



Newsletter 3

November 2020

After a busy eight week start to the school year both the children and staff were ready for a bit of rest and recuperation in the half-term holidays. I hope you managed to have some relaxation time too!

Our school community has adjusted to the changes that we have had to make due to Covid-19 and routines are running smoothly with minimal disruption to the children and their education. Many of the measures will continue this half-term with the exception that our Year 2 children will now move to eating their lunch in the hall which will enable the teaching staff to set up the classrooms for afternoon lessons.

Fortunately, we did not have to isolate any class bubbles last half-term and thankfully we had no positive cases amongst our school staff. Individual children have had to isolate and we have responded as quickly as possible to provide remote learning provision for these pupils. To support remote learning we have trialled sending homework on Tapestry (EYFS pupils) and See-Saw (KS1 pupils). We are grateful that you have embraced these new approaches and practised sending examples of your children's work back to the teachers.

If there are any changes to how schools will operate following the government announcement on Saturday about a second national lockdown I will write to you.

Please continue to report any suspected/confirmed cases to us via telephone or the school office email schooloffice@blackhorsehill-infant.wirral.sch.uk. Over the weekend this email will also be monitored if you have any Covid related matters to report.

Black History Month

During the month of October we focused our school "Zoom" assemblies on celebrating the lives of black men and women who have made significant contributions to our world. The children heard about the achievements of Rosa Parks, Mary Seacole and latterly black sporting heroes including Marcus Rashford.

Parent/Teacher Meetings

Although not our preferred method of communicating, we genuinely hope that you found our parent/teacher telephone consultations informative. As a school we want to continue to develop strong relationships with our parents/carers so please remember that our staff will make the time to speak to you about any concerns you have about your child whether it be their academic or personal development.



Curriculum Presentations

Our year group Curriculum presentations have now been finalised and have been placed on the school website. We have tried to provide as much detail as possible so that you understand how the curriculum is delivered in school.

Don't forget that the most important way you can support your child is by setting aside ten minutes each day to read with them. Numerous studies have shown that children who read often and widely achieve better in later life. We strongly recommend that the book that you read first should be the online Bug Club book because this links closely with our Letters and Sounds (Phonics) programme.



Individual Photographs

Academy Photography will be visiting school on Friday 6th November to take individual school photographs.

Children in Need



We will once again be supporting the charity Children in Need this year. Sadly, we won't be able to have our usual games organised by the Year 2 children in the hall or a cake sale. Instead we are asking that all children come to school dressed in something spotty on **Friday 13th November**. Donations for this worthwhile charity can be made via ParentPay.

The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

Another charity we will be supporting this half-term will be the Royal British legion. As is customary I will share with the children in our assembly the importance and significance of the poppy.



Each class will have their own selection of poppy-related items that they will sell as the children arrive in the morning. We will be asking for a donation for traditional paper poppies but there is a suggested cost for other items such as the snap band (£1.50), reflector poppy (50p), silicon wristband (50p) and zip pull (50p). These will be sold on a first come first served basis.

Poppies and related items will be on sale from Wednesday 4th November until Friday 6th November.

Prospective parents

Regrettably, we have been advised by the Local Authority Health and Safety team that under the current circumstances we are unable to show new parents/carers around our school. This is extremely disheartening because many parents do choose Black Horse Hill because of the lovely, friendly atmosphere they feel when they visit our school. In addition, our children do an amazing job of selling the school for us because they are so enthusiastic about their learning. To try to overcome this we had a virtual tour created over the half term holiday so prospective parents can take a look around. It is not quite the same but it is the best we can do under the current restrictions. If you know anyone looking for a school place for F1 or F2 in September 2021 do encourage them to take a look at the virtual tour which will soon be placed on the website.

PE Days

This half term PE days for each class will be as follows so please can children come dressed in their kit.

F2 BE-Tuesday

F2SLP-Wednesday

1CY- Thursday

1DH-Monday

2TM- Friday

2EA-Friday

However Year 2 children should come dressed in their uniform on Friday 6th November for their school photograph.

PE days have changed for some classes/year groups because the teachers are receiving specialist PE training which takes place on a Friday. Each year group will get the opportunity to work with the specialist coach.

Christmas plans

It is only November I hear you cry! We have started to think about our plans for Christmas this year. Disappointingly, there is a strong likelihood that we will not be able to invite you into school to watch your children perform a Christmas Nativity/Play. Nonetheless we do plan to make sure that there is plenty of Christmas cheer in school and I will keep you informed a bit nearer the time of our plans.

Diary Dates

November

Friday 6th – Individual School Photographs

Friday 13th- Children in Need Event (Wear something spotty!)

Tues 17th- Flu Immunisations F2, Yr1, Yr2

Thurs 19th- Full Governing Body Meeting

W/c 23rd – Year 2 Phonic Screening check

December

Fri 11th- Christmas Jumper Day

Thurs 17th Party day (non-uniform)

Fri 18th Finish for Christmas (non-uniform)

January

Mon 4th- Staff Development Day (closed for children)

Tues 5th – Children return to school

Yours sincerely,

Julie Morris