

# Whitehouse Newsletter

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## **Welcome Back.**

Happy New Year to all our Whitehouse families. I hope that you all enjoyed a safe and restful Christmas?

What a start to the new term! As you know, we had planned to open school to all our families until we heard the government announcement on Monday night about immediate school closures. We were given this information overnight and had only a few hours to respond. We reacted quickly and our remote learning is up and running well. I appreciate the positive comments from parents that have been most welcome, regarding the quality of our provision and the commitment of our staff. This has not been an easy feat to manage, but we have and I thank my team who have all played their part, yet again, whilst many of them are home-schooling their own children at the same time.

34 laptops have been loaned out to our families and we are awaiting further laptop allocations throughout the month. I am determined that all children should be able to work remotely and make good progress, whilst connecting with their teachers and each other. Please contact the school office if you need to loan a laptop/device and we will do everything in our power to offer you the loan of one when more arrive.

## **Food Hampers**

Food hampers were delivered early this morning to school, unexpectedly. We allocated as many as possible to those families who need them as we cannot keep them over a weekend. A text was sent out to all our families for them to collect a hamper and hope this has helped. We believe that our next food allocation for our families at home in receipt of FSM will be next Wednesday. We hope that you will be able to collect them from school on that date and we will let you know via text when they arrive. We do not have the capacity for home delivery by staff as they are all working with children remotely or in school. If we do hear anything about a future voucher scheme being reintroduced nationally, we will let you know. Mrs Morris also in the process of applying for another food grant from Greggs and if successful, we will be aiming to make up more hampers with tinned goods and toiletry products to support our families even more.

## **Remote Learning**

We are 'over the moon' with the engagement of the vast majority of our families with remote learning! Please Tweet any photos of your work/activities you are doing at home @whitehouseps. Staff are telling me daily increased numbers of children logging on- 100% in 2 classes! Parents- you have done a great job by adapting to remote learning so quickly and we hope you are enjoying the lessons as much as your children! This has been a huge learning curve for many parents but our children are increasingly resilient and digitally confident. Remember, to ask staff if you need help.

This is a brief outline of the home learning as it currently stands:

In EYFS staff deliver 3 sessions daily via Tapestry- Maths/ English, phonics and a storytime. Foundation subjects are delivered each Friday. Zoom calls with children are timetabled throughout the week.

In KS1 an average minimum of 3 hours of work will be provided to each child working from home. Work is taken from the current English and maths curriculum and is delivered in part through live Zoom sessions. Children respond to all learning using SeeSaw through which feedback is given. Morning registration and pastoral care is delivered through Zoom sessions.

Vulnerable pupils and ARP receive daily live Zoom session support in maths and English. In addition, those children working from home receive 1:1 support via Zoom. The EHCP children are in school.

In KS2 an average of between 3 and 5 hours of learning is delivered per day. Zoom is used to deliver live lessons in maths, English and the foundation subjects/topic. Children complete work both in exercise books and in SeeSaw. Feedback is given using SeeSaw. In year 6, instructional videos are used to deliver concepts and give clarity to each activity. Morning registration and pastoral care is delivered through Zoom sessions. Children continue to receive spelling and mental maths practice.

## **Zoom/Remote Learning Protocols**

Each class teacher will have different expectations for live/recorded lessons or Zoom conversations, depending on their age. Younger pupils may need an adult present to ensure that they are on task and paying attention (maybe Y2 and younger) whilst older pupils may be more independent and allow their parents to have a break/see to other children. However, we do need to ensure that the following protocols are followed by all families when connecting with the teachers from home:

- Children shouldn't need to print out worksheets as they can record their answers in the exercise books we have provided you. Simply take a photograph and upload your work to submit it virtually.
- Live sessions will start promptly so be ready to join 5 mins prior to the actual meeting time.
- Have all the materials and resources ready that you will need to respond
- Turn your device onto MUTE when you join the meeting/Zoom to reduce the background noise.
- Only press UNMUTE when the teacher asks you to. It will not work well if there is more than one person talking at a time.

- Use the 'Chat' function to record any answers asked by the teacher. This is not to be used as an option to message your friends
- Behave respectfully and sensibly when you are on a love call. Do not leave your seat or distract other children.
- This is valuable learning time.
- The weekly social time is for you to enjoy chatting to your friends, but you still need to follow the rules above.
- Children must be dressed appropriately and have some consideration to their background.

It is early days and we are all doing our best. I am sure that we will add to these protocols as time moves on.

Thankyou for joining staff online and don't hesitate to use the message functions of SeeSaw/Tapestry or email, if you need to ask staff any questions about this. We are here to help.

### **Critical Workers/Vulnerable Learners Places**

We are fully supportive of parents who need to send their children into school as they are critical workers essential to the Covid-19 response or EU transition response, where they have no alternative childcare or family support bubble. We also have created a new bubble in school for vulnerable pupils. These new bubbles in school are for those with no alternative provision during lockdown and we are happy to provide this service to protect the capacity of the NHS. We do need proof of your status as a critical worker and, in line with other schools we are now at capacity levels. We ask all our families who are using this provision to consider if you really need to send your children into school? Is there someone at home who can supervise their learning from home? If so, we would be grateful if you would reconsider your place so that we can keep places open for NHS frontline workers? Any communication via the school office is very much welcomed.

This has not been the return that we had planned and I, for one, miss the cheery enthusiasm of seeing the children each morning. I also know that my staff miss the children being in school and having daily direct contact. It is harder to teach remotely, enable access to learning for those in school, to answer/respond to work on an individual basis via SeeSaw/Tapestry (often until far too late in the night!) but we know it won't last for ever and look forward to when it is deemed to be safe enough for all the children to return to full school life.

Until then, stay safe and stay apart- do not mix with other households and contact [office@whitehouseps](mailto:office@whitehouseps) if there is any further support we can offer.

Kind regards  
R Woods  
Headteacher