

Learning together to be the best we can be

Headteacher - Nichola Irving



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Dear Parents/Carers

It was wonderful to welcome the children back yesterday; we had over 96% attendance yesterday and 98% today, which is a really positive start. The first day went relatively smoothly with lots of positives. First and foremost your children looked so smart in their new uniforms and throughout the day had smiles on their faces. Without a doubt we had happy, Horton Grange children filling the school once again. Our main aim yesterday was to welcome children back to school safely, establish good hygiene routines, which they did brilliantly, ensure they had a positive experience and to provide some reassurance for yourselves that whilst we have to work differently, the essence of Horton Grange remains the same. As always, we want to give your children a first class education so they catch up quickly with any missed learning and as our school vision statement says, we really are 'learning together to be the best we can be'.

Before the children returned, I wrote to you to outline systems we planned to put place to help keep everyone safe, including those for the start and the end of the day. Please appreciate these systems are based on guidance and risk assessment documentation; as with any such system we often have to see them in operation to evaluate how effective they are. The senior team have been about at the start and end of the day observing the suggested systems. On the whole parents followed our suggestions and we really appreciate this. Where parents haven't, we have tried to follow this up this morning and find out the rationale behind this. A couple of parents contacted us yesterday directly and they have been contacted individually in response.

From our observations we would like to **reinforce** / introduce the following:

- Please try to arrive on site in time for the doors opening between 8.45am – 8.55am (nursery 8.40am - 9.00am) to avoid large groups congregating on the yard before the doors open. If children walk to school themselves please discourage them from arriving on site before 8.40am and talk through these points
- One adult only to accompany children to and from school (only bring older siblings if absolutely necessary)
- Remember to socially distance in all areas of the school site
- Once children have been collected please supervise your children to ensure they follow the recommendations too (children should not ride bikes or scooters on site)
- Please be reminded that the outdoor equipment is currently out of use before and after school due to current restrictions
- Please leave the site promptly after dropping off or picking up children
- Parts of the site are narrow eg the paths running alongside the field, therefore please take extra care to socially distance and be patient and considerate to others.

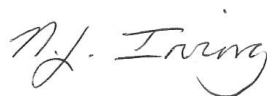


We have observed the operation of the suggested one way system when on site (anti-clockwise around the building) closely. We are aware that some parents have followed this, even though they may have had to walk further – thank you to those who have. Having spoken to some parents, reasons for **not** doing this have been varied and in some case valid in terms of safety. There are cases where leaving the site in the opposite direction (clockwise) avoids a bottle neck at narrow paths, ensures quicker exiting of the site and where social distancing can more easily maintained. Therefore, we will not be reinforcing the one way system but will trust you will access and move round the site in the safest possible way to reinforce the points above.

As always, we will continue to observe, evaluate and review. Already on the second day many of our systems and routines such as hand sanitising on entry have become quicker. Feedback from many parents on the yard this morning reflected on the fact children really enjoyed their first day and any initial first day nerves were gone.

Once again, thank you for your continued support and we will continue to communicate as clearly as we can. Your constructive feedback is appreciated and valued to ensure school operates safely and effectively.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "N. Irving". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Nichola Irving
Headteacher