



Wharton CE Primary School, Greville Drive, Winsford, Cheshire, CW7 3EP

Headteacher: Mrs N Tomlinson

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"A Place to Care, A Place to Grow, A Place to Shine"

"Train up a child in the way they should go and when they are old they will not depart from it" **Proverbs 22 v 6**

Friday 8th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well, what a week! Thank you so much to those of you who have sent messages of support and thanks to me and the team in what has been a very challenging week. I want to thank you for your patience as we continue to sort places in school.

I hope that everyone managed some quality time with family over Christmas and that you are healthy as we start the New Year, and most importantly, all your family and friends are safe and well.

As you are aware due to the latest lockdown, and as a directive from the Government, school is only open to children of key workers and vulnerable children. We currently have over 30% of our school population in school and staff are providing both class teaching activities and the remote learning.

We are here to support our community of critical workers, but please can I urge you to only use us as and when you absolutely need to so that together we work at lowering the rate of infection. The infection transmission rate is significantly greater than last time with this new variant and so we really do all need to be doing our bit. The guidance clearly states that parents and carers should keep their children at home if they can.

As things settle over the next week to 10 days we will be revisiting the numbers in school and there may be a request for proof of work days/shift patterns. At this time we have accommodated the majority of requests but this will be under constant review. Can I thank those critical workers who are already only using us when they absolutely need to. 😊

As we come back into school for the start of the new term, we not only have the new variant of Coronavirus to deal with but also the cough and cold season. We have been very proud of our record of only having to shut 1 bubble in school throughout the entire Autumn Term, however, now is not the time to become complacent. Therefore, here are a few reminders of the systems for our community to keep us all safe for those that are in school.

- Please keep to your agreed times for the start and end of the day
- Adults to wear masks and follow the 2m guidelines for social distancing.
- PE kit to be worn on PE days.
- Wrap your child up warm, all the classrooms have windows open to allow a flow of air - we need to go back to vests or tee shirts under clothing. In school, we have again, increased our cleaning regime and staff will be wearing visors and masks.

Wharton Church of England Primary School is an inclusive caring Christian community, committed to building futures for all children. We offer a safe environment where everyone is valued, we nurture strong relationships that are underpinned by our Christian values and we champion children to be the best that they can be, empowering all to aim high and achieve their full potential.





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I have had received a couple of emails, and am aware of some comments on Facebook asking whether or not we will offer live video lessons. The answer to this is no.

There have been some negative comments on Facebook about the provision for your children and I would urge you to contact the school if you feel your experience is not satisfactory or is posing problems. I am sure you will agree that with so many schools in the town of different sizes there will be many reasons why some schools are able and/or choose to do things one way and accommodate greater or fewer children than others, and have a different approach.

We were very aware that many parents and children found the initial lockdown very stressful and we do not want to put any pressure on families to engage on any particular day or time, and feel pressured to undertake a certain amount or type of home learning. We are adhering to the guidance but families need to find a way that works for them and their situation through this pandemic without any additional stress. We will share links to the BBC video lessons, so they can be accessed as resources if helpful, and we will seek to prerecord some aspects for the children where appropriate so that they can see a familiar face. This is dependent on systems in place and we are looking at the best way to do this for all concerned. We have been printing learning packs, supplying stationary and organising work packs and will continue to do this for those that really need it.

Staff have been creating Home Learning activities, which do not always rely on computers, are interesting for the children and give you some ideas for 'unplugged' learning too. Be kind to yourselves and remember that children who feel happy and safe learn, and those that feel pressured and stressed don't. I'm pretty sure this works for us as adults too.

Staff will be replying to work uploaded to the class emails and school spider, and will respond to the children's work and photos sent in.

All staff are coming into school and working with the Key Worker and vulnerable children due to the numbers on site and are trying to make their experience in school fun; as well as monitoring and responding to what is going on at home. Some including myself are also supporting home learning for our own children and doing the day job just like you, which we all know can be tricky.

If you are having difficulties with devices that allow you to access remote learning then please do get in touch and Mr Bell will be happy to try and support you. We do have an allocation of laptops from the DFE but as we were so successful in keeping school open between September and December we were not entitled to claim them until now, and only now because we are in a forced lockdown.

The initial allocation of devices for our school is 7. If you feel that you may be eligible for a laptop then please do speak to the office but I am sure you will agree that 7 laptops will not go far. We are entitled to more but have not yet received them as they are not available to order yet from the DFE. Secondary settings are the priority. With this in mind if you work for a company that would like to donate laptops or tablets to school then please get in touch.

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If you are struggling at home, and we fully appreciate what a challenge this is, please do talk to us, welfare calls will be happening weekly and you can let us know then, or via the class email accounts that are now set up. We want to help, we are here to listen so keep talking to us as we navigate this together.

Please stay safe

Kind regards

Natalie Tomlinson

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