



Whitehorse Manor Junior School

Newsletter Friday 10th September 2021



Welcome back to the new academic year! I hope that you have had a pleasant summer break and the opportunity to enjoy the current return to normal. It has been lovely to see the children return to school with such positive attitudes and an eagerness to learn and I hope that their onsite education continues uninterrupted this year. Teachers will continue to use class 'Blogs' to post homework tasks and messages so that we keep up this set of skills and although 'bubbles' are no longer in use, we are endeavouring to keep our school community safe by continuing to keep year groups separated from each other for the majority of the time and not yet returning to large gatherings in our hall. Please continue to help us to keep our site safe by keeping a safe distance from each other, wearing masks if you can, not attending the school site if you need to self-isolate and only coming inside the school building if it is absolutely necessary - teaching staff are happy to speak to parents outside on the playground and the office staff are available by email. Team Leaders will shortly send out letters with a curriculum overview and specific dates, and we will let you know about school wide events as soon as we can. I apologise in advance if any dates change for reasons beyond our control. Any changes to events will be communicated to you as soon as possible (on the website, in newsletters, by text if we have a correct mobile number for you).

Covid-19: What are the new rules? We have received a new 'flow diagram' to indicate what should happen if there is a positive case of Covid-19 in your household or in the school. Unfortunately, the Director of Public Health for Croydon has confirmed that Croydon still maintains one of the highest seven-day rolling averages for infection rates, so we are not out of the woods yet and must remain vigilant. Children under 18 are no longer required to self-isolate if they are a close contact of anyone else with confirmed Covid-19. If your child is identified as a 'close contact' (through Test and Trace or by any other means) they must get a PCR test to see if they have the virus. This is the test that is sent off to a lab, not the Lateral Flow tests, such as those used in secondary schools and some work places, that give results at home. You can find where to get a free, NHS PCR test here: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> Whilst your child is waiting for their results, they can continue to attend school as normal. The same rule applies to adults who have been double vaccinated. Your child only then needs to self-isolate for 10 days if their result is positive. If your child has any of the symptoms of Covid-19 (cough and/or high temperature and/or loss of taste and smell) you should get a PCR test to see if they have Covid-19. If your child is unwell, we wouldn't expect them to be in school when they are sick with anything and we will continue to send children home if they are not well - sending a child into school when they are ill with any virus puts the whole school at risk, even more so if the virus could be Covid-19. Please keep children at home if they are unwell.

School PE kit: One of the success stories from our arrangements last year, was pupils coming to school already wearing their PE Kits on their PE day. This cut down on all the disruption and, for older pupils, sometimes embarrassment, of getting changed in the classroom. As we would like this to continue, can I remind you that we have a school specific PE kit which is part of our school uniform - children should not come into school wearing other sports clothing and we monitor this kit in just the same way as we monitor uniform. The school PE kit consists of: Any plain white T-shirt, any plain black bottoms (shorts or jogging bottoms depending on weather), any trainers or black plimsolls and the normal school sweatshirt or jumper. Items are generic and can be bought from any shop to keep the cost low. Coats are worn as needs be on PE days. When pupils have fitness sessions as part of Enrichment afternoons, children can wear trainers to school and do not need to wear full PE kit. We expect the children to be smart in their uniform because all the best secondary schools have similar rules and we want the best for our children.

Up-coming charity events: We are asking for new items to be donated for our Macmillan raffle by Friday 17th September, for example: boxes of chocolates, toiletry sets, candles, toys etc. Harrisons will be contributing a cake and the raffle tickets will go on sale from Monday 20th. We will also be supporting 'Jeans for Genes' on Friday 24th September and children are invited to bring in £1 as a donation to the charity and to wear denim (jeans, skirts, jackets etc.) We will collect non-perishable foods for Harvest on Friday 15th October, but will send out a reminder closer to the time.

Playtime snacks: Children can bring in fresh or dried fruit as a playtime snack and apples are available for 20p every day.