

# Headteacher's Blog

**CORONAVIRUS**  
**STAY HOME**  
**PROTECT THE NHS**  
**SAVE LIVES**

**Friday 12th February 2021**

**2 page issue**

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

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

We have reached the end of the first half term of 2021 and what a strange one it has been! The staff and children working in school have been amazing but it is to the families learning at home that I must say a massive WELL DONE. The commitment to supporting the children carry out their tasks and how engaged everyone has been with uploading tasks has been wonderful. The staff are confident that when the children return to school if the level of learning while they continue to be off ( shortly after half term hopefully) continues to be of this level there will not be the significant gaps in learning that there was for many children on their return to school in September. Also, unlike last time in the Summer Term where children in school had very informal learning it has very much been 'Business as usual' with regards to their learning with support throughout the week for mental health and well-being. I expect to be told what will happen to schools in a Government address on 22nd February and will contact as quickly as possible afterwards with regards to what this means for us.

Thank you to everyone for being so supportive of our decreased staffing for after half term. We are glad to say that we will continue with some 1-1 and group lessons but have spoken as a staff team and do not feel that live lessons is an effective tool for us to use, our internet provision can just not withstand it ( BT were due to upgrade our internet provision but this has been delayed by the current COVID pandemic). We will, however be looking to introduce across the school where appropriate tutorial videos. This has been already started in some classes but will be a consistent feature across the school after half term.

I now have 14 responses to our home learning questionnaire and thanks to you for taking the time to complete them. As I said last week, we are looking to directly take actions where we are able to so that our remote learning offer is the best it can be.

Please have a happy and safe half term break.

Best wishes,

Belinda Athey - Headteacher.

WORLD  
BOOK  
DAY  
4 MARCH 2021

## **Please follow Government Guidelines**

**It is imperative that we all follow the continued lockdown guidance over the half term.**

**The virus is still at dangerously high levels and mixing of household bubbles, not social distancing and so on WILL cause the virus to spread and for cases to increase.**

**If this happens the closure of schools to all pupils is very likely to continue to Easter at least.**

**A case of COVID in school would have a significant impact obviously risking health to pupils, staff and the wider community as well as cause school or bubble closures which would mean that our critical workers would have no childcare options and the impact of this on these vital services could be massive.**

**All workers are entitled to feel safe at work and if families continue to not follow the rules all or any of the staff at our school are entitled to issue me with a Section 44 letter. This would mean that school closures may continue for all pupils.**

**Please do have a happy and safe half term and enable us to look to the not too distant future where all our children can be in school safely.**

## **World Book Day**

Thank you to 4 responses to my Yes or No question.

At staff meeting we discussed this further and will go ahead with **WBD on March 4th. It will be 'Dress as you please'** and there will be school and remote learning activities all day with a google meet or two to ensure that all our learners feel included.



**Whittingham**  
C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL



## Thank you to Woodland Stove Centre, Rothbury!

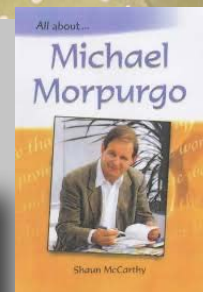
Miss Dick has had a fun time creating wonderful packs for the Nursery children who are home learning. Woodland Stove Centre, Rothbury donated a significant sum of money to enable Miss Dick to buy the resources and create wonderful packs. She then arranged for them to be dropped off safely to the families at their homes.

The feedback has been great so far and the EY team are now able to plan more for Nursery because we know they have the resources! Here are some photos below of happy customers!



### Best wishes Miss Dick!

After half term Miss Dick will be taking a well earned rest just before she has her baby. We wish Miss Dick, her partner Chris and of course, soon to be big sister Millie all the best during this wonderful time.



### Class 2 and 3 virtual author visit.

The feedback from this event has been amazing. We hope to be involved with future events with Seven Stories and find events for the younger children too.



### Big Sing and Sign - All children please join in!

As a Music Partnership North School we have been asked to join in with this at school and to ask families at home to join in too -

Come and Join us for Music Partnership North's Big Sign and Sing for Sign Language Week <https://youtu.be/giEWnv3qhdQ> via @YouTube ( copy this link into your browser for information)

Open to schools and individuals - Copy this link to register <https://bit.ly/3iXklNl>

Please register before 15th February, all recordings need to be forwarded by 5th March.

### Breaking News - Mrs Arkle a lottery winner!!!!!!!

In the almost 2 years we have been running the 'My School Lottery' 34 families have consistently bought a ticket and our very own Mrs Arkle has recently won the local lottery 4 times!

While the amounts awarded in the local lottery may not be life-changing it is still nice to have a little win now and again (everyone who buys a ticket is put in the £25,000 national draw each week) while supporting school ,as for every £1 ticket purchased 40p is raised for school. <https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/whittingham-c-of-e-primary-school>

Other fundraising options while you shop -

### Amazon Smile.

Our PTA is a registered charity and as such if you are shopping with Amazon through Amazon Smile you can raise funds as you shop if you click on our name on the list.

<https://smile.amazon.co.uk>

### Easyfundraising.

Signing up for this is so easy and money can be raised for school. So far, just in the month of January £75 has been raised for school from people just adding the following information to their laptop or phone while they shop -

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/whittinghampta/?invite=RKSI6E&referral-campaign=s2s>



### The Power of Plants!

Recently, I read an article about the power of plants for helping mental health and well being. I hope to approach some local garden centres to see if they can donate some plants for us to have in school and for the children to look after at home. If you have any links to garden centres who may like to help us please let me know.