



Headteacher's Blog

CORONAVIRUS
STAY HOME
PROTECT THE NHS
SAVE LIVES



Friday 25th March 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

What a marvellous month it has been. We have really enjoyed having all the children back with their face to face learning. In KS 1 and 2 we have refined the timetable, enabling us to work smarter and develop the skills of handwriting and spellings further in English and introduce a new scheme of work in maths. On Thursday the children were filmed in their class bubbles for the Easter Service and a link will be sent to for you to enjoy our virtual Easter Service. Thank you to Helen, Ann and the PCC who have helped ensure we have managed to do this safely. Thank you to everyone for their support and understanding during the past year in particular. A lot of changes and restrictions have had to be made in order to keep our school family as safe as possible and this has been greatly supported by families and for that we are very appreciative.

As with all the previous holidays in the last year I will be contactable by email: (belinda.athey@whittingham.northumberland.sch.uk) until Tuesday 30th March for anyone who needs to report that their child has been confirmed as having COVID 19 as I will then need to contact the close contacts in school so that they can self isolate. I would also like to remind families to continue to stay safe over the holidays and looking forward to when the restrictions are lifted further that we continue to be mindful to continue to follow guidelines. As I mentioned in my letter earlier in March, all families with children are entitled to free testing kits for COVID 19 and I would promote that if you don't already access these you do so. A copy of the link to the letter can be found here - https://whittingham.eschools.co.uk/website/letter_to_families_regarding_testing/547250

Please remember, we are all here to help support families and if you have any queries or concerns message us on Tapestry, Class Dojo or myself via the school telephone or my email - belinda.athey@whittingham.northumberland.sch.uk

Best wishes, stay safe and have a joyful Easter.

Belinda Athey - Headteacher.

Staying Safe Online -Parent Fact Sheets & Guides To Popular Social Media

Copy and paste the following links to find some useful parental guides to the following social media

Fortnite

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/fortnite-battle-royale/>

You Tube

<https://www.teachthought.com/technology/12-ways-to-make-youtube-safer-for-children/>

Tik Tok

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/tiktok/>

Further information about keeping safe online

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/online-safety-lockdown/>
<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/jessie-and-friends-videos/>
https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/8_10/

Developing sports in Northumberland.

I am really pleased to be one of the Headteacher Consultants in the Northumberland School Games LOC group.

One the aims of this group is to develop alternative sports in addition to the more traditional competitive games especially while competitions are still being held virtually or with single classes.

After Easter I will be looking to develop skipping in KS 1 and 2 and later on in the summer term, Hoopstarz for EY and KS 1 which can be used in PE lessons and at break times.

Over the next term I hope we will develop our fitness whilst taking part in a nationwide virtual skipping league -

Every Child Skips Initiative

<https://virtual-skipping-league.com/30-seconds-skipping-trial/>

The children might take inspiration from

Cen Xialoin, a 14-year-old Chinese schoolboy who holds the World Record for 30 Seconds Skipping Trial for greatest number of skips in 30 seconds at the World Inter-School Rope Skipping Championships in Dubai.

Skipping tricks

The following You Tube tutorials or clips below may provide you with a bit of inspiration for skipping!

<https://youtu.be/Cz3KZdX8gFI>

And for something really challenging -

<https://youtu.be/JSR5JnzEncE>

<https://youtu.be/tp8EyEYegMs>

More can be found at - <https://www.youtube.com/user/JumpRopeUK/videos>

