



Whittingham
C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

Headteacher's Blog

Friday 25th September 2020



New Covid-19 restrictions for our region:

- Venues including pubs, restaurants and cafes to close from 10pm to 5am
- Venues providing food and drink restricted to table service only
- You must not meet with those outside your household or support bubble

Visit www.sunderland.gov.uk/coronavirus for full restrictions and frequently asked questions

Dear Parents and Carers,
Welcome to my Headteacher's Blog. Thank you to you all for supporting school and following the measures in place that we have, particularly with regards to adhering to the times for drop off and pick up. Also, it is with sadness that I ask families not to send in items from home to kindly share with the class bubble such as cakes or treats as we are restricting the amount of items that cross between home and school.

Best wishes,
Belinda Athey - Headteacher.

Fun in School

It was great to get back to having some of our activity days this week. Despite the rain, children in their bubbles across the school took part in National Fitness Day on Wednesday and thank you for helping us by getting the children dressed in style for our European Day of Languages. Photos will be on our school website soon.

Homework

We have tried to stagger the amount of homework the children have received in Class 1, 2 and 3 so far. By the end of next week in addition to the activities that your child is doing so far such as reading, spellings, Sumdog and the all important x tables practice; in KS2 there will be homework work books for English and Maths. A comprehensive letter from your child's class teacher will be attached to the homework book. All I would like to say is please continue to support your child at home while they complete their homework and ensure that the resources we send home are kept safely and in good condition.

Communication News.

Thank you to the staff that have worked hard to put in place our new Class Dojo system. This will be used as a tool for your class teacher to communicate with you with messages that would have normally been put in your child's planner or Reading Record. Please use the message facility to record comments when you hear your child read or if you have information to share with your child's class teacher. Please remember that while I promote health and mental well-being with your children I also need to do this with staff so please note when your class teacher has their 'quiet time' and not message during this time. Staff will respond to messages in a timely manner, usually at the end of the day. I will continue to be on duty most mornings and evenings if you prefer face to face contact and I am also in the office at points throughout the day between 10 and 2.

If you have any further suggestions about how we can communicate better please let me know.

We will also be looking to see how we can develop Class Dojo further over the coming weeks so watch this space!

PTA and Fundraising

As we won't be able to fundraise in the same way in the foreseeable future please support us if you can. We currently sell 37 tickets at £1 per week and even with this small amount of tickets we have raised over £1400 since it started a relatively short time ago! Also, as lots of us will rely on online shopping now so please download the easy fundraising tool which helps raise money for school too.

Interventions and 'Catch Up' work.

Because we know your children so well and the class teachers have kept in touch with every family during lockdown we already have 1-1 interventions in place for 13 children across the school. In addition to this, I have met with your child's class teachers this week to discuss every pupil in school and the ways in which we can best support them (especially if they were unable to be in school during the period of time from 23rd March). There are a variety of solutions that will be in place and, as I said earlier have been discussed on a child by child basis.

For all children in school they are in the position of having at least 2 members of staff to support them in their class bubble. For some children they will receive targeted support in lessons. All children in KS 1 and 2 have personalised work set for them on Sumdog.

For a smaller amount of children they will work in smaller groups with further targeted work with a teacher or teaching assistant for Wellbeing, English or Maths activities in addition to their whole class lessons in this subject. If your child is taking part in such interventions this will be a targeted piece of support which generally lasts 6-8 weeks with an opportunity to give you feedback at the end. Either the class teacher or myself will be contacting the parents of the children involved by early next week. If you were involved in Pupil Passport or EHA meetings last term I will be contacting you to arrange a virtual meeting later on this half term.