



Monday 20th April 2020

Newsletter April 2020



Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you and your families are all safe and well. It has certainly been a very strange couple of weeks for us all coping with new and unusual changes to our daily lives. Thankfully, the weather has been kind, allowing us to get outside into the garden.

Although different, many parents/carers have informed us that they have started to settle into new routines at home with their children and that key to having a successful day has been to have structured routines and time set aside for exercise, learning and relaxation throughout the day. It is important to remember that during a typical school day, your child's teacher splits their time between up to 30 pupils, whereas at home, they have your undivided attention, and fewer distractions. In this one-to-one situation, far more learning can take place in half an hour than could possibly be achieved in a busy classroom at school – even if you're not an expert home educator. Ultimately you know your child best and can recognise when it is the best time to build in learning time but do try to ensure that your child is reading every day.

School has remained open (even during the Easter holidays) since the beginning of the lockdown to care for the children of our Key Worker families. A massive thank you for all that our Key Worker parents/carers are doing for us during this pandemic. The children of our Key Worker families have coped remarkably well in school and have adjusted to being in school where the provision is quite different. For the children and the staff (who are working on a rota system) it is very peculiar being in school and we miss the lovely buzz and interactions that we have normally in school. We do miss you all!

Today marks the beginning of the summer term at school and with another three weeks of lockdown ahead of us I wanted to let you know how we will continue to communicate and set home learning tasks over the coming weeks.

Home Learning

Our home learning for each year group will be placed on our school website www.blackhorsehillinfant.co.uk under the section Coronavirus Home Learning Tab. The teachers have placed an overview of the learning that is planned for the summer term on there so you can see the topics and areas that were planned to be covered this term in each area of the curriculum.

In addition, the teaching staff will add learning in two week blocks for the children. Learning will be posted on the website today and then again on Monday 4th May. The home learning will include reading, writing, phonics, maths, science and ideas to complete for the wider curriculum such as geography, history and computing. Teachers have also added a project which may take you longer than the two weeks to complete. We have tried to offer a range of learning opportunities because

we understand that not every family will be able to print off worksheets. Do remember to access your child's Bug Club account as new texts will be allocated.

Please do not let having no paper, exercise books or writing materials be a barrier to completing home learning. We have a small stock in school which we can provide to families who are struggling with this aspect of home learning. We may even be able to loan iPads to families who have no technology to access Bug Club etc. Contact school via the school office email schooloffice@blackhorsehill-infant.wirral.sch.uk if we can be of any assistance.

Reports and Communication

As you know, our Parent/Teacher meetings had to be cancelled because of the Covid-19 outbreak. Our teaching staff prepared summary reports for all of the children in their class and these were emailed out to parents/carers on Monday 30th March. I hope you found the information useful. If you did not receive a report for your child please let us know.

Below you will find the email addresses for all our teaching staff and they are happy for you to communicate with them using this email address. I know many parents and children have already been corresponding with class teachers in this way. The teachers are very happy to hear from you.

F1 Mrs Honeybourne- shoneybourne@blackhorsehill-infant.wirral.sch.uk

F2BE Mrs Bancroft- sbancroft@blackhorsehill-infant.wirral.sch.uk

F2SLP Mrs Lucan- snolan@blackhorsehill-infant.wirral.sch.uk

Yr1 Mr Young- chrisyoung@blackhorsehill-infant.wirral.sch.uk

Yr1 Mrs Mcleod- rachel@blackhorsehill-infant.wirral.sch.uk

Yr2 Mrs Fitzgerald- jfitzgerald@blackhorsehill-infant.wirral.sch.uk

Yr2 Miss Murphy- tmurphy@blackhorsehill-infant.wirral.sch.uk

If your child is in Foundation 1 or Foundation 2 you can also keep in touch with the teaching staff by using Tapestry.

Our thanks must also go to Mrs McLeod who has kept our school Twitter feed up to date with ideas, websites and activities for you and your children to complete at home. Even if you don't have a Twitter account you can see these ideas on the school website.

We are keen for the children to see school staff so that they know we are safe and well. We have therefore recorded some clips of some of our teachers reading stories. There are plans to do some more of these so do keep an eye out on the school website. It does make us cringe though when we see ourselves!

Watch out for something later this week which has a message from all our school staff!

Free School Meals

Families who are on the Free School Meals Register have been supported by school, the Local Authority and from today, the government. Supermarket vouchers have been issued which families can use to purchase food.

We are mindful that due to the current situation many families may have experienced a change in their financial circumstances and that their children may now be eligible for the free school meals vouchers.

A lot of our children are already registered on the online free school meals system and so any change in circumstances will be automatically picked up. If you are not registered, you can do so via <https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims-wirral>. If you have any questions regarding the free school meals register, or the online system, please do not hesitate to contact the school office via email – schooloffice@blackhorsehill-infant.wirral.sch.uk

Good news stories

Mathew in Year 2 has set up a reading club with his classmates. Each evening the children read aloud to each other through a video link. What a great way to keep in touch with friends and practice those important reading skills! Maybe you could set up a similar system in your child's class?

It was lovely to receive photographs from some of our children who had set up their own pet shops after listening to my reading of *The Great Pet Sale*.



This pet shop has been made from Lego!



Lottie in Year 2 had lots of pets in her pet shop.





Our Key Worker children created this rainbow as a symbol of hope that our school community will be back together soon.



After watching Chester Zoo live, Theo in Year 2 made this fabulous giraffe called Gerry. This inspired another one of our pupils to make his own model. Amazing!



If parent/carers have any other ideas about how we can keep in touch with you all, do let us know via the school office or through the teachers. Any home learning pictures can be emailed to Mrs McLeod on the email above. Mrs McLeod will then add them to the website to inspire other children and their parents.

Statutory Assessments

Formal assessments for this year have been cancelled by the government. This means that our Year 2 children will not complete Statutory Assessment Tests (SATs), Yr1 pupils will not complete the phonic screening test and our Foundation 2 pupils will not be assessed against the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile. Primary School performance measures will not be published for the year 2019/20.

Finally, the past few weeks have been quite challenging for us all and we have had to get used to new ways of working both at home and at school but I have been impressed by the way that our whole school community have worked together to remain positive and make the best of the difficult situation. Thank you. I hope you know that we are still here for you and if we can be of any help to you then pick up the phone or send us an email.

We miss you all very much and look forward to welcoming you all back to our wonderful school when the time is right.

Stay safe,

Julie Morris