

Whitby Heath Primary School Newsletter

28th January 2022



'Excellence in a Caring Community'

Another busy week in school!

We had a special assembly led by Crossroads Together about Young Carers on Monday. The children learnt all about the role of a Young Carer within a family home. 1 in 5 children in England are Young Carers. T

The children were able to see some of the daily things a Young Carer may do and how their lives may differ to other children. The children have been encouraged this week to ask their teachers questions about the role of Young Carers and the support that the charity offers and Katie at Crossroads Together has answered these questions to further explore this with children across school.

If you feel that your child may be a Young Carer, or would like any further information about support they give or services they provide, please visit the Crossroads Together website: <https://www.crossroadstogether.org.uk/our-services/young-carers-services/>

Year 1 have been looking forward to their Forest School sessions today. These sessions are planned to link with their work on woodlands and habitats in Science and Geography. Having explored features of a good home the children will explore how they can use things within the local area to make habitats for different purposes. I am sure the children will really enjoy the interactive element of this outdoor learning experience and I cannot wait to see what habitat ideas they have come up with!

Last week, we were very pleased to be able to announce that two of our Year 5 pupils had been short listed for the public vote in the Cheshire Primary Schools Media Challenge in association with the Cheshire Police, Crimebeat and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. We were very proud of Ellie and Scarlet in Sycamore class, for reaching the public vote and wanted to thank all of those who voted for their work. Unfortunately, our school did not make it into the top 3 in the public vote, however we were thrilled to have Whitby Heath Primary School represented and to play our part in raising awareness around equality and diversity issues in our community. Well done to all of the Year 5 and Year 6 children and to Scarlet and Ellie for taking part in this important event and thank you to Mrs Beach for organising this in school.

Our Shining Stars this week are:



Oak Class - Arnie D
Elm Class - Lyra A
Ash Class - Lottie B
Beech Class - Alfie T
Fir Class - Laurence McT
Cherry Class - Lottie D
Poplar Class - Alfie C
Rowan Class - Grace R-P
Cedar Class - Mason B-H
Holly Class - Minnie M

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Sycamore Class - Kyle O
Willow Class - Theo M-J
Birch Class - Finlay M
Maple Class - India S
Congratulations to you all!

Friends of Whitby Heath (FOWH)

You will have received letters this week regarding our plans for the forthcoming national Children's Mental Health week and FOWH's fundraiser challenge.

We are looking forward to hearing all about the children's 2022 challenge to raise £20.22 over the coming weeks.

Thank you for your support with this.

S4YC February Half Term Holiday Club

A reminder that 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

On the advice of the Local Authority Health Protection Team and due to further new cases of COVID19 across school, we have continued to have Outbreak Management measures in place in school this week.

We will continue to have these measures in place next week and will further update parents and carers following our next planned review of these measures with the Local Authority Outbreak Management Hub later next week.

Unfortunately, before and after school clubs will continue to be cancelled next week and until further notice. Once we are advised that we are able to lift the current Outbreak Management measures across school, we will, of course update families regarding when these clubs will resume.

Please note, S4YC breakfast and after school club provision continues to operate as usual with children grouped in bubbles whilst the current measures are in place for our school.

Thank you for your ongoing support with this matter.

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 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)

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.