

WHITLEY MEMORIAL C of E AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOL



Gordon Terrace Bedlington Northumberland NE22 5DE

Tel: 01670 822994

Email: admin@whitley.northumberland.sch.uk

Acting Headteacher – Mrs Claire Gray

'Let your light shine' – Matthew 5:16

Our Current Core Value: Courage

Dear Whitley Family,

So here it is, Friday again and another newsletter. This week came the announcement from the Government that schools will not be returning until March 8th at the earliest, and that Remote Learning would continue. Here at The Whitley, we all want to have the children back in school as soon as it is safe to do so as we miss the children so much. We also really appreciate and understand the difficulties that you must be finding. It is so important that we don't put pressure on ourselves at this very difficult time and next week we are having a Mental Health week to try and help us all to deal with the current situation.

Remote Learning/ children at home

I would like to begin by saying what a wonderful job that you are all doing at home and how we totally appreciate the pressures that you must all be feeling. My daughter is now all grown up, so I am fortunate not to have to experience what you are all going through but I do remember the pressures and anxieties of doing homework tasks at home when she was younger and that was only a couple of times a week with one child. I can only imagine what it must be like for you doing this full time with one or more children whilst trying to do your own work at home. Our children are so precious to us and we always want to do the best for them but I always remember my midwife saying to me that whatever you do for your child you will always feel that you are not doing enough. So, I implore you to never think that you are letting your children down if you don't finish those five pieces of maths work a week, or don't have the resources to make that 3D Spaceship etc. It is more important that you focus on what you have achieved. Learning can be done in so many different ways; when your child is going on a walk and observing nature, they are learning, when they are helping to cook the tea, they are learning. Being at home is an invaluable time for children to develop the life skills that they sometimes miss out on and to spend quality time with you. Home Learning is important but there needs to be a balance.

I never want anyone to feel that they are getting behind and need to catch-up or to spend their weekends working on school work when families should be having fun and spending quality time together.

So, please remember that you are all doing a great job and that you should be kind to yourselves. Remember that we are always here if you need any help and support or just for a chat.

Mental Health Week

Next week is National Mental Health week and we feel that it is really important that we plan work associated with this. Please watch our Facebook page as Mrs Robertson will be posting reminders on there.

Wednesday is going to be 'No Screen' day both in school and for Remote Learning. We feel that it is important that the children and you have time when the children just do practical activities that get them away from using technology. The teachers will also be sending out Remote Learning activities for every afternoon which are fun and can mainly be done off screen. We want everyone to try and relax this week and to develop the 'whole child' through a more holistic approach.

On Friday, we will be having a non-uniform day; Dress to Express. This is a chance for all the children, whether in school or not, to wear clothing that expresses them and makes them feel comfortable and happy. Maybe we will also see some cool hairstyles. I bet Mrs Robertson will be wearing a pair of her unique shoes. Please upload photos onto your home learning platforms so that we can share them with others.

Children in School

To keep everyone as safe as possible the DFE states: 'Parents and Carers should keep their children at home if they can.' This reduces the numbers in school and therefore reduces the risk for both children and staff.

The Brightsiders

The clever folk at Leading Link, the people who organised Remotely Christmas, have come up with yet another great idea, The Brightsiders. It sounds like a lot of fun and worth tuning into. For more information: the promo link <https://youtu.be/3r0bJYMsg4I> The first episode will be on YouTube on Tuesday 2nd Feb at 1pm and has been filmed at Northumberland Zoo. Find it on YouTube on 2nd Feb <https://www.youtube.com/user/leadinglink11> and click on 'The Brightsiders Episode 1'. (NB It won't be up until 1pm on Tuesday when it will be published). Thereafter re-visit every Tuesday and Thursday for the next episodes.

Take care and keep safe.

Mrs Gray

