



# Whitehorse Manor Junior School

## Newsletter 23rd October 2020



**D**ear parents and carers,  
It seems incredible but we are already at the end of the first half term. The children have made a fantastic return to school and we are all getting used to our 'new normal'. This has included single year group morning break and lunchtimes, regular hand washing and limiting 'cross bubble' movements to keep us all safe. We have been focusing on 'Building Learning Powers, particularly on building resilience. The children have been demonstrating their perseverance and adaptability to the new situation. They have been learning how to manage distractions and to be absorbed in their learning since returning to their busy classrooms after a long period at home. Although we are hoping that there will not be another school closure, some children have already needed to access remote learning due to self-isolation. All of our children have an Online Learning Passport, which can be found in the front of their reading diary, with all their 'log in' details. Teachers have also focussed on accessing our online learning 'blogs' as part of their IT lessons. If you have any queries, please speak to your child's class teacher. Weekly home work and home learning in case of isolation is uploaded to your child's class blog on a Sunday. Finally, please remember to keep checking the website [www.pegasusacademytrust.org](http://www.pegasusacademytrust.org) and please ensure the school holds the most up to date mobile number for you as we use this to text important messages to you. Thank you for all the support you have shown us this half term - we really appreciate your patience as we make our best efforts to keep our school community safe and our children learning happily.

**Keeping the playground safe at pick up and drop off time:** We were fortunate in the first days back to gain access to a second gate off of the field to ease the congestion on the main front gate onto the junior side. We sourced some temporary pathing for this (the white tiles), which, although classed as 'non-slip' definitely need Mr Gadd to work some safety magic on them. Weather permitting, Mr Gadd will work on adding some non-slip strips to these over the break. They are slippery when wet so please take care on them. The biggest choke point is at the end of the day. There does come a time when so many parents are leaving the premises, that it makes sense for both gates to serve as exits and I am not enforcing a one way system: I am opening up more space for you to use wisely. To avoid moving against the crowd, please be prompt to collect your child at 3.15pm. Can I also ask that you **please wear a mask on the playground.**

**Breakfast and Mid-morning snacks:** I sometimes have children tell me that they are hungry in the morning because they haven't had breakfast because they were in a rush and they haven't got a fruit snack with them because they forgot. I know that, when you are busy, it can be easy to miss breakfast in the early morning rush, but it's very difficult to concentrate when your tummy is rumbling. I have found that breakfast bars, breakfast biscuits and following the example of the continental breakfast with brioche buns, croissants or other pastries are all quick breakfast substitutes when the milk has run out or there isn't time for toast. Also, children are welcome to bring in fruit as a mid-morning snack, including dried fruit, so please make sure they have a snack as it's a long wait until lunch

**PE kits** On PE days the children are expected to wear their PE kits to school. They should still wear their school sweatshirt or jumper over their PE t-shirt. Now that the weather is getting colder, a pair of plain black jogging bottoms would be preferable to shorts.

### **Dates for your diary:**

**Wednesday 4th November** - Return to school

Wednesday 11th November - Remote Remembrance Assembly (details to be confirmed)

**Wednesday 16th December** - End of term

### **Whitehorse Manor Junior School:**

Nina Achenbach - Head of School