

The Horsell Village School



Contact: 01483714804 or email reception@horsell-village.surrey.sch.uk



Welcome to the final newsletter for this term – and what a term it has been. We have so much to celebrate and share with you.

The term started with the return to education for all children. The staff worked incredibly hard preparing the school and learning, ready for a safe return. Since then the children have been incredible in adapting to the measures in place to keep them safe.

Soon the building was fully alive again with the love of learning, the sound of happy children and the normal buzz that being at The Horsell Village School gives.

We have continued our teaching to focus on how our children learn best; learning inside and outside in small groups, immersing ourselves in our enquiry and investigation approach as well as increasing our focus on mental health and well-being. The children have achieved so much this term and should all be feeling very proud of themselves.

I would like to publicly thank all the teachers, teaching assistants, office and premises staff, lunchtimes supervisors and kitchen staff– everyone who works here at The Horsell Village School for their dedication and support. They always give a 100%, but have gone above and beyond to ensure the safety of our children and to keep our school open during the pandemic. I am so incredibly proud of them all and hope they all get a well deserved rest over the Christmas period.

Finally I would also like to express my thanks to the whole school community. As parents you have continued to support the school and the measures we have put in place to ensure the safety of our children. You have continued to support the school in everything we do — and for this I am grateful.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Best Wishes
Mrs Reeve



Lets Celebrate everything that is The Horsell Village School. If you haven't seen it yet, use the following link to have a look at our school virtual tour. This will give you a little insight into everything that makes us special . There is also a tour of the classrooms so you can see what they look like.

We know it has been very hard for you to gain the normal insight into school life– so we hope this gives you an idea.



<https://youtu.be/kDLYViC-IFM>

<https://youtu.be/wliTXLc6v8k>

Kindness to yourself

Kindness to others

Kindness to the world

Staff Updates

As we move towards the end of term, I would like to take this opportunity to update you on a few staff changes happening here at The Horsell Village School for January 2021.

Sadly we are losing two members of staff who have been with us here at The Horsell Village School for many years.

**Mrs Girdler.**

Mrs Girdler has worked at the school for 20 years. Starting as a 1:1 Teaching Assistant and moving to School Business Manager. She has played an integral part of the Steering Group and has provided support and guidance on the financial direction of the school for many years. Mrs Girdler is taking early retirement and heading back home to Wales. I am sure you join me in wishing her a happy retirement.

**Mrs Wilson**

Mrs Wilson has also worked here at The Horsell Village for 20 years. She has been a Teaching Assistant in nearly every classroom in the school. She always brings a smile to every classroom and the children have adored working with her. Mrs Wilson is retiring and I am sure you join me in wishing her every happiness in her new adventures.

We are being joined by...

**Mrs Adds**

Mrs Adds is joining the school as our new Finance and Premises Officer. She has many years experience working in operations and event coordination and brings many skills to her new role. I am sure you will join me in giving her a warm welcome to The Horsell Village School team.

**Twelve days of Christmas.**

Well done to the PTA and the parent community of both The Horsell Village School and the Horsell Junior School for raising over £ 5,000.00 in the Twelve days of Christmas Event.

£5,000.00

This year here at The Horsell Village School the PTA are raising money to support in the re-development of some of the outside areas of learning - specifically the far end of the playground where the old maze used to be.

Once we return in the New Year, we will be working closely with the School Council to draw up child-led plans for how each area will be developed.

The area that has already been laid to Astroturf will form the basis of our new outside reading zone, as requested by the children. This will provide them with a quiet, relaxing space to read outside during playtimes (post Covid) and during independent learning time.



As a school we have previously spent funds on purchasing new desktop computers for all the classrooms. This new equipment has enabled the school to move forward in its ICT approach and teaching as well as enabling us to extend our remote learning approach.

On behalf of the children, the staff and myself I would like to extend a thank you to all those on the PTA for the hard work they put into organising and running events and a big thank you to everyone who has taken the time to support these events with their children.

Governors



A message from the Governors

As you'll know from previous newsletters, Davina Holland stepped down as a governor recently, and left a vacancy both for a parent governor and as Chair. I'm delighted to say that I have now taken on the role of Chair and on behalf of my fellow governors and myself, I would like to say thank you to Davina; she will be missed for both her insight and experience.



For those of you who don't know me, I became a governor when my children were in year 1 and Reception. Both have now moved on to the Junior School having enjoyed their time at The Horsell Village School immensely.

The last governors' meeting of the autumn term is being held after I write this and we will be following up on the priorities outlined earlier in the term around the school development plan, the well-being of pupils and staff, and the implementation of the catch-up funding allocated to the school.

The governors continue to work with governors at other schools in The Swan Trust. I have attended (virtually!) a meeting with the Chairs at the other schools and we discussed what was happening at both a Trust level and within other schools. We are looking to share best practice and experiences and we have agreed that we will meet regularly in the future in order to continue to share experiences and common themes.

When you read this, the vacancy for parent governor will have been filled and I look forward to working with the successful candidate. One of the strengths of The Horsell Village School is its community, and the number of parents who were willing to stand for election is testament to that.

Finally, I want to thank Mrs Reeve and all the staff at the school for their hard work and commitment over the last year. I think it's safe to say that none of us foresaw what 2020 would look like at the start of the year! With that said, I wish you all a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and all the best for 2021.



New Parent Governor

We are pleased to announce that Mr Chris Swallow has been voted in as the new parent governor here at The Horsell Village School.

Mr Swallow brings a wealth of experience to the role through his work as an advisor to the UN, following a career in the military.

We look forward to working with him to support in the development of the school.

We will arrange a time for Mr Swallow to be out on the playground for you to say a 'hello'.

Thank you to all the candidates that put themselves forward. It was fantastic to see so many offering their time and support to the future of the school.



As we move towards the end of term and towards a well deserved rest for everyone, please remember to continue to keep the school up to date with any developments in your family regarding the coronavirus.

We previously wrote to you explaining that you still need to contact the school office should anyone in your household test positive up to and including **Monday 21st December**. This will enable the school to support the NHS by tracking back 48 hours from when symptoms appeared. This will enable us to contact and inform other families within your child's class bubble should we need to.

If your child tests positive after the 21st December please continue to also inform the school so we can help identify a return to school date.

Emails will be checked at 10.00am daily.

Please use reception@horsell-village.surrey.sch.uk

Please continue to familiarise yourself with the latest government guidance regarding 'Christmas Bubbles' and the Tier 3 guidance from Saturday 19th December 2020

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/guidance-for-the-christmas-period>

On return to school on Monday 4th January 2021 please continue to follow the systems and protocols we have in place to keep you all safe.

- Continue to bring your child at their allocated drop off and pick up times.
- Continue the 'one parent' drop of system
- Continue to wear a facemask when on the school premises
- Continue to maintain a 2-meter distance and adhere to social distancing guidelines.

Thank you for your support in helping us to mitigate the risk and keep everyone as safe as we possibly can.

Parent Working party

Here at The Horsell Village School we have been looking at ways to continue to develop our parent voice. Alongside our parent surveys we would like to develop a Parent Working Party.

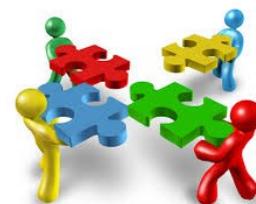
Thank you to those who have already shown an interest.

The parent working party would be a opportunity for you as parents to contribute to the development of key aspects of school. Each working party will be with myself, a member of the steering group and a representative from the governors.

We aim to hold a meeting once a term. Each meeting will have a agenda focusing on parts of the school development plan as well as providing an opportunity to discuss current events, diary dates and elements of the day to day aspects of the school.

The first meeting will be held virtually on **Thursday 14th January 2020 at 7.00pm.**

Please inform the office if you are interested in attending. We will then send out a link via Microsoft teams alongside an agenda and protocols for meetings in January.



Term dates Spring Term 2021

Monday 4th January	School re-opens for all children
Thursday 14th January	Virtual Parents working party meeting—7.00pm
Thursday 21st January	Barn Owls Virtual Celebration of Learning
Friday 22nd January	World Wildlife Day – wear something wild
Thursday 28th January	Tawny Owls Virtual Celebration of Learning.
Thursday 4th February	Snowy Owls Virtual Celebration of Learning
Thursday 11th February	Badgers Virtual Celebration of Learning
Friday 12th February	Chinese New Year
	Finish for Half Term
Monday 15th February to	Half Term
Friday 19th February	
Monday 22nd February	Inset day – School Closed
Tuesday 23rd February	Inset day – School Closed
Wednesday 24th February	School open for all children
Thursday 4th March	Squirrels Virtual Celebration of Learning
	World Book day—dress up day
	Virtual Bedtime stories
Monday 8th March	Foxcubs Virtual Parents Conferences
Tuesday 9th March	Squirrels Virtual Parents Conferences
Wednesday 10th March	Snowy Owls Virtual Parents Conferences
Thursday 11th March	Rabbits Virtual Parents Conferences
	Hedgehogs Virtual Celebration of Learning
Friday 12th March	Tawny Owls Virtual Parents Conferences
Monday 15th March	Otters Virtual Parents Conferences
Tuesday 16th March	Hedgehogs Virtual Parents Conferences
Wednesday 17th March	Late parent conferences 4-7pm– all classes
Thursday 18th March	Barn Owls Virtual Parents Conferences
	Otters Virtual Celebration of Learning
Friday 19th March	Badgers Virtual Parents Conferences
Thursday 25th March	Rabbits Virtual Celebration of Learning
	Fox cubs Virtual Celebration of Learning
Thursday 1st April	Finish for Easter holidays
Monday 19th April	School re-opens for the Summer Term