

Whitby Heath Primary School Newsletter

21st January 2022



'Excellence in a Caring Community'

Looking After Our Planet, Other and Ourselves

Miss Ohri led our virtual assemblies on Monday which were focused on her role as Eco Lead in our school and built on her and the Eco Team's assemblies last term focusing on global warming. The children in Key Stage 1 enjoyed hearing about a story focused on this theme whilst Key Stage 2 classes shared their ideas on how we can continue to work together to look after our planet - I was very impressed with their contributions and ideas!

Miss Ohri also shared how some of her class have helped us plant purple crocus bulbs, donated by the Rotary Club, in our school outdoor classroom area which we are very much looking forward to watching out for as they grow in spring, These bulbs are linked to the Purple for Polio charity work the Rotary Club lead focused on ending polio globally.

Congratulations to Scarlett and Ellie in Year 5 who were shortlisted in the Cheshire Schools Media project run in partnership with Cheshire Police and the Safer Schools and Young People Partnership. Our Year 5 and Year 6 classes all took part in this competition and the focus was on making Cheshire a kinder, happier and more tolerant place to live and learn. The children were asked to create a Podcast or video promoting these values and raising awareness about issues relating to discrimination.

We were really impressed with all of the children's entries and were delighted that Scarlett and Ellie's entry was shortlisted from all of the entries from across schools in Cheshire. Thank you to all of the families who have voted online for the entry from our school following our message earlier this week. Voting closed yesterday and we will update you with any further news about this in due course. Whatever the outcome of the online vote, we are very proud of Year 5 and Year 6 children tackling this important issues so sensibly and of Scarlett and Ellie for representing school so well.

Thank you to Mrs Bateman and her kitchen team for taking us all on a tour of Italy for our themed lunch yesterday. Although we are currently sharing lunch in our class bubbles, there was a definite feel of Italy across lunchtime as children and staff enjoyed their meals!

Our Shining Stars this week are:



Oak Class - Leo P
Elm Class - George M
Ash Class - Zoe M
Beech Class - Niamh W
Fir Class - Riley W
Cherry Class - Jessica P
Poplar Class - Pippa S
Rowan Class - Eden H
Cedar Class - Sophia P-J
Holly Class - Zia C
Sycamore Class - Ava Mc

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Willow Class - Eliza B
Birch Class - Mia I
Maple Class - Mikayla E
Congratulations to you all!

Thank You

We are so grateful for the generous donations received for our EYFS toy appeal, thank you to everybody who donated to us. EYFS now have a lovely selection of exciting new toys for the children to enjoy for years to come!

If you do have any more toys that you would like to donate, please email oak@whitbyheath.cheshire.sch.uk

Parent/Teacher Appointments - Spring term

Letters outlining dates and times for this term's parent/teacher discussions have been sent out this week.

Parents and carers will be allocated a date/time by your child's class teacher and these will be communicated out ahead of the scheduled calls later this half term.

Water Bottles



To ensure children have regular access to fresh water throughout the day, we have water stations to refill water bottles from and, during COVID restrictions, water jugs in each classroom which are replenished regularly throughout the school day.

Please can you ensure your child brings their water bottle to school each day and that it is labelled with their name to avoid any confusion. A reminder that children are not allowed juice or any other drinks in these bottles. Thank you.

S4YC February Half Term Holiday Club

S4YC will be running a Holiday Club at our school during the February half term break. A flier with further information about this club can be found at:

http://www.whitbyheath.cheshire.sch.uk/serve_file/4512275

If you would like any more information about holiday club or the other services S4YC offer, please contact S4YC via info@s4yc.co.uk

Finally

Further to the letter sent out earlier this week regarding Outbreak Management measures across school, we will continue to work with the Local Authority Outbreak Management Hub across the weekend and into next week to review cases of COVID19 across school and seek advice and guidance regarding these measures.

Any further changes or measures will be communicated as and when we have them and we thank you in advance for your patience and understanding regarding this. We share children and parent/carers' disappointments about having to cancel/suspend and/or change some of the activities and events we had planned this week and we are doing everything we can to ensure

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transmission rates are limited and rates in school reduce so we can remove some of these measures as soon as possible.

Parents and carers role and support in this is vital and I ask that all families follow the guidance outlined below at all times and contact help@whitbyheath.cheshire.sch.uk with any questions or queries about this.

I know that you will understand that as a school, we must follow the Government, Department for Education and Local Authority Public Health Guidance including revised guidance as and when this is introduced. Your support and understanding with this matter is much appreciated.

R. Jewitt

'Moving Forward Together With Hope'

WORKING TOGETHER TO KEEP EVERYONE IN OUR SCHOOL FAMILY SAFE

It will continue to be vital that we work together over the coming months with regards to COVID19 as we move through Winter.

How you can help

We encourage all families to complete daily LFD testing for all children during this current outbreak, as we know that some children/adults will remain symptom free despite having COVID-19 and daily testing will help to lessen transmission across school through early identification of non symptomatic cases.

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID-19

The main symptoms of COVID-19 are the recent onset of:

- ✓ new continuous cough and/or
- ✓ high temperature and/or
- ✓ a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

If your child develops any of these symptoms, then arrangements should be made for them to take a PCR test as soon as possible. Your child should remain at home while awaiting the PCR test result. Please note that we are also sending pupils home if we believe they have a symptom requiring a PCR test.

Please keep us informed of the result of the test by emailing help@whitbyheath.cheshire.sch.uk

What to do if your child is generally unwell

If your child is unwell with general symptoms such as a sore throat, runny nose, and/or headache/muscles aches, they should not attend school to avoid spreading infection within the

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school setting. We will send children home if we believe they present a risk of infection to other students.

What to do if your child is a close contact of someone who has COVID-19

We would ask all parents/carers of children in school to undertake daily LFD tests for their child/children if they are a close contact of someone who has COVID-19. Please note that your child can attend school while waiting for the results of a PCR test providing that they do not have any symptoms.

Changes to self-isolation period

For people living in England, guidance on self-isolation has recently changed allowing, in some circumstances, the period of self-isolation to be reduced to 5 days. Individuals can take Lateral Flow tests on day 5 and day 6 of their self-isolation period, taken 24 hours apart, and if both are negative that person may end their self-isolation on day 6, and will be able to return to school. For example, if they test negative on the morning of day 5 and the morning of day 6, they can return to school on day 6. The first test must be taken **no earlier than day 5** of the self-isolation period, and the second must be taken the following day.

If the result of either of their tests is positive, they should continue to self-isolate until they get negative results from two LFD tests on consecutive days or until they have completed 10 full days of self-isolation, whichever is earliest.

Daily Testing of Household Contacts of a Positive Case (e.g. Siblings)

In addition to the above advice, you may also be aware that the Director of Public Health has recommended that if one individual in a household tests positive, any children and young people in that household who attend school or college should:

- Take a daily LFD test for **seven** consecutive days from the date the household contact first developed symptoms or tested positive (whichever is the sooner)
- Continue to attend school provided that their test results (PCR, if symptomatic, and LFD) are negative
- Self-isolate for 10 full days from the date of the test if any of their test results are positive or 5 days if tested LFD negative on day 5 and 6 (see Changes to self-isolation period section above).

Re-testing within a 90 Day Period

- In light of the Omicron variant, the guidance relating to re-testing within a 90-day period has changed, and pupils are now encouraged to take part in regular asymptomatic testing with LFD tests even if they have previously tested positive in the last 90 days
- If an individual is re-tested within 90 days of a previous positive PCR test, and the result of the test is positive, the individual must self-isolate again, and their household contacts must self-isolate, unless they are double-vaccinated or are under 18 years and six months. The guidance can be found at this link: [Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection)

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Confirmatory PCR test changes

From 11th January 2022 (to 26th January 2022 initially), in England, individuals who test positive for COVID-19 on a LFD will be required to self-isolate immediately and will no longer require a confirmatory PCR test. PCR tests will still be required for people who develop one of the three main symptoms, and they should self-isolate while awaiting results.

This is only a temporary measure and you will be informed if the guidance changes, and confirmatory PCR tests are again recommended.

Please rest assured that we will continue to monitor the situation carefully and to be guided by the advice of our Local Public Health Team. We will continue to keep you updated moving forward. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact school.

Thank you for your ongoing support, patience and understanding.

Please contact school via help@whitbyheath.cheshire.sch.uk and inform us your child tests positive on an LFD test

It is really important you let us know if your child has COVID-19 so we can monitor the number of children with COVID-19 across the school.