



Horsforth School

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Our Ref: PCB/TRH

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Dear Parent/Carer,

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

The news of multiple vaccines is very welcome and we look forward to the time where we can look to having Year groups mix safely again as a result and return to our 'old normal'. Until then we continue to keep the school as safe as is humanly possible and make the most of every lesson and learning opportunity.

As the news has broken of Leeds joining Tier 3 when Lockdown ends the full information on restrictions can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-restriction-tiers-what-you-need-to-know>.

As a result, from the 2nd of December (Wednesday) we will return to the rule of six for outdoor gatherings and students must not walk to school in groups of 7 or larger.

Last week I wrote about Horsforth School *Food Bank* initiative and Horsforth School *Present Bank* initiative and I thank you for your support already! Apologies I am repeating the message below again but any help with this is massively appreciated.

Horsforth School Food Bank initiative

We would like to be able to put together parcels for anyone who has been negatively affected by this year's events. We understand that this time of year can be a real challenge for families at the best of times, and that a bit of extra support can go a long way to making things a little easier. Items that would make good donations include:

- tinned goods (vegetables, fruit, meat, soups)
- cereals
- pasta/rice/noodles
- lentils/pulses
- tea/coffee
- sugar/flour
- biscuits/sweets
- UHT milk
- fruit juice/cordials
- toiletries & sanitary products
- cleaning products

These donations would then be parcelled up and distributed out to the community before Christmas.

Horsforth School Present Bank initiative

'Opportunity and achievement for all'

In addition to these parcels, we'd also like to try and spread a little Christmas joy. No child should go without at least one present on Christmas day but we are well aware that sadly this is a very real possibility, within our community, this year. If you would like to support this initiative what we would ask you to do is the following:

- Decide upon a gender and age bracket that the present is suitable for.
- Wrap up the gift and label (none permanent such as a post-it) giving us a general idea of who it's aimed at i.e. 5-8 year old girl or 13-16 year old boy.
- Suitable presents may include; toys, games, books, CD's/DVD's, stationary sets, craft sets, toiletry gift packs, make-up/hair accessories, gift vouchers, tech accessories, selection boxes, clothes.

If you wish to participate in either/both of these schemes we would request that students bring the items and deposit them in the boxes by their bubble entrance. We will leave these in storage for 48 hours before we sort them.

We'd kindly request that all donations are made by Wednesday 9th December in order to allow us time to sort, package and then distribute out again.

This initiative will be led by Mr Bennett and Mr Long in our Pastoral Team. If you are able to support this we would greatly appreciate it but I am aware that this is a difficult time or you simply do not wish to so there is no expectation of students having to do this.

Re-testing within 90 days of a positive test

Leeds City Council has provided guidance where staff or pupils who had previously tested positive have had a re-test within 90 days of their first test as they were still displaying some of the symptoms of Covid 19 or feeling unwell. This has triggered a further self-isolation period for both them and any close contacts.

Government guidance is that :

Returning to your normal routine

You can return to your normal routine and stop self-isolating after 10 days if your symptoms have gone or if you continue to have just a cough or anosmia. This is because a cough or anosmia can last for several weeks once the infection has gone. If you still have a high temperature after 10 days, stay at home and seek medical advice.

After the isolation period has ended

If you have tested positive for COVID-19, you will probably have developed some immunity to the disease. However, it cannot be guaranteed that everyone will develop immunity, or how long it will last. It is possible for tests to detect residual virus for some time after COVID-19 infection. Anyone who has previously received a positive test result for COVID-19 should only be re-tested within a 90-day period if they develop any **new** symptoms of COVID-19.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

As a result you should only go for another test in the next 90 days if you develop **new** Covid symptoms you did not previously have.

More effective learning

We have our Training day today and we are focussing on developing our curriculum with evidence based practice and how we can apply this in each subject area. If you would like some information about what the research says about how students can work more effectively at home whether revising or working remotely this is a good website that talks through six key strategies: <https://www.learningscientists.org/>

'Opportunity and achievement for all'

As I walk around the school the learning is purposeful and calm. Students are positive, resilient and making the most of their lessons. So even though it's dark when we all leave for school and when we return for some it's still a great place to come every day.

Thank you for your continued support, positive messages and understanding.

Yours faithfully

Dr P Bell
Headteacher