

Learning together to be the best we can be

Headteacher - Nichola Irving



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Dear Parents/Carers

As you know very late on the last day of half term I received a letter from the local authority outlining recommendations to reduce transmission due to rising cases in Northumberland. This is hugely disappointing given the brilliant half term we had as you will see in the latest Newsletter. The staff and children have loved having a true Horton Grange experience once again.

At Horton Grange cases have been low and we have not seen the rise being seen elsewhere. With this in mind we have carefully considered the recommendations in order to decide which we feel should be implemented at Horton Grange. Whilst safety is paramount, we want to minimise measures which may disrupt learning given our cases are low. Should this change we will re-evaluate.

We are re-introducing:

- Whole school assemblies will return to virtual
- Parent consultations will be via telephone
- Usual Christmas calendar of events will be modified
- Extra-curricular clubs (after school) postponed due to year group mixing
- Staff meetings to revert to virtual or year group
- Adults recommended to wear face coverings indoors whilst in communal areas
- Consideration will be given as to whether educational trips and residentials will go ahead
- Good ventilation in classrooms

For now we will retain:

- 1) RWI and specialist teaching
- 2) Lunch times and hot dinners for all year groups
- 3) Breakfast club
- 4) Thrive provision

We are also encouraging, in line with the letter you received from the local authority, the following:

Pupils who are household close contacts of a case of COVID-19 and do not have symptoms (ie those who are exempt from isolation and may continue to attend school) to arrange a PCR test. In addition, staff and secondary school age pupils who are household contacts are advised to undertake daily lateral flow testing for 10 days at home until they have received a negative PCR result. Note: People who have tested positive with a PCR test within the last 90 days should not be encouraged to test unless they develop new symptoms.



I must reassure you that against a national back drop of rising cases we have not seen this at Horton Grange and these measures are precautionary at this stage.

Regards

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Nichola Irving". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Nichola Irving
Headteacher