

Whitehill Junior School

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Dear Parents and Carers

Spring Term Update 5

I hope you all managed to have a pleasant half term break, despite the storms towards the end of the week. Fortunately, the school didn't suffer any damage, although as you may have seen, Goslings lost one tree which we have now had safely removed for them.

This week has been a hive of activity in school with pupils returning to Science and Computing week and there will be more about this in my blog tomorrow afternoon.

Covid-19 Operational Guidance

As you will be aware, from today, there has been a change in the guidance and operation expectations in relation to Covid for schools. The government are moving ahead with the next phase of their response in terms of 'living with' Covid in an attempt to further 'reduce the disruption to children's education'.

The legal requirement to isolate has now been lifted, although the government continue to advise people who test positive to stay at home for five days. Routine testing for staff and secondary aged pupils is no longer advised and indeed, tests (for the majority) will cease to be freely available from the end of March.

As such, and having reviewed the data across our school at present, I have taken the decision that from tomorrow, we will reintroduce our whole school assemblies. At lunchtimes, we will also relax the segregation and grouping which has been employed since September. Whitehill's sense of community is important and although I have enjoyed the blended assemblies, I can't wait to talk in person to everyone at the same time.

Of course, we will continue to review the data and be prepared to implement any or all aspects of our 'outbreak management plan' should we feel the need or should the Local Authority instruct us to. As always, you will be kept informed as and when decisions have to be made.

I will also be reviewing, with staff, our remote provision for pupils forced to isolate, which has been so successful over the last two years.

Consultation Evenings

In a few days' time, you will receive details relating to our Spring Term consultation evenings which will take place on the 29th and 30th March. We will continue to run these via video as this method has proved to be so successful over the last two years.



We do want to give you the opportunity to look at your child's books and see their classrooms however and so are hoping to hold an open afternoon from 2.00pm on Wednesday 23rd March. Here you will be invited in to look around the school, see the displays and visit the classrooms.

Again, details will come out in a timely manner but I wanted to give you early warning.

World Book Day

I tend not to write and tell you about things we are **not** doing but given the disruption over the last two years and to avoid any confusion for families with children at Highbury, I thought it best to confirm that we do not celebrate World Book Day as single event or by dressing up. We have long held the belief that a love of literature should be a daily occurrence and as such we celebrate and promote books all the time at Whitehill.

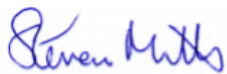
Children will still bring home the book token associated World Book Day and Mrs Vernon, our incredible librarian (amongst other things), has been planning a series of other fun activities for pupils to enjoy over the coming weeks.

Year 6 SATs

The government are going ahead with this year's statutory assessments for our Year 6 pupils. They will take place in the week beginning 9th May. It is our plan to hold a short information session for parents and carers in the coming weeks, to go through what is involved during this process. It goes without saying that the pupils will be ready for these tests whilst at the same time still enjoying a broad, balanced and exciting curriculum.

As always, thank you for your ongoing support of the school.

Best wishes,



Steve Mills
Headteacher

