

Monday 13th July 2020

Newsletter July 2020

At the beginning of this school year, one of our school priorities was to focus on developing our children's vocabulary; little did I know that as a result of the coronavirus the children would be learning new words such as pandemic, virus, social distancing, lockdown, keyworkers and shielding! Nor could anyone predict that the majority of our children would be accessing the curriculum from home. It has been a truly unique year and we have represented this time in a special display in the school entrance hall.



So as the academic year draws to a close I would like to express my sincere gratitude to our whole school community for being so supportive during a period of such uncertainty. Our Black Horse Hill family have truly pulled together to support each other. THANK YOU! We are now all in need of a well-deserved rest over the holidays and I would therefore like to remind parents/carers that school is closed to all children and families over the holidays and we will not be providing home-learning.

At the time of writing there has been some further guidance from the government which sets out a range of measures to protect children and staff. I will now communicate what this means for our school for September.

September 2020

From September it will be mandatory for all children to be in school. Children should return to school wearing school uniform.

Year 1 and Year 2 Children should return to school on **Wednesday 2nd September**. Foundation Stage pupils (Nursery and Reception) will receive a separate letter outlining their dates for transition into school. Other calendar dates for the school year will be placed on the school website in September.

Children will remain in bubbles, but the size of the bubbles can now increase to include all children in a class. There is still a requirement for children to remain in their bubbles and we have been asked to continue to avoid large gatherings and using shared rooms such as the hall. This means we will have to be quite creative delivering assemblies and children will continue to have their lunch in classrooms. For this reason we will only be able to provide a packed lunch for children but we will be able to enjoy fish and chips on a Friday!

Our school risk assessment will be reviewed in light of the new guidance and we will make sure school is as safe as it can be for our children returning in September.

There is still a requirement to stagger school start and finish times to avoid large gatherings of adults in the playground and you will find further details about this later in my newsletter.

Of course, we have also given considerable consideration to how we will continue to deliver learning. We are aware that some children may not have accessed home-learning during lockdown for many reasons whilst other children may have been doing a great deal. Consequently, we will focus during the first two weeks of the new academic year on children's emotional well-being, identifying knowledge gaps and adjusting our curriculum to re-establish good progress.

Staffing for 2020/21

I am delighted to inform you that we have appointed two new teachers, Mrs Elizabeth Astbury and Mr Daniel Hamm for September. They will both join our KS1 team. Mrs McLeod will not have her own class so she will be supporting learning across the school and fulfilling leadership tasks.

We recognise that some children have not had the opportunity to meet their new class teacher so each teacher will be recording a short video which will be placed on the school website this week.

Year group	Teacher	Teaching Assistant
Foundation 1	Mrs Honeybourne	Mrs Boardman
Foundation 2	Mrs Lucan	Mrs Barnes
	Mrs Bancroft	Mrs Peddie
Year 1	Mr Young	Mrs Myers
	Mr Hamm	Mrs Underwood
Year 2	Miss Murphy	Mrs Thompson
	Mrs Astbury	Mrs Gill Miss Cross*

** Miss Cross is our school Learning Mentor and she will continue to support children across the school.*

New classes

Current Class	New class in September	School start time	School finish time
Mrs Bancroft F2BE	Mr Hamm 1DH	8.50am (Yr1 door)	3.10pm (Yr1 door)
Mrs Lucan F2SL	Mr Young 1CY	8.40am (Yr1 door)	3pm (Yr1 door)
Mr Young 1CY	Mrs Astbury 2EA	8.50am (Yr2 door)	3.10pm (Yr2 door)
Mrs McLeod 1McL	Miss Murphy 2TM	8.40am (Yr2 door)	3pm (Yr2 door)

It is important that these times are adhered to. Although it will be exciting for children to be back at school please try not to arrive early as we need to avoid large groups of people in the school playground.

Out of School Club Provision

Government guidance also states that before and after school care can now resume. We will therefore be able to offer before and after school club care for our pupils and pupils at our Junior School from Monday 7th September. If you require provision please contact Mrs Harris in the school office via email – schooloffice@blackhorsehill-infant.wirral.sch.uk and the relevant information will be emailed out to you.

Summer Reading Challenge

Please try to continue to read with your child over the summer holidays. Reading for five-ten minutes every day will make a huge difference. Perhaps you could look at some of your child's favourite books in their school Bug Club account or you might like to join the summer reading challenge which is run by local libraries. This year the reading challenge is called Silly Squad. In September the children who have read six or more books during the holidays are awarded a certificate and medal. For more information pop into the library or visit www.summerreadingchallenge.org.uk. It is completely free!

Parent Pay

We are going cashless from September and will be using a company called 'Parent Pay' to enable parents to make online payments. A separate letter together with log-in details will be sent out under separate cover.

Finally, I would like to wish all our fabulous Year 2 children the very best of luck as they move to the Junior School. They have been a fabulous year group and we will miss them very much. Good luck to Mrs Fitzgerald in her new job - make sure you come back and visit us!

I hope you all have a wonderful summer and I look forward to seeing you in September!

Yours sincerely,

Julie Morris