. The club is staffed by 4 members of the team who are: Joanna Bridgwood, Angela Goulding, Rachel Gregory and Sharon Lahouni. The children take part in lots of activities ranging from outdoor play to crafts and computing. They are offered a snack and a drink. It is very popular with the children!

Parents/carers will be invoiced on a fortnightly basis.

School Uniform

A reminder that school uniform is available from GoGo Designs at 12 St Edward's Street, Leek. Telephone: 01538 381781.

After School Clubs

Due to minimising visiting adults in school we are sorry to say that many of our after school clubs will not be running this term.

Leek football club will be running an after school football club for Key Stage 2 on Fridays after school until 4pm. If you would like a place please contact the office.

We are able to run this club as Ade and his team are providing lunchtime cover every day and so are classed as staff. The children are really enjoying the activities they are offering.

MAPLE and SYCAMORE CLASS

Please ensure that your child has trainers in school every day as the mile a day is run most days.

COMMON ILLNESS AND TIME OFF SCHOOL

Please note the following guidance from the Health Protection Agency:

- *Conjunctivitis—no time off
- *Diarrhoea and/or vomiting—48 hours
- *Chickenpox—5 days from onset of rash
- *Tonsillitis—no time off
- *Head Lice—no time off

More information can be found on www.hpa.org.uk