

Whitehill Junior School

Head Teacher: Mr S Mills



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Dear parents and carers,

As the possibility of school closure becomes more real and as indicated in previous communication, we are making preparations for pupils to be able to carry out some learning at home. We are offering this as a way of maintaining some form of routine through meaningful and manageable tasks. We understand that there might be all kinds of reasons why these tasks can't be undertaken; the intention is to offer a supportive structure. There is therefore no obligation to complete them although there will be many forms of support available through our online presence.

The intention of any work offered is to consolidate learning; nothing should be new.

From our experience people may find it helpful to have some form of routine to their home learning. This might involve English (including reading) and maths earlier in the day. We will be signposting activities to cover the breadth of the curriculum.

Class Novel

We are lucky enough to be in a position to lend our valued collection of class reading books for children to take home. We would love to ensure that our children, as much as possible, are able to keep reading over the next few weeks and months.

Books can be read independently by your child, read to your child by you or a combination of both. As we so often say, reading experiences can be made far richer with book chat that involves discussing what is happening but also why and how it makes the reader feel. So that all children in a class are sharing the same book, it might be that some children will find it a tricky read and will require more help to read it. Teachers will suggest an amount to be read each week and possibly include some response tasks (comprehensions, character descriptions etc) for children to try.

Please feel free to access audio versions of books as well; there is a wealth available on BBC iplayer at the moment (including two versions of Wind in the Willows). I've just finished listening to the Railway Children and loved it, perhaps even more, than the first time I read it.

Unlike many schools, we are lucky enough to have enough books to offer this opportunity. Please can I ask you and your child to take particular care with their book. Each book is numbered and booked out to individual children. We would like them returned in the same condition that they were lent.

We know how much pleasure and escape books can provide and would hope that this is what they will offer you and your child. I would stress, though, that **these books are an invitation** not an order. We understand that families will be under various pressures and stresses and do not want anything we suggest to exacerbate that.



Exercise Books

Your child will also have a new exercise book in which any work completed over this period can be done. If your child wishes to share the work completed on their return to school, we will be happy to celebrate their efforts.

For certain tasks, requiring answers, teachers may post answers and mark schemes online for you to use.

Wellbeing

As part of our ongoing work to promote mental as well as physical health we would like to remind you about the school focus on the 'Five Ways to Wellbeing'. Never has it been more important for the children and you to embrace this simple initiative.

Further information can be accessed from a variety of sources including Mind.org.uk.

Keep In Touch

Your child's class teacher will be talking with them about the online platforms available to them and will have spent time ensuring passwords are all working correctly. Should you require any additional support or have any questions during this potential period of closure then a member of staff will be manning the following email address:

consult@whitehill.herts.sch.uk

As far as possible, we will also try to access answerphone messages during this period.

In the event of a closure, we will continue to make use of the new webpage related to the coronavirus and update this with links and suggestions which may prove helpful beyond the home learning links.

Best wishes,

Steve Mills

Steve Mills
Headteacher

Anna Beresford

Anna Beresford
Deputy Head

Antonia McConnell Smith

Antonia McConnell Smith
Assistant Head - Inclusion

