Whitehouse Newsletter.

4th September 2020

School Details: Tel: 0191 643 2890 Headteacher: Ms R Woods

Twitter:@whitehouseps Email: office@whitehouseprimary.org.uk Website:whitehouseprimary.org.uk

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| **Welcome Back**  A very warm welcome back to all our Whitehouse families! This has been a very strange year so far and I am so proud of the way in which our children have adapted to our new routines and settled in so quickly. They are a credit to all our parents, so a big THANK YOU to you all for being so understanding and working in partnership with us, as a great team. Our staggered starts, finishes and ‘no car’ rule has been observed so carefully by you all and we appreciate that you are taking care to keep our school community as safe as possible. This has been very carefully managed and has been a successful reintegration into school life, so far. It is wonderful to see the children’s faces, hearing them laughing and see them re engaging with learning, with the staff and with their friends. They are why we are here and to see some of our Reception children coming into school, skipping and holding hands was a reminder of how wonderful our children are! Their resilience and quick adaptation to our ‘new normal’ has really astounded and impressed us all! Well done everyone! |
| **Staffing Changes.**  As you know, we have to do things very differently in school now, to comply with legal requirements and health and safety guidance. One of those requirements, as you know, is to organise children into self- contained units ie class ‘bubbles’ and so, reduce the risk of infection being spread widely. To make these classes as self-contained as we possibly can, we have put some costly, but sensible measures in place to minimise the risk of different adults teaching your children. We have at LEAST two adults per class (in some cases more) with one always being a qualified teacher. This means that they can have separate break and lunchtimes in their bubbles without a change of staff and, children can be supported in class without the need for interventions in a small room, which would mean that social distancing would not be possible. We have also employed an extra cleaner to ensure that the enhanced cleaning requirements are robust.  To achieve these careful plans which maintain the ‘separateness’ of the bubbles, we welcome:  Mrs Marsden, TA, supporting Mr Gill Quirke in Y6,  Ms English supporting Mr Rawsthorne and Mrs Kerr in Y5.  Mr Lawson and Mr Young supporting Miss Mothersdale in Y4  Mrs James, supporting Mrs Hanna and Miss Watts in Y3  Mrs West, supporting Miss Ogden, as our new school SENCo.  Ms Peel, as an extra cleaner to join our existing team.  Carli, (YMCA staff) is supporting Reception and the lunchtime team.  Y1, Y2 and Nursery all have existing staff members supporting them.  **Sad News**  Some of you may be aware that our longest standing member of the school kitchen staff, Susan Hewitson, sadly passed away during the summer, after a short illness. She had worked at Whitehouse for many years and will be hugely missed by us all. Her quiet, capable and ‘no nonsense’ approach, which hid a very ‘cheeky’ sense of humour, will be sorely missed. Our deepest condolences have been sent to her husband and her son, on behalf of our Whitehouse family. We will all miss her. We will be organising a memorial in the school grounds for her, in due course. |
| **Classroom Layout**  As you will know from our previous newsletters, our classrooms look very different. To comply with requirements, they are organised in a way which reduces possible transmission, with consistent seating arrangements. Year 2 to Year 6 are set out in forward facing rows. This does not apply to Early Years. Some of you have asked to see photographs of what they look like and they will be shared on Twitter, once all photo permissions have been received. Please follow the school @whitehouseps on Twitter, to see important news. |
| **School Lunches**  The price for a school lunch is £2.25. School meals continue to be free for all YR, Y1 and Y2 children under the Universal Infant Free School Meals scheme, but you must remember to register your child for lunches on [www.joinos.com](http://www.joinos.com).  **Y3 parents** must start paying for their children’s meals from the first day back in Sept unless you qualify for free school meals. You must set up a payment account online at Joinos as we do not accept cash payments. Please contact [catering.services@northtyneside.gov.uk](mailto:catering.services@northtyneside.gov.uk) or call 0191 6432888 if you have any queries at all about any lunch related matters. |
| **Covid-19 Safety**  We will be sending out a Parent School Contract next week to all families to state clearly the measures we are taking to keep our school as safe as we can. It will include procedures for you to follow at home. Recent reports from our Public Health Director have found that, following the reports from the earlier re opening of schools in Scotland, that there is little transmission between pupils, but that there has been quite a lot of transmission between staff in schools, leading to requiring them to self-isolate. We are extremely mindful of this and staff are reminded to keep socially distanced from each other, appropriate hand hygiene and wear face coverings, visors when in contact with other adults. We are also taking the temperature of everyone in school on a daily basis, using an infrared thermometer.  Remember that if you need to book a test, log onto the NHS website – [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk) to take a test at a test site or with a home test kit. |