

A message from Mrs Stout

Welcome back! We hope that you've all had a fantastic summer albeit maybe a little bit different to usual. We've heard about lots of staycations and make-shift camp sites in people's gardens so it definitely does sound as though lots of fun has been had! We've been delighted to welcome you and our pupils back into school and show the fantastic work that has taken place over the holidays to our building and site. We have also begun to welcome our new Reception families- we are incredibly proud of how they have settled in and it has been lovely to hear so many positive comments about our Reception outdoor area!

We have started the year by focusing on establishing routines and positive behaviours in school and will continue to work on this over the upcoming weeks.

On Tuesday, staff in Reception to Year 3 took part in Ruth Miskin's Read, Write, Inc training that we're sure you will hear your children talking about soon- Fred Talk and Special Friends are phrases which are our particular favourites! Within the next couple of weeks, Mrs Williams will be arranging a virtual Read, Write, Inc meeting for parents and carers. Look out for further details!



Thank you!

We'd firstly like to thank you all for your support and cooperation over the past week. It has been fantastic to build back up to full capacity and attendance has been brilliant in school! As ever, there are always tweaks and things to learn each day.

We have been particularly monitoring drop off and pick up to ensure that this is as safe and efficient as possible. Thank you to everybody who is following our one-way system, we hope that people have now found out where their child(ren) gets dropped off and collected from.

In line with government guidance, it is vital that there are not gatherings on the playground; therefore, we ask the following:

- All children in KS2 are left under the supervision of their class teacher once they have been registered.
- Parents/ carers ensure that they are keeping a safe distance where possible from other families on the playground.
- Where possible, only one adult per family drops and collects children from school.

Aside from drop off and pick up, a frequently asked question has been "Are children expected to come to school in their P.E kit on P.E days?" This is a part of our Risk Assessment and the rationale behind this is to avoid children mixing up their t-shirts and bringing additional items into school from home. Class Teachers will inform you on Class Dojo about when your child's P.E days are. This is something that we will be reviewing regularly and is not necessarily something that we will be continuing for a prolonged period of time if we do not feel that this is appropriate.



Our furry friends!

Please remember that dogs are not permitted on our school premises for health and safety reasons. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

Meet our SENCO, Mrs Downes

It has been lovely to see you all on the playground this week- we really have missed those smiles each morning and afternoon. Some of you may have already met Mrs Downes when she has been on the playground too. She has already met some parents and carers and is already getting to know lots of our fabulous pupils. I am sure that there are lots of parents who will want to meet Mrs Downes and she is very much looking forward to supporting our pupils and their families.



Please excuse us!



We hope that you've been impressed by the building work that has taken place over the holidays and the signage around school. We are very proud to call Whitkirk Primary School our school and really are committed to live up to our vision "To be the best that we can be". Therefore, please excuse our appearance just outside of Year 1/2JL (next to the Reception outdoor area and near the container). This is our next project that we are excited to embark on.



This week's stars:

To say that choosing this week's Star for each class was a tricky task would be a huge understatement! Teachers have been incredibly impressed by how well children have returned to school and how they have adapted to the changes to keep themselves and each other safe. All of our pupils need to give themselves a pat on the back for their super efforts but these were the children who really have sparkled!

<i>Early Years</i>	<i>KS1</i>	<i>LKS2</i>	<i>UKS2</i>
<i>Reception LM</i> Frankie	<i>Year 1 KD</i> Olivia M	<i>Year 3 NT</i> Maddison	<i>Year 5 ZI</i> Joseph H
<i>Reception JS</i> Jackson B	<i>Year 1/2 JL</i> Tobias K	<i>Year 3 SBa</i> Hadiqa	<i>Year 5 PG</i> Maddison
	<i>Year 2 RW</i> Amber A	<i>Year 4 CO</i> Celeste	<i>Year 6 RM</i> Alex W
		<i>Year 4 AR</i> Grace	<i>Year 6 SB</i> Theo M

Here are just a few highlights from this week:

Reception:

We can't say anything else other than WOW! Our Reception pupils have made an extraordinary start to Primary School. They have been enjoying exploring their new classroom, inside and outside, have been practising writing their name and this afternoon, were making delicious chocolate mousse in the Mud Kitchen. We are looking forward to more pupils joining our Whitkirk family over the next week.



KS1:

This week Key Stage 1 have been really excited to receive a letter from Steve Backshall! He left his backpack in the Key Stage 1 classrooms and inside there was a letter! Steve had a challenge for us, to design an improved version of Temple Newsam Park! Year 1 pupils have been looking at features of the park and together they thought about what they would like to add to the park. Year 2 pupils have been looking at human and physical features and deciding what we should include. Year 2 incorporated drama and music to help them with their design. The children acted out the actions and activities that would take place in the park and then created a Park Soundscape to include all the noises that would be heard in the park. Video coming soon!

LKS2:

What an amazing start to our school year! We are incredibly proud of how our Year 3 and 4 pupils have returned to school with determined attitudes towards their learning. The enthusiasm they have shown for their new topics has put enormous smiles on all of the adults working in our team. This week, Year 4 have particularly enjoyed becoming Scientists when they created working models of our digestive system. The investigation was particularly messy which made the learning all the more fun! Year 3 have begun planning some very imaginative stories, based on being transported through a portal! We can't wait to read them next week!



UKS2:

Year 5 and 6 have had an excellent start to the new year and have jumped head first into their new topics of 'How can we keep our heart healthy?' and 'What does the Earth look like from space?'. Year 6 started by looking at the functions of the circulatory system including using drama to show the role of the heart, lungs and blood! Year 5 have been combining art with music to produce a powerful, creative response to 'Mars' from Holst's 'The Planets'. The

teachers have all commented on how impressed they have been with the enthusiastic children who have returned keen and ready to learn. They would like to thank the parents for all their support in this!



Important bits and pieces:

This week, you will have received some important documentation that we ask is completed and returned to school as soon as possible. This will include a Data Collection sheet to check that we have your correct contact details. You will also be receiving our Home School Agreements. Please read these with your child(ren), sign and return them to school. Members of staff in school will be committed to follow this agreement and we hope that you will do too.

We've listened carefully to previous feedback from parents/carers and we are determined to improve communication between home and school. Please ensure that you're signed up to your child's Class Dojo page and Parent Pay to make sure that you don't miss a thing! You all should now have received your activation link for Parent Pay. Please activate this link; if you haven't yet received a link, please contact the school office.

Whitkirk Primary School Home-School Agreement – KS1		
'Be the best that we can be'		Name: _____
		Class: _____
Pupils Will	Parents/Carers Will	School Will
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> I will always try my best with my learning and challenge myself in lessons. I will go to school every day and arrive on time. I will wear my school uniform and help my parents to remember my PE kit. I will follow our Whitkirk rules and follow our Whitkirk values. I will read every day at home and I will remember to bring my book and book-bag to school every day. I will talk to an adult if something is upsetting me. I will do my homework and take it back to school on time. I will share with my family what I do in school. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Take an interest and become involved in what my child is learning. See that my child attends school regularly, on time and properly equipped. Will not take holidays in term time. Inform the school as soon as possible on the first day of my child's absence. Keep the school informed of any concerns or problems which may affect my child's work or behaviour. Work with the school to find solutions in cases of unacceptable behaviour. Speak directly to a safeguarding lead at school if my child discloses any incidents that happen in school that make me feel uncomfortable. Offer help and support with learning at home. Ensure my child reads daily and sign their reading record. Attend parents' evenings. Raise concerns directly and promptly with the school. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Care for your child's safety and happiness. Provide a balanced curriculum whilst meeting the needs of your individual child. Recognise and reward good attendance. Contact parents/carers on the first day of absence. Have positive behaviour systems that create a safe and caring environment for everyone. Take appropriate action when need if behaviour's not of an expected standard. Ensure any safeguarding incident/concern reported by children or parents will be dealt with in line with statutory guidance. Set appropriate homework. Read regularly with your child and record this within their reading record. Teachers will read or s1:1 books with every child once a fortnight and teaching assistants on a 1:1 basis once a week. Hold regular Parent's Evenings and provide an annual written report. Be open and welcoming and offer opportunities for parents to become involved in the daily life of school. To communicate in an open, timely and honest way.
Signed _____ (Pupil)	Signed _____ (Parent/Carer)	Signed _____ (School)
Achievement – Safety – Respect – Friendship – Forgiveness – Trust		

I really think that we have stopped taking the little things for granted and being back in the company of our extraordinary pupils really has been an absolute pleasure! We are delighted to have everybody back. We hope you have a fantastic weekend- please continue to keep yourselves and each other safe. We look forward to seeing you on Monday morning! Take care and remember "Hands, Face, Space".