



Newsletter 21

2020/2021 Whitchurch Primary School
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END OF TERM - This term will end tomorrow, Friday 12th February. The new term will start on Monday 22nd February 2020.

The school will be closed for all children during half term.

WELL DONE WHITCHURCH! It seems that I begin every newsletter with these three words but once again well done to all in the Whitchurch Primary School community for their sterling efforts throughout Term 3. Children in school have been learning in bubbles, moving around the school safely and following each and every step in our risk assessment, resulting in a decline in the number of bubbles we have had to close (dare I say it...0 this term). Children at home have been joining us online, participating with their classmates in school and submitting work to the teacher all using a system that this time last year few of us had even heard of. Well done too to parents and carers who have also had to get to grip with these systems, at the same time as carrying out their own work from home, or having to arrange childcare when travelling to and from work. These are not easy times yet we have continued to learn across the school! I send a huge congratulations and my sincerest thanks to the teachers and staff of Whitchurch Primary School. On top of their usual commitments such as planning lessons, delivering them and providing feedback on them (a task increased by considering how it will work online as well as in class) I have seen teachers, support staff and office staff helping children in every way imaginable, be it assistance with work, mental wellbeing or life in general. I have also seen staff members offering online counselling, well-being checks, welfare advice and generally acting as 'a friendly voice to chat to' to those at home in the hardest of times. I have witnessed school staff making diversions on the way home to deliver food parcels, IT equipment and to offer assistance in setting up these systems, as well as sending Covid test kits when families are unable to leave the house. What great scenarios to witness during this third lockdown! It is for these reasons I wish you all a great 'half term' holiday, and look forward to seeing you all in Term 4 where we will continue 'achieving our best together!'

CHINESE NEW YEAR - The children of the school learned about Chinese New Year from assemblies and lessons, whilst Reception enjoyed tasting popular Chinese cuisine and learning Mandarin words and phrases!



THE SNOW QUEEN - We finished the term with a fantastic 'virtual' performance of 'The Snow Queen' by Image Production. Generously funded by the PTA, children both in school and at home spent a morning making props and learning actions, before using them as they watched an online performance of this popular play! It was amazing to see children in school and at home simultaneously enjoying this experience!



MENTAL HEALTH WEEK -The children of the school benefitted from assemblies, lessons and activities revolving around Mental Health last week as part of a national initiative. It culminated in a ‘be yourself’ day on Friday where we all enjoyed ‘dressing down’ for the day!

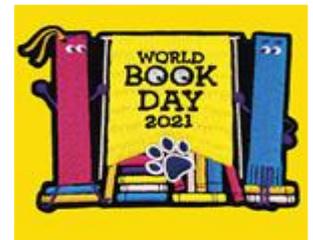


E-SAFETY DAY - ‘In the internet we Trust?’ was Tuesday’s learning theme as part of national E-Safety Day. Children learned about what to trust, and what not to trust on the internet, an invaluable skill in the rise of ‘fake news!’



HALF TERM READING CHALLENGE - Create your own non-fiction book, leaflet, poster or webpage about a subject children find interesting using the different tools that non-fiction writer’s use to present information. This could be a good opportunity to explore a different subject or popular news story. For example - Electric Cars-How will this help to save the planet? cooking at home during lockdown, staying Healthy, raising money for good causes, the benefits of outdoor learning; gardening, exercise, science or a topic of your choice!!!
Keep up the good work and keep ‘Achieving our best together’.

WORLD BOOK DAY – THURSDAY 4TH MARCH - We have some exciting plans for World Book Day which will be revealed shortly. Children that are in school are invited to come to school dressed up as their favourite book character to celebrate World Book Day. Please ensure children are dressed warmly for this cold weather. No accessories please.



COVID UPDATE 1 - The holiday approaches, yet our risk assessment remains in place! Please remember to keep a 2 metre distance whilst in public, to regularly wash your hands and to wear a mask when essential shopping. By following these steps and others in our risk assessment, we hope to remain as Covid free as possible in Term 4. **SHOULD YOU TEST POSITIVE FOR CORONAVIRUS** during the holiday please notify the school immediately through our text message system (reply to any text), as we will need to notify others in your child’s bubble should they need to isolate too.

COVID UPDATE 2 - If you would like your child to attend as a keyworker child, you must respond to the text message sent out on Thursday. We collate children into bubbles, many of which have now reached the risk assessment capacity of 15. If you simply ‘turn up’ with your child in the morning at present we have been able to help, but from Term 4 this will not be the case. If you feel that you did reply, and we didn’t receive your text, please show us evidence of you sending it. In order to help us keep the school organised, educational and above all safe, you must request places on the Thursday. Thank you.

COVID UPDATE 3 - The Government is planning to begin a return to school on **8th March 2021**. Please note we have booked this as a **Trust inset day** (in which we have already organised speakers and meetings) and has been booked in since the beginning of the academic year. Whitchurch Primary School children, and all those in the Lighthouse Schools Partnership, will be returning on 9th March 2021, subject to further Government instruction.