

Bulletin Number 6		<p style="text-align: center;">Whittonstall and Broomley Federation of Schools <i>"Be Happy and Work Hard"</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">  </p>	 <p style="text-align: right;">9th October 2020</p>
Tel: W: 01207560325 B: 01661842271		Website: www.broomley.northumberland.sch.uk/website	



Attendance this week- 99.6%



We really appreciate all your efforts in arriving at school promptly and working to our staggered start and finish times

Headteacher Message:

Remote Learning Plan: As mentioned in last week's newsletter we would like to share with you the 'Remote Learning Policy' for Tyne Community Learning Trust.

This can be found on the school website under the 'Remote Learning Information' tab on the top toolbar.

The policy outlines all the remote learning scenarios that we may encounter, from a single child isolating at home to a whole class bubble lock down.

Your child will have received a letter containing information of how to log into their google classroom. Once logged in you will see the title 'Information for Parents'. Inside there is a video explaining how teachers will set work, mark and offer your child feedback and also interact throughout any time at home.

If possible could you please ensure your child can log into their account. At the moment there will not be any work set.

In the event of any of the above scenarios we will provide you with reminders of log in information and also further guidance of what you can expect to see.

If any child does not have access to a laptop at home please could you contact our admin team and school will work with you to provide a solution during isolation periods. If you have any queries or wish to discuss the plans further please contact the admin team and Mrs Barker will be happy to assist you.

COVID-update: As infection rates continue to increase rapidly in Northumberland, can we please urge all parents to adhere to social distancing and mask wear at all times when visiting the school premises. We are working closely with Public Health England and are supported by Northumberland Council when dealing with any queries regarding our community. A huge thank you for all your support and taking cautious action when needed. To remind you of the procedures we will follow:

Bubbles closing and how this affects children and staff:

To be classified **as in contact** with an infected person there are 3 criteria points:

- Skin to skin contact with the symptomatic person.
- Less than 1 metre contact whilst symptomatic for 5 minutes.
- Less than 2 metre contact whilst symptomatic for 20 minutes.

If we receive notification of a positive test for a staff member or child in a class we will be asked to go back through a timeline and Public Health England will advise if they think the whole class has been exposed. From the time symptoms began, it is discussed when the child was last in school what risk assessment arrangements are in place.

If we receive notification of a parent testing positive the school will not be asked to close any bubbles unless we receive further information that their **child** has a positive result. That child will be asked to self-isolate at home for 14 days regardless of a positive or negative result.

The current advice for families is:

- If someone in your household is symptomatic, the whole household will need to isolate until there is a negative test. Your child can return as soon the negative result is received.
- If your child is sent home from school as part of a bubble and is not symptomatic, siblings are able to attend school.

Symptoms in children: At this time of year lots of children will have coughs and colds, the Department for Education states any children displaying a **high temperature, a continuous, dry, persistent cough (coughing a lot for over an hour or 3 episodes of uncontrollable coughing) or a loss of taste or smell** must be sent home and advised to take a test. That child cannot return to school until the test is negative and any siblings must also stay off school. If we are sending any children home with suspected COVID we will need to send the siblings at the same time too. Please ensure your contact details are up to date; data collection sheets will be sent home in the next week so please review these carefully to ensure all numbers and contacts are current.

School News

Mental Health Day: Today we had a wonderful day celebrating HELLOYELLOW whilst we raised funds for the wonderful charity Young Minds. We explored the positivity of making someone's day through three key tasks - tell a joke to a friend, say something fun or positive to a teacher and wave or smile to someone you've never smiled at before! It has been so amazing to see the children embrace the day and understand the positive aspirations they are working towards. We know how much mental health contributes to the wellbeing of children and families alike. Below is a link to some fantastic websites that can help all families thrive in these strange times. Happy World Mental Health Day everyone!

<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/campaigns/world-mental-health-day>



Virtual Parent's Evenings: next Monday 12th and Wednesday 14th October we will be holding our virtual parents evenings. Online appointment booking for this has now closed, to allow the Teachers to set up and invite parents to the 'Google Meets'. If you still require an appointment please telephone the school office who will be able to make one on your behalf. If you did not provide your preferred email address in the 'message' box when booking your appointment, your invite will be sent to the email address you used when making the booking.

Full details of the Parent's Evenings were sent out by Parentmail last Monday and instructions on how to join a google meet were sent yesterday. Please could you take the time to read this and ensure you are aware of how to join the meeting, as appointments will be strictly limited to 10 minutes, to allow teachers to move on to the next appointment. If you have any queries please contact the school office on Monday.



Harvest Festival: Our Harvest festival celebrations are looking a little different this year! The children will be exploring the Christian festival of Harvest in a themed afternoon in class on Monday the 12th October. They will be learning about Harvest celebrations in the UK and around the world and use the theme of 'Things we are thankful for' to celebrate their community and the people that are special to them.

The children will be creating a Harvest display which will be available for parents and the Whittonstall community to view in *Whittonstall Church on Sunday the 16th October.*

We are also setting the children a 'Harvest Conker Home Challenge'. Using conkers and natural materials, can they create something amazing to add to our church display? There will be a prize for the most imaginative! (There are lots of super ideas on Pinterest and other online sites!).

We will also be collecting for The People's Kitchen food bank. Donations can be dropped off outside school or in church on Sunday the 16th October. Thank you for your support of this very important and worthwhile cause.



Halloween : As this year's Halloween won't be the same for the children we are hoping to have a fun day in school. **On Thursday 22nd October all children are invited to come to school in their spookiest costumes.** Can we ask that they do not bring any additional props or accessories and no face coverings please.

Flu Vaccinations 2020: the Immunisation Team will be visiting school on **Thursday 10th December** to give nasal flu vaccinations to all children from Reception and Years 1, 2, 3, & 4 (where consent has been given).

The NHS team sent out consent form letters by post over the summer but our school nurse has advised us the response rate has been lower than normal. We therefore sent an information letter and a copy of the consent form by Parentmail a few weeks ago, for any parent that did not receive or has not yet returned the postal form. This form should be printed off, completed and returned to school. Only parents who have not already returned the consent form need to complete the form. If you are unsure whether you have already returned the form, please complete again.

If you are unable to print the form, please let the school office know and we will provide you with a copy. If you do not wish your child to receive the vaccine, please complete the 'no consent' box and return the form to school.

If the NHS team do not receive a consent form for your child, they will be unable to give your child the nasal flu vaccination. If you need any further information about the vaccine, please contact the NHS Nasal flu team directly - the details are on the letter.

Year 4 to Year 5 transition: Corbridge Middle School have asked us to let parents of children in Year 4 know that they will be holding a **virtual** open day this year. They will be sending further details soon so watch this space. The portals for Middle School applications are now open and will close on **31st October 2020**.

For families who pay their council tax to Durham County Council, please follow the link below-

<https://www.durham.gov.uk/article/2192/Apply-for-a-secondary-place-deadline-31-October-2020>

For families who pay their council tax to Northumberland County Council please follow the link below –

<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Education/Schools/School-admissions-places-appeals-1.aspx>

Parents will be informed of the outcome of their application on Offer Day, Monday **1st March 2021**.

For parents applying for a **Reception class** place for their child for September 2021, the portal will be open to apply between Sunday 1st November 2020 and Friday 15th January 2021. Look out for more information in the newsletter nearer to the time.

Dates for your diary

Thursday 22nd October – break up for October half term

Sunday 16th October – Harvest Festival display at Whittonstall Church

Thursday 22nd October – children invited to come to school in Halloween costumes

Friday 23rd October – Teacher Training Day

Saturday 31st October – deadline for applications to Middle School

Sunday 1st November – portal opens for Reception class applications

Monday 2nd November – pupils back for 2nd half of Autumn term

Thursday 10th December – nasal flu vaccinations in school for Years R-4

Friday 18th December – break up for Christmas holidays

Have a lovely weekend everyone and stay safe

Mrs Barker

Executive Head Teacher

