



Horsforth School

Lee Lane East Horsforth

Leeds LS18 5RF

Tel: 0113 226 5454

Fax: 0113 226 5401

Email: info@horsforthschool.org

Website: www.horsforthschool.org

Headteacher: Dr P C Bell

Our Ref: PCB/TRH/JFI

5th November 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope this letter finds you and your loved ones safe and well.

I have a few updates, and as always, some reminders (apologies for repetition).

Remembrance Day poppies

If your child would like to buy a poppy in support of Remembrance Day, they will need to bring a cash donation to form time next week (we suggest £1). Volunteers will come around to Year 7 and Year 9 forms on Tuesday morning, and Year 8 and Year 10 forms on Wednesday morning. Year 11 will be able to buy them at the end of their assembly on Monday, and the Sixth Form can purchase one at Mrs Waterworth's office.

There will be a minute silence on the 11th November in form time to mark Remembrance Day.

Parental communication survey

If you could spare two minutes of your time, there is a short survey below to complete regarding the SIMs Parent App and Parents' Evenings. We do appreciate all of your feedback, which continually helps us to improve.

The link to the survey is <https://forms.gle/Fjb42yJg43Zvgrsy5>

Lateral Flow Tests

Thank you so much for your support in continuing to perform lateral flow tests at home.

The link to reporting results to the NHS is here: <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>. The link to report results to us is here: <https://forms.gle/RKzCqrFhzDS4CFK87> (please also call the school if you test positive).

Sixth Form Open Evening: Thursday 11th November 5.30 - 8.00pm

We are delighted to have the opportunity to invite our current Year 11 students and parents to our Sixth Form Open Evening on Thursday 11th November. The school will be open from 5.30pm to 8.00pm. There will be talks held about 'Joining our Sixth Form' which will take place at 5.30pm and 6.30pm in the school hall and these must be booked in advance (using the links on the school website or in the letter that will be sent out today). There will also be subject based talks with Curriculum Leaders which will last for 10

'Opportunity and achievement for all'

minutes each and will be held in classrooms around the school, on a rolling programme throughout the night. There will also be an opportunity to ask our student ambassadors questions and meet the Sixth Form Team as well as find out about Sixth Form life in the school Library.

In order to keep our school community and visitors safe, we need to limit the number of people in rooms and operate pre-booking for the 'Joining our Sixth Form' talks in our Hall via our website: <https://www.horsforthschool.org/>. We insist that only one parent attends with one Year 11 student. Please wear a mask and make use of the sanitising stations throughout school. Thank you in advance for your support.

Safeguarding - Online Safety, Phones and 'TikTok'

We have had some recent incidents around improper use of phones outside of school, especially on the app TikTok. Whilst TikTok can be fun, it can be used as a vehicle to bully and to hurt others or embarrass. This includes staff and students. Please could we ask that you monitor your child's social media activity and know what they are posting, creating or watching. This link is a parent's guide to TikTok if you would like to know more: <https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/esafety-news/tik-tok-app-safety-what-parents-need-to-know/>

Online safety messages are part of our ongoing work in school. Please speak to your child about the importance of keeping personal information private; of not sharing personal details like addresses, school, phone number or locations whilst gaming or on online. Make sure security settings are in place and check these regularly. Please remind your child to not share passwords even with friends and to change them regularly.

I do need to inform you that it is an offence for children to take indecent images of themselves or their peers, which includes nude or semi-nude photos or videos. It is also an offence for students to possess these images on their phones or send them on to others or upload these. Sadly, we have to deal with incidents involving our students and it can have serious repercussions for their safety, emotional wellbeing and relationships at school. We have to notify the police when this occurs and we will always inform parents. We will continue to do preventative work through Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education (PSHCE) lessons and tutor time but please do be aware of this safeguarding issue and we strongly advise regularly checking your child's phone.

If you are worried about your child's use of social media, contact school pastoralhub@horsforthschool.org or call school on 0113 2265454. Please encourage your child to tell an adult they trust if they feel that someone or something is not right, safe or fair in terms of social media, phone use or use of the web.

If you are worried that your child has possibly been a victim of online abuse or you're worried about somebody else you can also report this to Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) at www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre. Specialised staff are also on hand at school to take your calls, please call the main school and ask to speak to a designated safeguarding officer.

Anti-Bullying Week 15th-19th November

We will be highlighting this important message with all students in the week of the 15th November. The national campaign begins with wearing odd socks on Monday 15th to mark the fact that we are all different and that we should respect diversity. We will be asking our students to wear odd socks to school on this

'Opportunity and achievement for all'

day to raise awareness for this campaign. There will be more to follow on this in next week's letter.

Reading

Reading has been shown to have positive effects on wellbeing, stress levels and helps build a strong vocabulary. Additionally, a strong reading age is the single best predictor of who will do well in exams.

We do encourage students to read for pleasure and we do expect students to bring a book with them to school for times, such as in form, where the class will read as a whole. Please ensure that your son/daughter brings a book with them and comes to the Library to borrow one if you do not have one at home.

School is a very positive and vibrant place at the moment. Students and staff are working hard and whilst we continue through the Pandemic the fact that so many students have been vaccinated, that we are wearing masks in corridors and communal areas and sanitising regularly has meant we are less affected by COVID than many schools and that we are minimising any lost learning. Thank you for your support with this, it is much appreciated.

Take care, stay safe and best wishes.

Yours faithfully

Dr P Bell
Headteacher