

Spring Term Update

25th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

With a day left before the end of the Spring Term, I thought I would touch base with you all and share a few bits of information, outside my usual weekly blog.

Thank you all for your incredible support throughout another atypical 12 weeks of school. After only one day we switched from on site to remote learning without missing a beat and as a result of everyone's hard work, learning continued for all. Since we opened our doors to all, three weeks ago, the school has been a hive of activity which started with our wonderful creative arts week.

Consultation Evenings

Thank you to those of you who were able to join your child's teacher for this term's virtual appointments. The teachers all feel they were very productive and enjoyed the opportunity to catch up and share the many successes since October. As I have mentioned previously, I do believe the virtual meeting is something which could remain in the future but perhaps with an additional opportunity to come into school to see the displays, classrooms and books that we aren't able to offer at present.

Residential Visits

I have chatted with many of you who have children in Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 about the planned visits during the week commencing 24th May. I still don't have the final confirmation one way or the other despite being told that we would know this week. Both centres have been in contact with us and we are keeping everything crossed. Thank you for your patience with this; whilst there is still a chance we can go, we will stay positive. There will be a time however, probably during the first week back after Easter, where I will have to make the final decision. If I hear anything over the break, I will share this with you.

Bikeability Course

The local authority team who manage and run the cycle training have been in touch with regards courses for the summer term. It was my intention to run a course for the Year 6 pupils who missed out last year, before they leave us for secondary school as well as one for the current Year 5s in order to get 'back in sync'. Regretfully, the team will only deliver training this academic year for Year 6 pupils who they are prioritising. I hope next year, when there is a little more time and capacity, we can run two courses, one for the current Year 5s (as Year 6s) and also for the new Year 5s. The date for the training next term is w/c 14th June and a letter will be coming home shortly.

School Field

With the onset of some better weather, it will be tempting for younger siblings to venture down to the play equipment and school field whilst waiting for Whitehill pupils to be dismissed at the end of the day. With the current Covid restrictions in place, I would ask parents do not allow this to happen and keep families together and socially distanced on the playground. Like you, I long for the time when you can make use of the space and facilities we have in the warm summer evenings but for now, I must ask you leave the site as soon as possible at the end of each day.

Thank you again for all your support. The last year has been quite a journey but I do feel the whole Whitehill community has navigated the twists and turns really well indeed and pupils are very well set for a productive summer term.

I hope you all manage to get a rest over the coming weeks and we will see you all on Monday 12th April.

Kind regards,

Steve Mills
Headteacher

Hertfordshire County Council has asked us to share this important update with you ahead of the Easter holidays:

As we go into the Easter holidays, and some Government guidance changes around socialising outside and outdoor sport, it's so important that we don't let our guard down and increase the risk of Covid-19 outbreaks when schools return.

From Monday 29 March, you can;

- Meet up outside (including in private gardens) with six other people, or as two households
- Take part in formally organised outdoor sports with any number of people (outdoor sports venues and facilities will be able to reopen)
- Childcare and supervised activities will be allowed outdoors for all children

You and your family can continue to keep yourselves and others safe by:

- Washing your hands regularly, for at least 20 seconds with soap and warm water or using an antibacterial hand sanitiser if soap and water isn't available
- Keeping socially distanced, staying at least 2 metres away from those not in your immediate household
- Wearing a face-covering where required and when it is difficult to socially distance
- Self-isolating and getting tested if you develop symptoms or receive a positive lateral flow test (LFT) result
- Not socialising indoors with anyone who isn't in your immediate household. You're not allowed to have sleepovers or playdates, even if your child is in a school bubble
- Not sending children back to school ill or with symptoms of Covid-19 after the Easter break – if your child is sick, please keep them at home

If your child is in year 7 or above and taking regular LFT, you should encourage them to continue to take these and report results as normal during the Easter holidays. If they receive a positive test at home, everyone in your household must begin self-isolating immediately and you need to book a PCR test to confirm the positive result. Any positive tests received up until 1 April, should be reported to your school so that they can complete the track and trace process with the Public Health team.

Babies and children in early years settings, nurseries, infant and primary schools should not be taking LFT, please don't do home tests on younger children. If you are worried about small children or they develop symptoms, please seek advice from your GP or call 111.

Thank you again for playing your part and helping to keep our schools safe and open for face to face learning.

We wish you all a safe and happy Easter.

Hertfordshire County Council