



Newsletter March 2021

Tuesday 23rd March 2021

It has been wonderful having all of our children back in school. Most of the children have settled quickly into school routines and are enjoying once again being with their friends and teachers. Our teachers/teaching assistants are relieved that face to face teaching has resumed and they don't have to make any more videos for the time being!

Restoring positive relationships in school has been a priority over the past few weeks. We recognise that to continue to make strides in their learning children have to feel safe, confident and happy. We have used assembly ideas and resources from the children's mental health charity Place2Be which focuses upon important themes such as self-efficacy, hope, gratitude and connectedness.

We have concentrated on revisiting and consolidating learning from the last term in lessons over the past few weeks. Teachers have assessed children informally in lessons to establish the next steps for each child. This will be communicated to you in parent/teacher meetings this week. A key message for our parents/carers will be to continue to support your child's reading. Without a doubt, being able to read and having a wide range of vocabulary is paramount to a child's future success.

As we return to school after the Easter break we hope that further normality will resume and we can offer more extra-curricular activities and clubs.

Remote Learning Survey

Since the last full lockdown in March 2020 we feel that our remote learning offer has improved significantly. Our revised remote learning offer was very much shaped from the comments that we received in our last survey. We have received informal feedback but now that the children are settled back into school, I would be grateful if you would take the time to complete our latest survey. Responses will be reviewed and used to further improve what we offer for remote learning if (let's hope not) we have another full lockdown.

Covid News

Following our full return to school we have had no positive cases in school. Thank you to all our parents who are acting quickly if their child has any symptoms.

We are still currently using the wider symptoms list. Primary age children with any symptoms (including the wider symptoms) should be booked into a symptomatic test centre

for a test. **Parents should NOT use a LFD test that they have obtained from other sources on a primary age child. They must take them to a test site for a PCR test.**

Changes to operating hours at Wirral's symptoms-only testing centres

Symptoms-only testing centres at Birkenhead, Bebington, Liscard and Heswall will now operate at the following times every day:

- 8am to 12 noon - available to anyone with symptoms to get tested. You can walk-in or book at www.wirral.gov.uk/test
- 12noon to 1.30pm - CLOSED
- 1.30pm to 7pm - collection point for symptom-free home testing kits only

Wider access to lateral flow tests is being provided.

If you're a member of a household, childcare bubble or support bubble of staff or a pupil you can get a twice-weekly test:

- through your employer if they offer testing to employees
- at a local test site
- by collecting a home test kit from a test site
- by ordering a home test kit online More details on testing including how to order tests can be found here. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff>

Thank you to all our parents/carers who are adhering to our school covid procedures such as wearing a face mask, keeping two metres apart and following our one way system. It is disappointing that a few members of our community are disregarding these measures and putting other people at risk.

Track and Trace in the Easter holidays

The Department for Education has asked that for the first few days of the holidays we remain contactable so we can assist with contact tracing where necessary. This will allow enough time for positive coronavirus cases to be identified and confirmed by a test and for relevant school contacts in school to be identified.

1. Where a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (Covid-19), having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in school, the school should not be contacted. Parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.
2. For the first 6 days after teaching ends, if a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (Covid-19), having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school, the school is asked to assist in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation, as the individual may have been infectious whilst in school.

Day	Develop Symptoms	Action	Further action
Saturday	Yes	Get tested	If test is positive- email school.
Sunday	Yes	Get tested	If test is positive- email school.
Monday-Thursday	Yes	Get tested	Even if positive, no need to email school because child has not been in school for 48hrs.

Please inform school by using the following email address:

covid@blackhorsehill-infant.wirral.sch.uk

If your child needs to self-isolate we will notify you by text or by a telephone call.

F2 Outdoor Learning Area

We are delighted with the new outdoor trim trail in our Foundation 2 area. Schools receive money for sports and physical development and this was used to fund the project. With a little more work we hope that the children will be able to use the area after the Easter break. Exciting!



Ofsted Update

It is hard to believe that we had our Ofsted visit over a year ago. The pandemic has certainly disrupted some of our plans, but continuing to improve and address the areas for improvements are never far from our mind. Curriculum development is progressing well and we are proud of the innovations we have made across the different subjects. Further work will take place in this area in the summer term with our subject leaders reviewing more formally their subject area.

Staff have also received training from the English Hub on phonics and reading this term. Much of the training demonstrated that we have effective practices in place, but we also gained new strategies and models of reading provision that we can use to make teaching and learning in this area better. In addition to improving our teaching and learning we will also update our phonics and reading policy.

Through our curriculum, assemblies, resources and stories we continue to develop the children's understanding of diversity and different faiths. Children in year 1 have been finding out about Islam this term in their RE lessons. Through the sharing of the Ugly

After the holidays the focus will shift to Maths and we have training scheduled from the Maths Hub.

During the lockdown period we were absolutely delighted to receive a donation of £100 from a generous couple in Caldby. The couple who wish to remain anonymous wanted to support and help some of our disadvantaged pupils to continue learning. We will use their money to put towards an iPad that can be loaned out. A big thank you to them!

We have a new Local Authority Governor, Barbara Kirby-Johnston. Barbara is a retired primary school teacher. She moved back to Wirral in 2019 and is looking for something intellectual to stimulate her in her retirement. She has worked in primary schools in Wirral, Liverpool and Knowsley. She has no links to our school but has been a governor before and is really keen to come on board. She has a lot of time on her hands and it is felt she will be a real asset to our governing body.

Out of School Club

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Staff Development days 2021-22

Wednesday 1st September 2021

Monday 1st November 2021

Tuesday 4th January 2022

Monday 28th February 2022

Monday 6th June 2022

Diary Dates

Friday 26th March - Easter Bonnet Parade and Non Uniform day

Monday 12th April - Children return to school for the start of the summer term

Monday 3rd May - Bank Holiday

Friday 28th May - Children finish for half-term

Monday 7th June - Staff Development day

Tuesday 8th June - Children return to school

Friends of Black Horse Hill Schools

Thank you to Martina, Amy and the team who have continued to raise money for the school throughout lockdown. We are looking forward to seeing the Easter bonnets on Friday. Watch out for a photo competition that is taking place over the Easter break too!

Have a wonderful Easter break!

Yours sincerely,

Julie Morris

Headteacher

