



Newsletter

No. 16

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8th January 2021

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Dear Parents / Carers,

Many thanks to you all for bearing with us during this difficult week. As you can appreciate, our school found out about the national lockdown at the same time as you did on Monday evening. Luckily, we were quite prepared with work on the website anticipating the likelihood of some children being off for isolation. However, we are conscious that school is expected to provide the opportunity for 3-4 hours of learning per day, we will of course be adding to this material ready for when it is required.

For some, I know that this is all feeling very over-whelming. We have put information about home learning together which meets our legal duty but have underlined the point that it needs to fit round families own situations! Many families will and can engage. However, for others, for many complex reasons, it is more challenging. We are here to support and are realistic about how this will be and that some children/families will struggle. We will not be insisting on any 'one-size fits all' expectation but will work with families to help with their circumstances.

We have suggested the number of hours as this has come from central government. Whilst the recommendations are the ideal, life is far from ideal at the moment!! Just do what you can and try not to panic. We will be here to respond to individual circumstances and offer our ongoing support and assistance. Please continue to email ellison.d@welearn365.com for any help or technical issues.

Please utilise the administration email for your child's class to send us their completed work. All work should be sent in by midday on Friday. The documentation sent out earlier this week specifies how much work we are expecting to receive. Teachers will then offer written feedback to pupil's individually via a feedback sheet. This will be sent back to parents via the class administration email by close of the following Monday. This email is for administrative purposes only, so teachers will only be offering feedback via the feedback sheet. If you have any specific issues that require addressing, please continue to email ellison.d@welearn365.com, and as per our last lockdown I will be working to ensure you receive a swift response to your enquiries

We understand face-to-face contact with your child's class teacher is going to be really useful for keeping pupils motivated, for keeping in touch and for giving feedback on previous work. Therefore, in amendment to our previous message on this matter, we will be offering parents the option of requesting telephone contact or an online meeting, much the same way as the recent Parent Consultations, moving forward. This is something the school is busy working on, and further information will be coming to parents shortly about this. We will be facilitating such contact broadly every 10 days from week beginning 18th January 2021. In the meantime, all parents will be contacted by the class teacher via telephone to check on how things are going for you all.

We will also be ensuring that teachers are including video clips at the start of each fortnight to introduce the work set on the website. Alongside these, teachers will also occasionally include some videos e.g., story sessions as appropriate. Staff and I will also continue to be visible to you all in the various video messages and fun activities we post on our Facebook page. You don't need to be on Facebook to access, you can still view content on the homepage of website.

I have been asked by some parents about the distribution of IT equipment. Prior to this school closure, schools were allocated a small number of laptops that could be claimed in the event of large bubble closure. Our school were allocated 6 laptops by the government but were not able to claim this allocation due to us being successful in containing and controlling the virus e.g., our school ensured that we did not have to close a whole class/year group in the event of a positive COVID test.

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Since the mass closure of schools has been announced again, the government issued more information about how schools could apply for technology to support families. The school is currently trying to navigate this information and find out exactly what we are entitled to claim. Please bear with us, and please understand the issues are complex. Bandwidth, the lack of devices in a home, no access to a device at all, and varying parental confidence with IT has all got to be taken into consideration, so there is not a straightforward solution. Please also bear in mind, that there is often a delay with what is announced in parliament and the reality on the ground!

Considering these issues, and in line with what the school's current duties are, we are offering a 'Remote and Blending Learning' approach which is deliberately designed for all children, regardless of their home circumstances. There is a clear and evident balance between online learning and learning that can be undertaken without the use of the internet.

Finally, today I want to express our deepest regret regarding the situation our country finds itself in. We are saddened that we are not able to keep our doors open to all pupils. However, as always we will do our very best to support you all, whilst keeping our staff and community safe.

We wish you all a safe and happy first lockdown weekend!

Mrs Ellison
Headteacher

Word Count

Class	TOTAL	Words read this week
Hazel	5,080	+1,715
Pine	193,425	+12,455
Cedar	103,527	+15,727
Maple	399,768	+0
Juniper	2,615,218	+185,499
Chestnut	1,965,646	+163,072
Ash	5,249,071	+223,835
Oak	3,794,655	+302,829
TOTAL	14,330,077	908,819

Having no internet was the reason Maple did not score during the week - but lots of reading was going on!

So, the winners are....**OAK!** A fantastic total, well done!



Whitnash Has TALENT



Well done everyone. We have now totalled up the money and you all raised

£160.60

for Children in need.

For those of you who entered, we hope you all had a great time. We certainly loved watching all the wonderful talent we have at Whitnash Primary School.

Not only did we have fun, but we raised money for such a deserving cause.

Fun in the Snow!



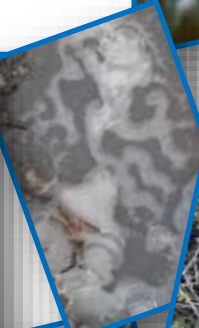
Wonky chilling snowman
made by Denis!



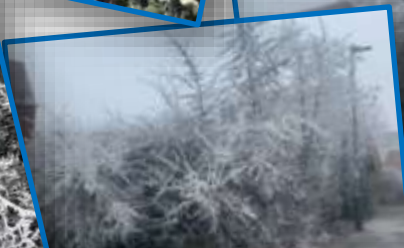
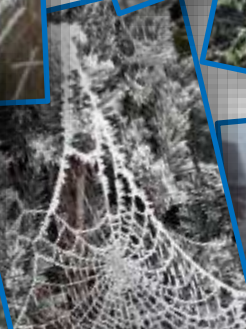
Cool Pictures!



Snow and frost pictures from Lillie and Bowie



Darcy and Reagan have been exploring and photographing the winter wonderland.



As well as fun in the snow, there has been hard work done at home too!



Holidays 2020/21	
26.10.20 - 30.10.20	Half Term
21.12.20 - 01.01.21	Christmas Holiday
15.02.21 - 19.02.21	Half Term
02.04.21 - 16.04.21	Easter Holiday
03.05.21	May Day
31.05.21 - 04.06.21	Half Term
20.07.21	Summer Holidays

INSET DAYS

Monday 22nd February 2021

Wednesday 21st July 2021

Change of Contact Details

Please can you let the office know immediately if you change any emergency contact numbers or email addresses.

If you do change your email address, please do not forget to change it on Parent Pay as our system does not update the Parent Pay system.



Many thanks



Lunch Menu - Week 2 - 11 January 2021

Monday

(v) Cheese Soft Bap

Chicken Fillet Wrap

(v) Jacket Potato with Cheese

Flapjack
Fresh Fruit
Juice Carton

Tuesday

Roast Chicken Wrap

Hot Dog

(v) Veggie Hot Dog
(for vegetarians only)
(v) Jacket Potato with Cheese

Homemade Sponge
Fresh Fruit
Milkshake

Wednesday

Ham Soft Bap

Beef burger in a Bap
(v) Veggie Fingers in a Bap
(for vegetarians only)
(v) Jacket Potato with Cheese

Ice Cream Tub
Juice Carton

Thursday

Tuna Mayo Sandwich

(v) Pizza & Wedges

(v) Jacket Potato with Cheese

Chocolate Shortbread
Fresh Fruit
Milkshake

Fishy Friday

(v) Quorn Nuggets

Breaded Fish Fillet
Chips & Veg Sticks

(v) Jacket Potato with Cheese

Dinky Doughnuts
Juice Carton

All deli bags are served with either vegetable sticks or salad. Ketchup is offered with the hot bap of the day.

Please note that the colour of meal is the colour that is ordered with the kitchen.
Any vegetarian dishes are display with a (v)