

Whitehill Junior School

Head Teacher: Mr S Mills



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Dear Parents and Carers

Updated Information

Given the unprecedented times we find ourselves in, I am probably going to need to write to you more frequently than usual. This may also include correspondence over the summer break. Can I apologise for this but hope you appreciate the fact that as guidance is updated and in some cases changed, our plans for September will need to adapt accordingly. Should you need to contact the school over this period, please use our consult@whitehill.herts.sch.uk email address which will be monitored throughout the six-week break.

Since Tuesday's communication, there are a few more things to draw your attention to today.

Breakfast Club at Highbury Infants

Highbury Breakfast Club has decided that it will not be able to take pupils from Whitehill at the start of the Autumn Term, whilst Covid restrictions are in place. I have spoken to Mrs Avey about this and she assures me that as soon as guidance permits, they will expand the provision again to allow Whitehill pupils to attend.

In the short term, however, I need to find a solution to support Whitehill families who were going to be relying on this service in September. To this end, we will look to provide supervised cover **from 8.00am** each morning for those pupils who were already registered with breakfast club at Highbury. At 8.35am they will then move into their classes. We will not be able to provide breakfast for the pupils. I suspect that not all pupils who used to rely on the provision will need it initially but I would ask that if you think this is going to apply to your child, you email me using the consult@ address so I have a rough idea of numbers. I will need to set a limit to the number of pupils we can take each day. I will post further information in due course on the school website.

The School Day from September

I have previously mentioned how we are looking forward to welcoming back all our pupils full time from Wednesday 2nd September. We are currently working on what the school day will look like and looking at what adaptations will need to be made to facilitate this.

Our 'soft start' at Whitehill is an ideal way of staggering the arrival of pupils. It is likely we will extend the arrival window by a few minutes to facilitate an even smoother start but initially pupils should



plan to arrive in school from 8.35am and proceed straight to their classes. Staff will be on hand on the first day of term to ensure everyone knows where they are going.

I may need to stagger the school finish times but this will only be by a few minutes and of course, should you be a family who has to do the Highbury run first, we will keep your child safe until you arrive to collect them.


The other significant change for pupils will be the lack of whole school events initially, such as assemblies. I already have plans for virtual Achievers' Assembly as I feel this is an important part of school life.

Year 4 Residential

With the cancellation of the Year 4 trip to Overstrand in May, I reported that we were planning on taking them just before October half term (as Year 5s). Unfortunately, with the guidance as it stands, it is unlikely that this will happen and so we are working hard to try and get the trip rescheduled for later in the school year. For that reason, we won't be making any refunds at this stage and will be keeping our fingers crossed we can make this happen. Thank you for your understanding with this.

Thank you for all your support and for the continuous supply of cakes and biscuits which I can report never last too long.

Best wishes,



Steve Mills
Headteacher

