



Horsforth School

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Headteacher: Dr P C Bell

Our Ref: PCB/TRH

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Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you, your family and friends are safe and well.

I know a national lockdown may worry many people but I want to reassure you that Horsforth School is still open, as safe as it is possible to be and that students, if well, must still attend. We are raising expectations with regard to the use of masks and distancing and our wonderful students have supported us fantastically well so far.

Now that we are in a new national lockdown period until December 2nd I would like to update you on some of the messages I have shared with students.

Expectations outside school

The national expectations, which have now been written into law, can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/new-national-restrictions-from-5-november>

These have been explained to all students and I do expect them to adhere to this outside of school. In particular I need to stress students must not walk to school in groups and as a maximum, to meet the guidelines, students can walk up to school with 1 other person not from their household. This means a **maximum group size of 2**.

Face coverings

I would like to thank students for consistently meeting our expectations regarding masks in school.

I must stress that students must wear masks in indoor public spaces such as Morrisons. They all have masks after a day in school and they must be worn. If we are shown CCTV footage of students not wearing their masks in Morrisons or other indoor public places they will be sanctioned in school.

We have tightened up our requirements in school on the use of face coverings. As always, students **must** wear their face coverings in corridors and communal areas and only remove them in the allowed communal areas at break at lunch if they are eating and drinking and then put them back on immediately.

I am also asking all students to wear masks wherever possible indoors, including in class when sat down. This is not a 'must' but I am asking students to do this optionally in classrooms to further reduce any risk of infection.

'Hands. Face. Space'

Our students have been great at meeting our expectations in school so please pass on my thanks and if you could also reiterate the Government advice around hands, face and space.

- hands – wash your hands regularly and for 20 seconds
- face – wear a face covering in indoor settings where social distancing may be difficult

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- space – stay 2 metres apart from people you do not live with where possible, or 1 metre with extra precautions in place (such as wearing face coverings)

Students have been extremely respectful of staff but we do need to reiterate the ‘space’ message outside of school so if you could reinforce this I would appreciate it.

PTA School Lottery – Raising Money for our Students

Many of you already generously support our PTA’s School Lottery which raises additional funds for our students. They would love for more of you to get involved so here’s some information about how it works.

- The lottery is run in association with the UK’s only lottery organisation dedicated to helping schools – Your School Lottery
- Anyone over 16 years can take part – parents, carers, teachers and the wider community too, so please share with friends, colleagues and relatives (the more people who play the bigger the prizes)
- Tickets start from £1 per week
- There’s a guaranteed weekly school prize draw - one of our school’s supporters will win a cash prize every week
- An additional weekly national prize draw to win £25,000!
- A percentage of the ticket sales will be given back to our school which will help us to buy additional resources for our students.
- To date lottery money has contributed towards much needed gymnastics equipment, English books and sensory equipment for the SEND department.

Take a look at Horsforth School PTA’s dedicated webpage and buy tickets [here](#) - best of luck!

Thank you

As always, thank you.

This is an incredibly difficult time for everyone. Even at this time of national lockdown the school is calm and purposeful, the behaviour of our students is, as always, excellent and the learning I see as I walk around the school is vibrant and high quality. We will probably have further positive cases in school but I want to assure you that we are better prepared than you may think. I am always looking at how other institutions, regions and countries are succeeding so we, as a school can learn from this. I shared an example with students and staff of how South Korea, a country with nearly double the population density of the UK has had under 47,000 positive cases compared to the UK’s 1million plus. The two key differences are a highly efficient Test and Trace system and a culture where masks are worn as a matter of course.

The reason I am sharing this with you is, as I am sure you are aware, we run our internal Test and Trace system at Horsforth School and it has reached 100% of the contacts identified. We also have developed a strong culture of using face coverings in school. So whilst we cannot stop contacts outside of school our internal systems are highly effective and improving, your sons and daughters are as safe as they possibly can be.

So thank you again for your support, positive feedback and continued resilience. I have said to students that we will weather this situation collectively, as students and staff together but also by working with you, our valued parents and wider community.

Yours faithfully

Dr P Bell
Headteacher

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