



Newsletter 26

2020/2021 Whitchurch Primary School
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END OF TERM - This term will end on Thursday 1st April. The new term will start for children on Monday 19th April.

WHAT A YEAR IT'S BEEN! This week marked the one year anniversary of schools, shops, businesses and the nation going into lockdown. During this time we have seen various lifts to restrictions, as well as the introduction of more to keep everyone safe and healthy. Whitchurch Primary School salutes our community too for playing it's role during the national pandemic.

From Lockdown 1 last year children were quick to engage with the online work placed on by teachers each day, whilst other teachers and staff members continue their roles in school to allow keyworkers to do their jobs, as well as helping vulnerable children throughout May and Easter 2020 marked the first time in our school's history in which we opened throughout the holidays, including Good Friday, to allow everyone to continue their lives as normally as possible! We were delighted in June to see the return of Years 1 and 6, allowing us to return to a new normal, albeit one where the school benefitted from new restrictions and instructions to keep all children safe and healthy!

Later in the year we thanked parents for joining us in this matter, wearing masks on the playground, keeping 2 metres apart at all times and adapting their schedules to fit in with our new staggered times. Following a much needed summer break, all were able to attend school in Terms 1 and 2, with the end seemingly on the horizon! However, as we all know after Christmas another wave occurred, meaning once again we returned to online learning, only this time Whitchurch Primary School was able to offer online learning lessons in which teachers, parents and children were able to thrive! Who would of thought a year ago we'd be teaching children live in their own homes! The much needed roles of so many in society saw our keyworker groups rise from 15 to 80+ children, and it is a credit to these children that during the third lockdown we did not have to close a single bubble due to Covid. March 8th saw the return of all stakeholders in our school, where children, staff and parents continue to abide by regulations and instructions in order to keep everyone safe, happy, learning and 'achieving our best together'. Well done Whitchurch!

PARENT VIEW - Did you know you can rate our school? The Government provides a website asking a small number of questions where you can pass comment on a various number of areas in the school. This is particularly useful to us as it allows us to see where we are excelling, which is a much needed 'well-being boost' at the moment, as well as areas we can make even better, to make our school a great place to learn. Furthermore, the Government uses this website to monitor our school; we received so many kind and thoughtful comments from parents during lockdown, especially our Teams provision, we'd like the Government to hear them too!

Please go to <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/> and complete the survey. Thank you!

BABY NEWS – We are delighted to announce that Mrs Oldfield (Year 4) had a lovely baby boy on Sunday. Noah Daniel is doing very well and we send our congratulations to mum and dad.



AUTHOR VISIT – We have arranged a virtual visit of Joseph Coelho who is a children’s author for our Poetry Day. You may visit Joseph’s page using this link <https://www.thepoetryofjosephcoelho.com/> Further information will be sent out nearer the time together with the option to purchase some of Joseph’s books.



PANCAKE FLIP – We would like to say a huge ‘thank you’ to parents and carers for your kind donations to the school and the charity. We raised over £1500 which is amazing! The children really enjoyed the experience in their bubbles.



QUEEN’S LETTER – Congratulations to Carmen in Year 6 who received a letter from the Queen after sending her a picture. Letter attached.

COVID TESTS – Families with children of school age are now able to order lateral flow test kits – please note, this is optional. Please use this link to order <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff>

*Visitors should not be staying or mixing with other households. Please be mindful of the current rules.

COVID TEST AND TRACE PAYMENT - Parents and carers of children who have been advised to self-isolate by their education setting or by NHS Test and Trace are now able to apply for a [Test and Trace Support Payment](#) or discretionary payment of £500, if they meet the eligibility criteria. To check if you meet the criteria, please click on the blue link.

RISK ASSESSMENT – The latest Covid risk assessment is available to view on our website.

THE MASKED READER – For the second episode of The Masked Reader we have a lion!
The book read out was ‘All Are Welcome’ by Alexandra Penfold.
Can you guess who’s behind the mask?



TOUGH SPOTS! Reception children have been learning about life-cycles this term, and as part of it enjoyed working in a simulated pond! With ‘bath slime’ for water and frogspawn made from bubble wrap, the indoor ponds delighted children and adults alike!

