

Whitehill Junior School

Head Teacher: Mr S Mills



Whitehill Road
Hitchin
Herts. SG4 9HT

Tel: 01462 621313
Fax: 01462 621311
e-mail: admin@whitehill.herts.sch.uk
www.whitehill.herts.sch.uk

8th September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

As we come to the end of the fifth day back at school, there are one or two things to draw your attention to which will help ensure we are as safe and as productive as we can be over the coming term.

Early Morning Provision

Our early morning provision, as a temporary replacement for Highbury's Breakfast Club is working very well and provides those families who need it, with that flexibility to drop off slightly earlier in the morning. Could I please ask, however, that pupils are **not dropped off before 8.00am**. This is to ensure the staff are ready and the room has been suitably cleaned.

After School

This has worked really well over the last few days. Parents are safely spaced and pupils handed over in the correct locations. As much as I would love to allow pupils to play on our play equipment at the end of the afternoon, I am afraid this can't currently happen. Please can I ask that you **do not allow your children to venture onto the play or gym equipment**; instead I ask that as soon as you have collected everyone, you leave the grounds as soon as possible.

This equipment is cleaned after lunch and made ready for Cookie Club to use and so if pupils across several 'bubbles' venture onto the equipment we do increase the risk across the school.

Hitchin Boys' School Open Days (For attention of Year 6 families)

I have received information from Hitchin Boys' School relating to the way they will be conducting their open mornings / evenings this term. As soon as I receive information from the other local secondary schools, I will send this out.

There will be an event streamed live on our [YouTube](#) channel at 6pm on 23rd September 2020 that will include:

- a speech from the Headteacher, Mr Moane
- insights into life at Hitchin Boys' from our Head Boy and Deputy Head Boys
- details on how we support transition from year 6 from Assistant Headteacher, Mr Dawson

We will also provide a number of other resources including videos on student life at the school and a video tour of the campus.

Our prospectus is also available at <https://www.hbs.herts.sch.uk/downloads/prospectus.pdf>
Unfortunately it will not be possible to hold our usual open morning tours. However, our virtual open evening resources will include brief presentations about each subject and an accompanying booklet that gives more detail of academic study in year 7 and beyond.

Access to the virtual open evening will be via our main school website at https://www.hbs.herts.sch.uk/do/pages/information/open_day



Thank You

I would like to thank you for all the supportive messages that have been sent in via email or shared with me whilst I have been on the playground over the course of the last five days. The staff are working so hard at the moment and I enjoy passing on your kind words. I can promise you, they do make a difference.

I hope you found the first weekly blog of the year of interest. I enjoy writing them and sharing with you the many things we get up to each week. Please feel free to leave a comment at the end of these blogs as another way of showing your support, should you wish.

Covid-19 Blog

Now that we are up and running again, you will find that the updates to the Covid-19 blog which is accessed through the website's home page will become fewer. I will tend only to post on this blog if there is something key to the Covid-19 situation / arrangements but will also alert you that I have done so.

Social Media

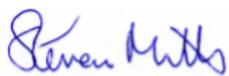
I have two requests under this heading. Firstly, can I ask that pupils don't share on their Google Classroom, information to their peers relating to coronavirus and in particular covid testing. I think it has the potential to mislead or confuse. Of course, please do keep the school informed via email or by phone.

Also, lockdown ensured a significant increase in the amount of digital technology pupils had access to. We certainly couldn't have provided the support to our pupils if it were not for Google Classroom and Edmodo. This will obviously continue and the teachers are currently setting up this year's classes to use in various ways whether we are in school or forced to be at home.

I am sure the pupils have also explored and made use of many other platforms available to them and I would urge you to be mindful of these and ensure you are aware of the apps pupils have and how they are being used. We will of course continue to educate our pupils on e-safety matters in school but it has been brought to my attention that there has been some upsetting content shared on Tik Tok recently; a platform I am aware some pupils have been using.

Thank you again for all your support at the start of this academic year.

Kind regards,



Steve Mills
Headteacher

