

Whitehouse Newsletter.



22nd January 2021

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Remote Learning

Can I first of all say a huge and heartfelt Congratulations and Thankyou to all the children at home who are engaging so brilliantly in their remote learning. Staff have commented upon the effort and enthusiasm that the vast majority of our children are putting into their work. They are logging onto lessons and working hard, with, of course, the support of their parents. Parent Governors commented on the exciting lessons that had really captured the children's imaginations. They commented that the lessons were 'motivating' and that the children were so much more accepting of the situation than during the first lockdown. We have 3 laptops available to loan still and if anyone is struggling to access remote lessons, please contact the school office. Thankyou.

Critical Workers and Vulnerable groups.

Unfortunately we had to close the KS2 bubble in school at short notice this week due to staff positive test result. It will reopen from Monday 1st February at 9:00am. This quick reaction will, hopefully prevent further spread in school. Some staff now have to isolate because of this. The children who are now at home will, hopefully be switching seamlessly to remote learning. You will have all had a letter from the Public Health team reminding you about isolation and the rules to follow. If any child becomes symptomatic, please book a test by phoning 119 or through the NHS website. Thank-you to the families for your speedy responses and cooperation. We only had confirmation at 8:30am, so I know that it will have been difficult for you to reorganise at short notice, but it is what we have to do and we appreciate your support.

We have requested, where possible, that if your child is in the isolating KS2 bubble and have a parent at home - and they have a sibling in the KS1 bubble, that you consider keeping both children at home to follow the DfE guidelines of staying at home where you can. We understand that this may not be possible in all cases.

Lunch Vouchers

We have now replaced the school hampers from Catering Services with vouchers for the families who are in receipt of Benefits -related Free school meals.

If entitled, you should have received a voucher from Eden Red this week. The voucher is for the four week period to half-term. We do not know what is happening beyond this. If your voucher hasn't arrived please email the school office on: office@whitehouseprimary.org.uk

We managed to obtain some extra food vouchers and have emailed them to families who we know, may have been furloughed/suffered job losses due to the pandemic, but do not qualify for FSM. We hope this helps. We only received a limited amount, but, if you are struggling, please email the school office and we will try to obtain more (no guarantees, but we will do our best)

Lateral Flow Tests for Staff in School.

We have been issued with twice weekly home test kits (Lateral Flow devices) for all staff in school. These are rapid asymptomatic testing kits as 1 in 3 are asymptomatic and need to be identified. We will start these tests next week, as directed.

Have a lovely weekend everyone!