

Lockdown: Information to Parents/Carers 3

Friday 29th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are now four weeks into lockdown and I just wanted to say to all of those parents/carers who are teaching their children at home - well done! Over the past couple of weeks both my staff and I have had several conversations with parents who are worried about how their child is engaging with the remote learning and also that they are finding the volume of work quite daunting! If you are juggling work, caring for younger siblings or dependent relatives it is especially difficult. My message to you all is be kind to yourself, do your best and work with your children when you can. Sometimes a small amount of quality focused time is better than hours of battling. I mentioned in my last newsletter that reading and phonics should be prioritised if at all possible.

The above is particularly pertinent as we heard on Wednesday from our Prime Minister that there will not be a return to school until at least the 8th March. Children will continue to be provided with remote learning until a full return to school is possible.

Children's Mental Health Week

Next week is Children's Mental Health week (1-7th February). The week is run by a children's mental health charity Place2Be. If you visit their website there is a lot of useful information about how to support your child with a range of mental health issues <https://www.place2be.org.uk/>

The wellbeing of our children is really important to us so this year we will be taking part. Oak National Academy has teamed up with Place2Be and BAFTA Kids to create a free assembly for Children's Mental Health Week 2021, celebrating this year's theme of "Express Yourself". There will be a special assembly on Monday 1st February provided by the Oak Academy and our BHHIS teachers will place the assembly on the weekly timetable.

Further assemblies linked to mental health topics will be placed on Tapestry and See-Saw during the week.

Friday 5th February we are going to earmark as **Feel Good Friday**. Children will have a reduced learning timetable on this day and we are asking children and families to do something that makes them feel good for example: riding their bike, dancing, reading, baking, playing sport, building, playing games, painting, bird watching or visiting the park.

We are asking all our children (whether they are in school or at home) to dress up on this day in a way that makes them feel happy. It might be colourful clothing, a fancy hat or pair sunglasses. Dress to express!

Parents can send photos of their child on Feel Good Friday to the following email address -

fgf@blackhorsehill-infant.wirral.sch.uk

and if we receive enough photos we will make a slideshow to share with our school community. Let's spread some cheer!

Remote Learning

During the w/c 8th February we will continue to provide remote learning to all our pupils. The timetable will be reduced particularly in the afternoons so that parents/carers can catch up on any missed learning from over the half-term. In addition, it will provide the opportunity for children to consolidate any skills or knowledge that they found difficult across the curriculum.

In line with government guidance, it is now statutory to publish our remote learning offer on our school website. This has been uploaded following governor approval.

RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch

Don't forget the RSPB Big Garden Bird watch which takes place this weekend.

The bird feeders are out at school and our Year 1 children are keen to spot their first bird!

February half-term

School will close on Friday 12th February and schools are not expected to provide care for vulnerable or children of critical workers during the week.

Yours sincerely,
Julie Morris

