

Whitehouse Primary School

Whitehouse Lane
North Shields
Tyne and Wear
NE29 8PE

Tel: **(0191) 643 2890**
Email: **whitehouse.primary@northtyneside.gov.uk**
Website: **whitehouseprimary.org.uk**
Headteacher: **Ms R. Woods BA(Hons) NPQH**

5th February 2021

Dear parents/carers

I hope this letter finds you and your families are safe and well.

I know this has been a difficult half-term for many of us, but I wanted to thank you all for your support, engagement and encouragement for your child's remote learning. I have dropped into many live lessons to say 'hello' and it has been so lovely to see the children's faces and smiles. They are all working so well and are making good progress.

Thank-you for working with us and following the timetables and making your homes into 'mini classrooms.' Your patience and understanding is appreciated. You are doing an amazing job under unusual circumstances.

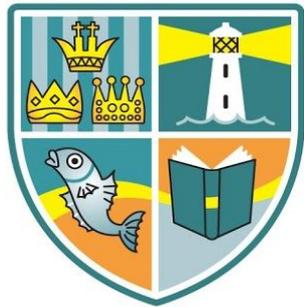
Staff are working tirelessly to ensure that your children feel happy, cared for and supported to learn, whether in school or at home. Your kind words and comments to staff mean a lot to us, as most of them are also managing personal and professional challenges of their own.

As you know, this lockdown is different from the last one and we have a number of children in school those that fall into the vulnerable category and those whose parents are critical workers. These children are accessing the same curriculum as the children at home.

We are incredibly proud of the role we have played in our wider community and so far, we have:

- Issued all FSM vouchers to our families
- Loaned 34 laptops out
- Loaned 8 Netbooks (we are awaiting a delivery of Chromebooks still, but there is a national delay)
- We have visited homes delivering some of these and supported families with 4G Routers, if needed
- Issued 44 Christmas stockings through the Cedarwood Trust
- Provided 88 Christmas hampers to our families
- Obtained grants from the Greggs Foundation charity and held a 'free Whitehouse supermarket' with tinned, dried goods and cleaning products, toiletries etc (we hope to repeat this again- thanks to Mr Calaw from B&M)
- Provided 'white goods' if needed for our families - washing machines and cookers so far





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- Obtained grants from Greggs for clothing and supermarket voucher and issued them to families in need due to lockdown restrictions.
- Obtained extra food vouchers from the LA for families with changing working circumstances due to the lockdown restrictions.
- We are still waiting to receive 60 free Wi-fi hotspot codes from BT and will issue them upon request.

We will continue to support our families in any way we can during this difficult period. I would like to thank Ms Morris for her perseverance in applying for grants to support our families.

Safer Internet Day will take place on Thursday 9th February. Given that most children are using remote learning at the moment you will find useful resources at: www.saferinternet.org.uk teachers will also cover how children can keep themselves safe on-line during lessons.

School closes on Friday 12th February for half-term and we will reopen on Monday 22nd February to children of critical workers and vulnerable children.

The government has suggested that the 8th March may be a possible reopening date, but as yet, we have had no confirmation of this. This also may be a limited phased return however we will keep you informed as soon as we know anything.

Can I ask that the parents ensure that the access road to school is clear so that the LA taxis that transport our most vulnerable pupils can arrive safely and on time.

Attached is a letter to all parents from Diane Buckle, Assistant Director of Education.

Thank-you for your continued support in these difficult times. We will get through it.

Kind regards

Ms R Woods - Headteacher

