

# Learning together to be the best we can be

Headteacher - Nichola Irving



Horton Grange Primary School, Cowpen Road, Blyth, Northumberland, NE24 4RE. Tel 01670 353503

1 September 2021

Dear Parents

I wanted to write to you before the start of term to provide you with some general information. However, first and foremost, I wanted to say how much we are all looking forward to welcoming the children back once again. The last two academic years have not been as we could have ever predicted but fingers crossed this year we can return to a more normal Horton Grange!

## **The first day back**

There are no staggered starts and children will enter via their normal doors at 8.50am on Wednesday 8 September. If you are unsure of where this is there will be staff outside so please just ask. Please support your children to be punctual.

## **Updates from Government on operational guidance**

As always we follow government guidance and from September it is no longer recommended to keep children in consistent bubbles. This will enable us to use the school hall again for lunches and assemblies can resume. Breakfast club is also commencing again but must be booked in advance (as per letter sent out in the summer term). School will also no longer be responsible for tracing close contacts and isolation. This is now the responsibility of NHS track and trace. Face coverings are also no longer advised for pupils, staff and visitors in classrooms or shared areas. However, some control measures will continue. These include:

- 1) Ensure good hygiene for everyone – catch it, bin it, kill it approach continues
- 2) Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes
- 3) Keep occupied spaces well ventilated
- 4) Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID 19.

## **Symptoms and confirmed positive cases**

As a reminder, guidance remains that children and staff should not come into school if they have symptoms or have had a positive test result. If anyone develops symptoms they will be sent home and should follow public health advice. If a child is waiting for collection, they will be taken to the isolation room where they will be looked after by a member of staff known to them, who will wear PPE. Should your child test positive on a PCR test, but is not feeling unwell, school will provide remote learning for them. If a child or staff member tests positive, whole class bubbles will no longer be required to self-isolate as directed by school. From 16 August 2021, children under the age of 18 years old are no longer required to self isolate if they are identified by NHS test and trace as a close contact of a positive case. Instead children will be contacted and advised to take a PCR test. We are informed that staff should continue to test twice weekly during September, when this will be reviewed.



### **School uniform reminder**

This year, we really want to ensure our School Uniform Policy is followed, including for PE. If you are unsure please ask the school office or check our school website.

### **Catch up and attendance**

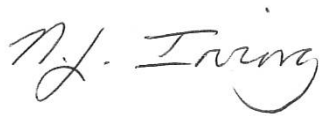
As you know children's education nationally has been majorly disrupted and whilst school worked hard to implement the catch up agenda, further closures, isolations and restrictions made this very difficult. Last year, many children caught up lost learning but are still not where they would have been if it wasn't for the pandemic. This is a national picture and not specific to Horton Grange. We have plans in place to continue to address this, this year, and I have a team of staff who are exceptional in their roles but we can only do this if children are in school. Every minute of every day really will count. Please support your children by ensuring their attendance is the best it can be.

### **Finally....**

Your children received transition booklets at the end of the academic year, which outlined year group specific information but if you are unsure of anything please contact the school office.

I do hope the children enjoy their last week of the summer break and I look forward to seeing them next week.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "N. Irving". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping 'I'.

Nichola Irving  
Headteacher