

CONTACT

The Newsletter for Whimble Primary School

Issue 1-21

8.01.21

Happy New Year everybody!

I hope you have all managed to have a good Christmas.

I am not sure we expected to be in lockdown with school closed as we were about to start a new term. However, you only need to watch the news to see why at present it is necessary.

As I have had to send out a number of emails in quick succession this week, I thought I would place a summary in this newsletter for ease of reference to support you at home.

School continues to be open full time to our vulnerable children and children of our keyworkers. The breakfast and after school clubs continue to run in school for those parents who require extended hours.

Children have been placed into 4 classes of approximately 10 children forming two bubbles.

Elm Class and Ash Class - Reception/Key Stage 1 bubble

Beech Class (Year 3 and 4) and Willow Class (Year 5 and 6) - Key Stage 2 bubble

Cooked meals are still available to order in the usual way on School Comms.

We currently are not having our usual fruit delivery for our younger children so parents have been asked to provide an extra snack for the afternoon.

One of the 'perks' of older buildings is that they already have reasonable ventilation, however, we continue to open doors and windows periodically to ensure good air flow, (lots of thermals are being worn at the moment!)

Just before Christmas we purchased Collins ebooks and Doodle Maths to support children both at home and school. We have managed to set all children up on the system and logins have been emailed out to each family along with the logins for all other sites we use, Purple Mash, Google Classroom, eSchools, TT Rockstars, etc

Children in school will be following the home learning tasks - maths and English in the morning, with another subject in the afternoon, this could be PE, computing, art, science, geography, history, PSHE, RE, music or design technology. They will also be using the online sites to supplement this too.



Home Learning

You are doing an amazing job! Give yourself a pat on the back or a high five!

There are so many things to sort out in order to support your child at home - even if you have only sorted access to one site, you have achieved something and are on the right track.

There is an expectation of around 3 hours home learning per day. Short sessions of approximately half an hour usually work best with breaks in between.

Teachers will be available to support children with queries between 8.30am and 5pm.



Please remember responses will not be immediate as all teachers are also teaching in class everyday.

Feedback to work may be given in the evening as that would be when teachers are usually marking work and they fit that around their own arrangements at home.

Children in Key Stage 2 are using Google Classroom to set work. A minimum of three activities will be set with just one of them needing to be submitted for marking. This will be made clear in the daily task list.

KS2 teachers have set up the 'Chat' function where children can use the private comment box to send a direct message to their teacher.

Children in Key Stage 1 and Reception are using ESchools Class page to set work and you will find a number of activities for them to complete. Any additional activities will be placed on the 'My Class' section. Please upload a minimum of two items per week. Parents of children in reception can continue to use Tapestry as the teachers are able to comment on there as well.

Children in year 1 and 2 can also practise logging into Google Classroom as this has been used in computing lessons for the past term. This may also be another way of submitting items in the future but we are trying to do things gradually and prevent both teachers and parents from being too overwhelmed at this point.

Google Meets

After initial contact today children will be placed into small groups for regular Google meets. There will be one per week set up that your child is expected to attend. This will enable teachers to talk through things and sort any issues that may arise. In Key Stage 2 this will be within the classwork section and in Key Stage 1 it will be on eSchools.

Other meets will be set up across the week and these are optional as we appreciate everyone is trying to juggle a lot of things. I am also hoping to deliver some sort of assembly for all children to join. More information on these to follow.

The BBC are also adding lessons on the TV from Monday for any extra ideas.

Support

For a whole variety of support and updates please look at our website for information:

<https://whimble-primary.eschools.co.uk/website/parents/266488>

Term dates for the school year 2021 - 2022 have been finalised and are as follows:

AUTUMN TERM 2021

8th September to 17th December 2021

Half term - 25th to 29th October 2021

SPRING TERM 2022

5th January to 8th April 2022

Half term - 21st to 25th February 2021

SUMMER TERM 2022

25th April to 26th July 2022

May Day holiday - 2nd May 2022

Half term - 30th May to 3rd June 2022

Non-pupil days (i.e. staff only): 6th and 7th September, 1st November 2021, 4th January, 6th June 2022

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