



School website: www.hortonprimary.gov.uk

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Executive Head Teacher: Nicola Berry

September 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

WELCOME BACK! We are so delighted to see you all and the children and their huge smiles. I am so impressed with how well everyone has returned to school. As parents and guardians you should feel very proud of the care and reassurance you have provided your children to give them such confidence. That is not to say we do not all have a 'wobbly' moment or two as we adjust to the new routines and latest guidance. Feeling down or anxious at times is natural but we will support each other through these unusual times. In class our children are focusing upon mental well-being so they will have some good techniques to try both at school and at home. Mental well-being and children's welfare is our priority; happy, secure children will learn and thrive better in this environment and we keep this as our focus. As ever, please let us know if you are feeling wobbly and need us to give you a call.

A huge well done to our new Reception children who have been amazing. It has been stunning to see our little ones confidently walking into school. Parents were very brave too, leaving them for the first time. A huge **WELCOME** to Katie, James, Leonie, William, Albie and India.

Every week we review our procedures in light of new guidance. We are still asking that children only bring in their lunchbox (if required) and water bottle. We will be sending home reading books and teachers will let you know what days these will go home in your child's class. Once returned the books will be quarantined before they can be used by others. Any paperwork or items sent to or from school will be treated in this manner but obviously avoided if at all possible. As ever, please hear your child read or enjoy a book together regularly but more importantly talk and listen to them – expose your children to a wide and rich vocabulary, it is startling how much impact this has on your child's development.

Rest assured that we, as a staff, are aware of the potential gaps in learning and are adapting the curriculum to address these in a systematic way. We will not be cramming content into children when they all return in September, we will continue to provide engaging learning whilst being mindful of the needs of our children after being out of school for so long. As you know, Class Dojo is continuing as an on-going form of communication between home and school. This is very helpful in keeping in touch, particularly when it is tricky to catch up before and after school at the moment. We will also continue to use Dojo to send letters or information home about learning, reducing paper where possible. From Monday, parents of children in the juniors are welcome to drop their children off at 8:40am. We currently have 7 children signed up for this provision. As ever, please arrive and leave promptly to avoid congestion. If you are a parent of an infant waiting for other children please wait outside the infant gate or away from other parents so that children can walk down the road safely.

Congratulations to Mason who is Robin's star of the week for showing kindness to others; Isaac from Owls for his bravery and to Olivia in Swallows for her hard work now and over lockdown resulting in such great progress. Classes have also been impressing us with their vocabulary, Owls are learning what devious means, Swallows identified many words related to emotions such as lonely and worried as well as excluded and included. Meanwhile Jamie shared the word benevolent which the children were reading about in their class book.

Book recommendations from the children:

Tobias recommends 'Run Wild' about a skater group finding a wild animal

Connor recommends 'Captain Underpants' for an amusing read

Archie recommends 'A Nasti Surprise' about robots and yes, it is spelt like that!

Have a wonderful week everyone. Look after yourselves and remember to email or contact us via Dojo if you have any concerns or positive news you would like to share. We are here for you!

Academic year 2020/2021

TERM 1

23.10.2020 **End of Term 1**

TERM 2

02.11.2020 **Start of Term 2**

18.12.2020 **End of Term 2**

TERM 3

04.01.2021 **Start of Term 3: In-Service Training Day—children not in school**

05.01.2021 **First Day back for Children**

12.02.2021 **End of Term 3**

TERM 4

22.02.2021 **Start of Term 4**

01.04.2021 **End of Term 4**

TERMS 5

19.04.2021 **Start of Term 5**

28.05.2021 **End of Term 5**

TERM 6

07.06.2021 **Start of Term 6**

21.07.2021 **End of Term 6**

Please note: 3 more INSET dates to be confirmed.