

# Whitby Heath Primary School Newsletter

## 4<sup>th</sup> March 2022



*'Excellence in a Caring Community'*

### Welcome Back to a New Half Term!



It was wonderful to have some sunshine to welcome the children back to school on Tuesday with and, although the sunshine hasn't lasted all week, the lighter mornings have helped to give a hint of Spring and hopefully we will see even more of the Spring sunshine as we begin another half term together!

### Last call for Parent/Carer Surveys

Thank you to those parents and carers who have already completed this online survey. A reminder that we are inviting all parents and carers to complete this year's annual survey online by visiting the following link:

[www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/WhitbyHeathParentSurvey2022](http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/WhitbyHeathParentSurvey2022)

This link is available until next Monday (7<sup>th</sup> March) and should not take longer than 10 minutes to complete.

It is important we hear from as many parents and carers as possible to ensure we get a good range of feedback to help inform our ongoing partnership with parents and carers. Thank you for your support with this.

As we begin a new half term, I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of some of the ways you can continue to support your child in school:

**Look Smart:** Wearing School Uniform makes a statement which helps unify all our learners. It says 'we belong, we have a shared identity, and we're ready to learn'. It's all about feeling smart right from our heads to our toes! This includes PE kits on PE days - children are to wear uniform PE kits and not football or sportswear clothing on these days.

*PLEASE label your child's clothes! It makes a big difference when looking for lost property.*



**Supporting Learning:** Please ensure that children are well prepared by supporting with Home School activities. The key is little and often to help embed those important learning foundations. Our Reading Diaries are a vital part of the communication system; signing this record and commenting on your child's reading or work at home will really help us work together to aim high for all of the children.



**Keeping Healthy:** Children in school have regular access to clean fresh water to keep them hydrated throughout the day. Please ensure you child brings a named water bottle into school every day so they can access this. Thank you for your on-going support with this.



**Attendance and Punctuality:** It is important that your child attends school regularly to ensure they do not miss out on important parts of their learning. Punctuality makes a great start to the working day and we cannot stress how much children are affected if they arrive late. Please remember that when children arrive late (even a few minutes) they may feel uncomfortable, embarrassed and have often missed some early teaching. The feeling of uncertainty and worry often impacts throughout the entire first lesson. Please help your child to have a good start to every day and set good habits for being on time.



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*Please let us know if you are having problems getting your child to school on time.*

As you are aware, we are not allowed to grant any leave of absence during term time, unless there are exceptional circumstances. An exceptional circumstance is usually a one-off, unique situation that is of significant emotional, educational or spiritual value which outweighs the loss of teaching time. It is my duty to strongly urge parents or carers to avoid booking holidays, appointments or visits overseas during term-time.



In addition, it is important that I advise you that under the legislation there is an expectation that schools will issue a Fixed Penalty Notice to those parents who take their children on an unauthorised leave of absence (holiday) in term time. Please bear this guidance in mind when making bookings for any holidays. In line with this guidance, requests for holidays during term time will not usually be authorised.

### News from our week in school

It was World Book Day yesterday and, to celebrate, children and staff shared their favourite books and recommended 'good reads'. There was a great buzz about the choices and lots to share! It was wonderful to see children and staff sharing their 'clues' to favourite books and characters as part of the day - lots of fun was had by all!

Our Year 4 classes are looking forward to their visit the Grosvenor Museum in Chester today. They will be developing their understanding about why the Romans came to Britain (specifically Chester) and seeing everything that they have been learning about in class come to life in the interactive museum! The children are particularly excited to march with a Roman soldier around his fortress home, with a practice drill and shield formation!

Our Shining Stars this week are:



Oak Class - Jake M  
Elm Class - Margot K  
Ash Class - Ezra G  
Beech Class - Jessica Mc  
Fir Class - Ruby Mae B  
Cherry Class - Evie C  
Poplar Class - Marley H  
Rowan Class - Alfie J  
Cedar Class - Jacob L  
Holly Class - Raj S  
Sycamore Class - Joayma B  
Willow Class - Olivia Louise P  
Birch Class - Eva Marie J  
Maple Class - Finley G

Congratulations to you all!

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### Helping to Support Children with Upsetting News

I know you will have joined myself and our staff team in watching and listening to the upsetting scenes and events which have unfolded recently in Ukraine and join with our school community in thinking of the families and children caught in these events and praying that a resolution and end to the horrors unfolding is soon reached.

We know that many of the children in school have questions and may be upset and concerned by these events and we will, of course, support the children in school with any questions or worries they share regarding this.

Parents and carers may find the information in these links helpful when discussing these events with children at home:

<https://www.place2be.org.uk/about-us/news-and-blogs/2022/march/talking-to-children-and-young-people-about-war-and-conflict/>

<https://subscribe.firstnews.co.uk/explaining-scary-news/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround#more-stories-2>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/13865002>

### Internet Safety

You may be aware that the NSPCC has raised concerns regarding a Metaverse app which has been found to expose young children using it to a range of disturbing and inappropriate content. The metaverse is the name given to games and experiences accessed by people wearing virtual reality headsets. The technology, previously confined to gaming, could be adapted for use in many other areas - from work to play, concerts to cinema trips.

We have been advised by the Safer Schools' Partnership, to highlight this to all parents and carers so we can continue to remain vigilant and work together to keep children safe online.

Thank you for your ongoing support with this.

### Parent Forum

Our next Parent Forum Frequently Asked Questions video will be recorded soon to share with all families later this term. We plan for this to be the final video version of our Forum and hope to hold an in person Forum meeting which all parents and carers will be welcome to attend, in the summer term.

Please let our school office know via [admin@whitbyheath.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:admin@whitbyheath.cheshire.sch.uk) about any questions or queries you would like to be included in this video **by Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March** so that we can include parent/carers feedback into this video. Thank you

### Finally

As you will be aware, during half term, the Government announced the new phase in 'Living with COVID19' and outlined new guidance.



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It continues to be vital that we work together to ensure the health and safety of pupils, staff and families in ensuring that we follow both this and Public Health advice regarding COVID19 moving forward.

I have outlined below an update of the guidance and Public Health advice we are following in school for parents and carers information.

Your continued support with this is much appreciated.

*R Jewitt*

## 'Moving Forward Together With Hope'

Pupils **should not attend** school if have:

- tested positive
- are waiting for a test result
- they have one of the three main symptoms:

*a new and continuous cough,*

*a high temperature, or*

*has a loss of, or change in, their 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 will continue to be 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](mailto:help@whitbyheath.cheshire.sch.uk)**

### **What to do if your child test positive**

LFD tests can be taken from 5 days after their symptoms started (or the day their test was taken if they did not have symptoms) followed by another one the next day.

If both these tests results are negative, they should return to school, as long as they feel well enough to do so and do not have a temperature.

### **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.

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We will send children home if we believe they present a risk of infection to other pupils and staff in school.

*Schools are advised that they can take the decision to refuse for a pupil to attend if, in school's reasonable judgement, it is necessary in order to protect other pupils and staff from possible infection with COVID-19.*

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.

**Thank you for your ongoing support.**