



Whitley Chapel Church of England First School
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Headteacher: Miss Jenny Morgan

Dear Parents

Wednesday 16th November 2020

Children in Need

Thank you for your generous donations – we were able to send £170.00 to Children in Need following our non-uniform day last Friday.

New Early Years teacher

We are delighted to welcome Miss Anna Tweddell to our staff. She will be taking over from Miss Clark from the beginning of January. She is a very experienced Early Years practitioner, and we are looking forward to her joining our team and building on the good practice that was established by Mrs Bowyer. We are really grateful to Miss Clark for stepping in to fill the breach, and she has been a huge support to the school in meeting the challenge of settling the Early Years children in at the beginning of this difficult and unusual term. We wish her well in future, and hope she will be back to visit us soon.

Christmas Production DVD

We are starting to rehearse for our Christmas production, 'It's a Baby!' which this year we will be recording and putting on to DVDs which we would like to sell in order to raise money for the Christmas party. We are really grateful to Mr Simms who has kindly agreed to film the performance in the Parish Hall and make copies for us. We will be selling these to parents on the strict understanding that they will NOT be shared on social media or outside the immediate family circle of each pupil, and we know that you are as concerned to keep your children safe as we are, and will respect this. However, if any parent is not happy about their children being in a video that will be circulated amongst the school community, it is REALLY important that you let us know in good time, and we will make sure that your child will be able to take part but will not appear in the video. Mr Simms is coming to do the recording on 10th December, so please let your child's teacher know before then.

Procedures in case of closure due to Covid-19

We are hoping to see Mr and Mrs Thompson back at school soon and wish them a speedy recovery. However, it has made us brush up on our procedures, just in case one of the children or members of teaching staff are affected. The steps taken will be as follows:

- If a pupil becomes unwell with Covid – like symptoms, all the children in that pupil’s class will be sent home and will be provided with work by their class teacher. The unwell pupil MUST be taken for a test, and if the test result is negative, all the pupils will be able to return to school. However, if the test is positive, all the pupils in the class will need to self-isolate for 14 days. The families of the children who have been sent home DO NOT need to self-isolate, only the family of the unwell pupil. The unwell pupil will have to isolate for 14 days, and the rest of his family, including siblings in school, will also have to isolate for 14 days. The class teacher and any other member of staff who has been in contact with the class for more than 15 minutes in the previous 48 hours will also need to self-isolate for 14 days.
- If a member of the teaching or support staff becomes unwell with Covid – like symptoms, all pupils who have been taught by that member of staff in the last 48 hours will be sent home with work provided by the class teacher. If the member of staff subsequently tests negative for Covid-19, all pupils will be allowed to return to school. However, if the member of staff tests positive, they and their family will need to self-isolate for 14 days, along with the rest of the pupils in the class and any member of teaching staff who was in the class at the same time for the previous 48 hours. The families of the pupils and members of teaching staff other than the staff member who has tested positive DO NOT need to self-isolate for 14 days.
- If a pupil was in Breakfast Club or After School club with another pupil who subsequently tests positive for Covid-19, they will need to go home and self-isolate for 14 days, along with any staff members who were in the club with them for the previous 48 hours, and they will be provided with work by their class teacher.

You will appreciate that this is likely to cause a LOT of problems and will require us using Supply staff from agencies to cover staff absence, which we would much rather not do. So please do your best to be extremely careful not to mix with people outside your family Bubbles or in the local community so that we can continue to keep our school a safe place. And please do not send children to school if they display ANY of the Covid symptoms – high temperature, new and continuous cough, or loss of taste or smell. Many of the staff are making a lot of sacrifices, avoiding other family members and their normal leisure activities, in order to keep the school clear of infection. Please continue to work with us and help keep your children’s lives as normal as possible.

Many thanks for your support during this challenging time.

Miss Jenny Morgan