

Headteacher's Blog

CORONAVIRUS
STAY HOME
PROTECT THE NHS
SAVE LIVES

Please continue to keep yourselves safe, following government guidelines and keep your child at home unless it is necessary that your child attends school.

Friday 5th February 2021

2 page issue

Dear Parents and Carers,
Thank you for the increased response to our home learning survey. I am pleased to say that everyone who replied agrees that our provision is significantly improved from last time.

What you found improved -

Communication.

Clarity of provision.

Content of work.

Some of the suggestions regarding improvements so far were:

What you asked -

To continue and if possible, increase the small group work that we have managed to do over the past term and to develop more whole class sessions.

What we are doing -

We are looking at the logistics of this as we endeavour to continue to offer face to face and remote learning after half term.

Unfortunately, as our staff team available to do small group sessions has decreased due to continued sick leave of some staff and the start of Miss Dick's maternity leave so this may not be possible.

While we continue to teach increased numbers of pupils in schools (34% of pupils in school at any one time) we are unable to release teaching staff to deliver additional sessions but we will continue to ensure that our home learning offer and tutorial video clips continue as these have been very well received.

We will be trailing from next week registration time in Class 2 so if your child is in Class 2 please look out for your Google Meet invite (if you accept the invite and click yes the link should go to your calendar and is then easily found) and a message from Miss Donkin. If this proves successful we will look to 'rolling' this out in other classes where appropriate.

Thank you for your understanding if we are not able to continue to offer as many virtual learning sessions as we have this past half term.

I for one, am hoping that we receive a clear plan on March 8th that enables us to safely open our school to more pupils or at least have a clear 'Back to School' date in sight. As I said in my Monday assembly, as soon as I have any news or information regarding all pupils return back to school I will let you know as we all can't wait to have everyone safely back again.

Please take care, stay safe and be kind to yourselves and each other.

Best wishes, Belinda Athey - Headteacher.

A few reminders:

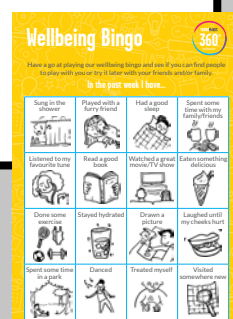


Ofsted Parent View

Are you a parent?
Have you heard of Ofsted Parent View?

Ofsted Parent View is an online questionnaire for you to give your views about your child's school. You can fill it in at any time of the year. During an Ofsted inspection, you're also invited to give your views to inspectors using it.

<http://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk>



Reading time - An amazing response!

Thank you to parents and pupils who have recorded themselves read stories to be shared. Below are a few pictures of some of the children who have taken part. I have been emailing out the stories as they have been sent to me in an effort to make sure these treasures do not get lost in amongst the hundreds of emails I receive a day. However, I appreciate the feedback that we are perhaps sending out too many emails so I will look at this again and also how the stories may be securely shared possibly through Tapestry or Class Dojo or the suggestion of our own You Tube channel. I would very much appreciate your thoughts on this. Next week we have arranged for Class 2 and 3 at home or school to take part in a story session with the author Micheal Morpurgo and details will follow to these classes.



Reminder -

Stationery from School to help you learn.

Last week I shared with you that

Miss Dick and I attended a meeting recently where there was announcement that a national newspaper and one of the teaching unions were looking to raise money in order to provide some of the children from the most deprived areas with stationery in order to help them to access home learning. It may be unlikely that we will receive any funds but it did make us think. Are there any stationery supplies that you find hard to source? Is buying such items causing an additional financial strain? If this is the case please contact me in the upmost confidence and I will arrange for such supplies to be available to pick up from an allotted area and time slot outside the school gates.

So far I have not had any response. I have also had the Co-Heads from DCHS contact me offering stationery packs so please so let me know as soon as possible so that I can let DCHS know and organise resources here too.

Home / School Learning in Year 5 and 6

The children in Year 5 and 6 have been taking part in an exciting project alongside schools from across the North East.

Teen Tech: City of Tomorrow is a national project that aims to raise awareness, engage and inspire children regarding science, technology, engineering and construction. The children have really enjoyed this project as it has opened up discussions and expression on many levels from the aspects of how we live and why to the logistical planning of how a building is created and from what whilst simultaneously ensuring the legacy and impact that we have on each other and the planet is a positive one. Even though many of us have been physically separate during this project, the joint focus and excitement about it has helped to keep a sense of togetherness. The children (with the help of their grown ups for using certain tools) have worked and some of the designs and models are incredible!

World Book Day - March 4th

Your thoughts please.

Usually, we commemorate WBD by dressing up, sharing stories and having lots of book related fun.

Obviously this year is different - or is it? I would really like your opinions, thoughts and ideas. I do not wish for people to go out and buy such non essentials such as costumes but if it was wanted and some creative costumes created from things at home could be produced then please let me know directly by email (belinda.athey@whittingham.northumberland.sch.uk) or phone message with either - Yes or No to Dressing up for WBD and I will go with the majority decision.

WORLD
**BOOK
DAY**
4 MARCH 2021

For further information regarding WBD please go to - <https://www.worldbookday.com/2020/09/world-book-day-2021-announcements/>

Children's Mental Health Week

Across the school children took part in activities. Here are some pictures of the children in Class 1 looking after their wellbeing this week.



GREAT DREAM

Ten keys to happier living

GIVING		DIRECTION	
RELATING		RESILIENCE	
EXERCISING		EMOTIONS	
AWARENESS		ACCEPTANCE	
TRYING OUT		MEANING	

