



Newsletter



No. 25

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Dear Parents / Carers,

What a strange and surreal time we find ourselves! I never for one moment thought I'd be writing a newsletter to confirm our school closure in circumstances such as these. However, it is official and it is happening!

Despite the sadness and uncertainty that we all feel, as a school we are absolutely determined to still be a consistent and constant support for you and your children. We are therefore going to achieve this by various planned means. One of which is the continued communication with you all through this weekly newsletter. We will ensure that this is available through the normal means - Facebook, website and email each Friday.



However, we will in part be reliant on you all for much of its content. Therefore I ask that parents and children capture through photos amazing things they have done at home - this can be any home learning in the form of the tasks school has set or independent learning children have chosen for themselves. These photos with a short description can be sent to my email, Ellison.d@welearn365.com. Each week I will then select the best efforts for a weekly achievement award. This will then appear on the newsletter and a certificate will be emailed to your child.



I also ask for you to nominate your children for 'Acts of Kindness'. If your child does something helpful at home or in the community, please let me know. Again these will appear on the newsletter and certificates will be sent home.

You can also send other photos of any fun things children are doing or just photos of special family time to fill the middle pages of the newsletter. These pages will help to keep children in touch with one another and provide a lovely sense of community. The teachers are also encouraged to send their photos of what they are doing, with suggestions of other fun activities for children to enjoy.

All photos and email messages for each week's newsletter need to be received by the Thursday morning to appear in that same week's newsletter. We hope you agree that this will be a positive and celebratory way of keeping us connected.

I want to thank our amazing children and families this week for their calm, sensible and supportive approach to what we are facing. This has made a challenging week so much easier to deal with. We are so grateful to each and every one of you for this. Despite the sadness of the situation, what is so abundantly clear is our school community is a strong, kind and special one. Our staff and I continue to feel honoured, proud and blessed to be part of such a wonderful school - thank you.

I want to give special thanks to our staff too. Despite their own uncertainty, they are steadfast in their commitment to your children. They will continue to selflessly service our community in any way that is required, and despite their own sadness they have supported your children with love and the utmost serenity and professionalism this week. I am so proud to have such a wonderful team and so grateful to work with such amazing people.

We will be providing further guidance through this newsletter, letters, texts, emails and the school website of all the other measures being taken to support you and your families.

Please keep in touch, please stay safe and please remember we are here for you all.

God bless and see you all soon.

With love
Mrs Ellison and the Whitnash Team

Important Letters

There are two important letters which you should have received.
You can see the full content on your child's class page.



Government guidance is for all children to be kept away from schools and early years settings unless a parent meets one of the following criteria. Schools will challenge the parents of any child who attends if they are not defined as eligible to do so and will not provide them with provision.

That one of their parents is defined as a key worker according to government guidance. Government guidance is also that parents who are defined as key workers should only send their children to school if they do not have a safe alternative. The list of those whose work is regarded as critical to the COVID-19 response can be found [here](#):

That the child is classed as being 'vulnerable', including those who are supported by social care, those with safeguarding and welfare needs, including child in need plans, on child protection plans, 'looked after' children, young carers, disabled children and those with an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP).

Due to the school closure for the majority of our pupils, we have made alternative arrangements for learning over the forthcoming weeks. This letter intends to summarise this provision, and we are hoping that you will find this supportive.

We are sending home a new work book and pencil for all children to allow them to complete the work that the school will be setting. We encourage children to take pride in this book and endeavour to ensure that their work is neatly presented using the date, title and cursive handwriting (where children are able) expected normally in school.



Working at Home

Please click on your child's class which will take you to the class page. Here you will find work your child can do at home.

Holly & Ivy
Hazel & Hawthorn
Pine
Maple & Sycamore
Juniper
Ash
Oak

Work is being set via a series of Homework Menus, very similar to what children are already used to. These Menus are being sent home in their work books and are available on the school website.

All work for your children can be found and accessed via the 'Class Pages' tab of the website. Your child can then access their relevant class. E.g. Hazel, Pine etc.

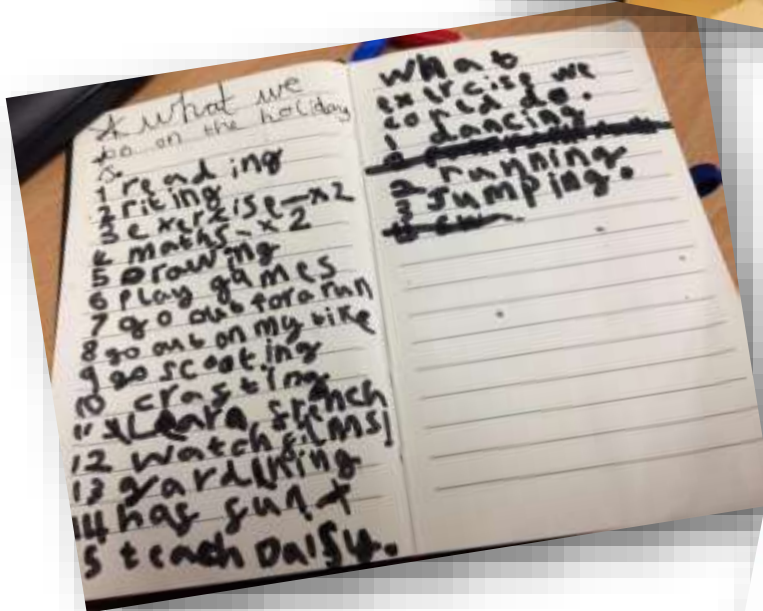
If there is anything you would like to see on the website that you think would help your child with their home learning please email:
hall.j3@welearn365.com

Thank you for your continued support.

Operation Homework!

There was a military style operation taking place at Whitnash Primary School today, to get work packs to those children who have not been at school this week. They were took by hand to their houses.

Thank you to our dedicated staff!



This is what James from Reception will be doing!

Thanks for inspiring us James and please let us know how many of these things you do. You can send us photos too.

hall.j3@welearn365.com

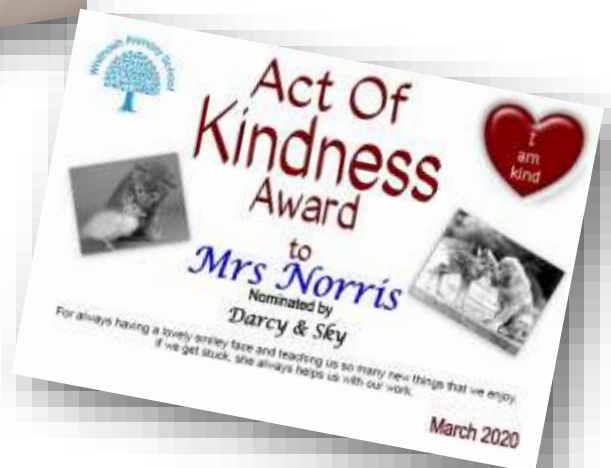
This space is for you!

Don't forget to send in your nominations for acts of kindness and your photos. We want to hear about what you are getting up to.

Help a neighbour!

Look after each other!

Stay safe!



A certificate has been sent to Mrs Norris.





Reduced Foodbank Operations

Foodbank operations are running a reduced service due to measures put in place to slow the spread of Coronavirus.

Opening hours

Wednesdays

1-3pm @ St Mary's Church, Leamington Spa

Thursdays

1-3pm @ St Paul's Church, Leamington Spa

Fridays

11am-1pm @ The Westbury Centre, Leamington Spa

Fridays

1-3pm @ Saltisford Church, Warwick.

The satellite centers at Whitnash, Lillington and Kenilworth will be temporarily closed.

A message from Own Books



"We are going to organize some distribution points for Own Books, such as food banks and supermarkets where Own Books will be available to be taken for free. All our books are sanitized and wiped."

We are looking to distribute in areas of Coventry, Leamington, Warwick, Alcester and Stratford at the moment and will post on our Own Books Facebook page and Instagram where they will be.

We wish you wellness and safety and happy reading at home. Stay safe.

With every best wish from Julie De Bastion and the Own Books Team

www.ownbooks.co.uk
ownbooksforchildren@gmail.com
07816382593

COVID-19 Novel Coronavirus—20.03.20

Remember there are six key actions identified as part of the current approach:

1. Washing hands regularly with soap and water is one of the best ways to prevent spread of the infection, and making sure we clean surfaces that are regularly touched with detergents and chlorine based disinfectants.
2. Whole household isolation if someone in the household develops COVID-19 symptoms.
3. Stopping all unnecessary social contact with others and unnecessary travel - this advice is particularly important for people with certain health conditions, people over the age of 70 and pregnant women.
4. Those with the most serious health conditions will be contacted directly on Monday 23rd March about further restrictions, likely to be put in place for around 12 weeks.
5. Advice against mass gatherings, as part of reducing social contact, but also ensuring critical workers can be used instead to support COVID-19 work.
6. School closure with the exception of school provision being made for "key workers" and vulnerable children. Meals and vouchers will be provided for children who usually have free school meals.