

Learning together to be the best we can be

Headteacher - Nichola Irving



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Dear Parents

Well here we are at the end of another challenging year. Before we break up I wanted to take this opportunity to write to you to reflect on the year and thank you all for your on-going support.

After the disruption to last academic year due to COVID 19 we embarked on the new one in September with great hope and plans to address the “catch up” agenda whilst ensuring the children had the best quality of education. However, even with our growing understanding of the pandemic, we could not have predicted the on-going disruption due to bubble closures and another period of school closure from January to March. As a school with a proven reputation for raising standards and a drive to provide the best for our children, we have at times been frustrated by the systems we have had to work with. However, ultimately safety comes first in such unprecedented times. In addition to the impact for school, I completely understand that for families isolations have brought their own challenges too. The last four weeks of term have been particularly difficult and I am aware that current isolations will now effect the school holidays for children, families and staff. Currently, national restrictions on isolations are not being lifted until August 16th; we hope that in September we will be operating differently and school life is expected to return as normal.

Despite all this, your children have been amazing and have shown real resilience throughout the year as they adapted to the ever changing situation. The staff and children have worked incredibly hard and when I look at the work in their books the progress made by the children is quite impressive. We had a visit from a school advisor from the local authority recently and she agreed that the children at Horton Grange are being provided with an excellent education and as a result the progress made is exceptional. The staff have gone above and beyond and I couldn't ask for a better team to lead. We do however know that there is still a journey to go on and that the catch up was hindered by on-going restrictions. We will continue with this agenda in September; you can do your part by ensuring your child attends school every day (unless unwell) as every second really does count!

It has saddened us that we haven't been able to offer the full Horton Grange experience this year by implementing our well established programme for visits and residentials, which support the curriculum and personal development. We did however manage to get a few of these running late on in the Summer term. Forest school happened for Year 3, Year 4 went to Dukeshouse Wood and we were able to run a modified sports day. We also managed to run some outdoor transition events so children could meet their new teachers. Next year we hope to operate this programme at full capacity and start to run clubs as well.

Year 3 Forest School



Year 4 Dukeshouse Wood



At Horton Grange we say we are all learners and “we learn together to be the best we can be”. The pandemic has forced us to work differently and one positive outcome is that we have all learnt new skills. As a staff we have mastered virtual meetings, virtual teaching and remote learning. Children too have developed new skills through remote learning and as parents I have no doubt you now know more about google classroom than ever before!

It is at this time of year we often say goodbye to staff as they move on to pastures new. This year we say goodbye to:

- Mrs Price, our Year 1 teacher
- Miss Simmons and Miss Emmerson who support in Reception and Year 1
- Mrs Wallace has also begun her maternity leave

We also say goodbye and good luck to our Year 6 children as they start a new phase of their education.

However, we also welcome new staff in September:

- Ms Stevens, who will job share with Mrs Thomas in Year 5
- Miss Hickson who will teach in Year 3
- Mrs Chrisp who will join the Key Stage 2 team

We will include some pictures of these new staff in our Autumn term newsletter once they arrive.

Finally some reminders:

Uniform:

Uniform is available from Tots to Teams at www.totstoteams.com. Please order your uniform as soon as possible as it may take up to 4 weeks to arrive during the busy summer holiday period.

Breakfast club:

A reminder that breakfast must now be booked using our online form as set out in recent correspondence. If you have any questions, please contact the school office.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1MB8CjQUwsg4I9d2eOqXS_pglwhH-QTznbwg9NI3n6Fg/edit

Covid 19 – If there is a positive case within 48 hours of term ending, please inform us via text on **07971 791784**. Please attach name of child, evidence of confirmed case and date that symptoms started.

And so that just leaves me to say have a lovely summer, stay safe and we will see you on Wednesday 8th September. Monday 6th and Tuesday 7th September are teacher training days.

Many thanks again for your on-going support.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Irving
Headteacher