



The Whartons Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a strange first week back of the summer term, but we are adjusting to a new kind of normal for the time being.

We have had a few more children at the hub this week as key workers have been returning to their vital jobs on the front line. I also want to send our best wishes to all those parents who are working from home and also trying to organise home learning and entertainment for their own children. We appreciate this is challenging, thank you and well done!

Google Classrooms

The children in school have been fantastic, they have worked very independently and conscientiously on their maths and English Google Classroom work in the mornings and engaged in more of the 'Topic' style suggested projects in the afternoon.

As there have been a range of staff members on the cover rota each day, covering two split shifts, and children from across all age ranges in this small new 'class group'; it has been a challenge.

However, the children have really used their independent skills to tackle work their class teacher has set. I hope that everyone has started to get to grips with the functions and work uploaded on to the Google Classrooms, but please don't worry if you are still experimenting with how much children are able to attempt independently. We are all learning as we go along. We definitely don't want children (or parents) to be feel overwhelmed; just do as much, or as little as feels manageable. I have asked the teachers to create 'Topic' headings in the 'classwork' section of the classroom to aid clarity. In the 'stream' section of the classroom, everything that has been posted so far is displayed, which can help if you want to revisit posts. However, in the 'classwork' section teachers will group together previous work and upload a week at a time under a new week beginning date and the headings:

Home Learning Overview/Journey

Maths

English

Useful Resources

- For clarity, just try to upload one piece of writing and one piece of maths per week for teachers to look at and feedback on. I can see that lots of children have uploaded work every day, which is fabulous but not necessary and too much for teachers to read and offer feedback.

Sharing Experiences

Please remember to keep sending Mrs Mellor any photos of home learning or any other activities which will make us smile! I know here at the hub we have spent lots of lovely time outside which has been so much fun.





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Contacting staff

Please can I ask that teacher emails should only be used by parents and only in the event of a serious query, including being unable to access the Google Classroom. Any replies may take up to 1-2 working days. Please be realistic about what teachers can manage, working remotely to supervise and plan learning for 30+ pupils, reading and feeding back on pieces of work, learning about how to do this as we go along, engaging in supervisory shifts at the hub school and managing their own family's health and caring needs. Before you raise a query with your child's teacher(s), please think about other ways that you can find the answer to your questions. However, teachers would love to see a piece of English and maths work each week and they can comment and feedback to children.

* Please ensure both teachers are aware of your query, so that part-time staff can manage their workload.

At The Whartons

Some members of staff have been up to the Whartons to water our new woodland (very small) whip/saplings to try and ensure they do not die in this dry weather. Some have already started to sprout leaves, fingers crossed they survive. I can't wait for all the children to see them soon.

Mr Reynard has been busy, with the help of Mrs Hill, giving the Whartons a good deep clean so that it is ready for when all the children return.

Also just like many of us are doing in our own homes to keep ourselves busy, Miss Dickson has spearheaded a reorganisation of the school library, sports cupboard and music resources room. I wonder how long our homes and school will stay super organised when things get back to normal?

I know the staff are missing the children and we want to send all our love and best wishes to all our families.

Take care and we hope to see you soon.

Yours sincerely,

Julia Dickson (Headteacher)

