



Whittonstall and Broomley First Schools
Weekly Newsletter
7th January 2022



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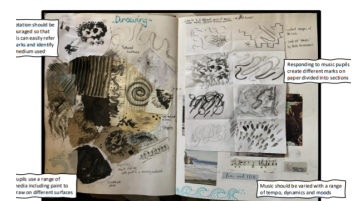
Our overall attendance this week was

93.9%

Well done everyone for a fantastic attendance record this week.

HEAD TEACHER'S MESSAGE TO THE CHILDREN:

Happy New Year to you all and welcome back to school. I hope that you all enjoyed the Christmas break and were able to spend some quality time with your loved ones. On behalf of all staff, a huge 'Thank You' to the children and parents who brought Christmas cards and gifts at the end of last term. We all really appreciate your thoughtfulness and generosity, especially at such a busy and costly time of year. We have lots to look forward to this half term starting off with art projects across the classes this week. The children all have new portfolio sketch books and have begun to explore drawing techniques, watch out for some photos on Marvellous Me and make sure to ask them at home what they have been up to.



As we have returned to school our current levels of covid cases in school are relatively low at the moment and we have all our staff in school. We are still operating precautionary measures to keep the children and staff safe. Additional cleaning of touched surfaces throughout the day alongside ventilation in classrooms and social distancing amongst staff. As the



weather is very cold we encourage the children to wear layers under their uniforms as the temperature will be cooler. We also have gilets available to purchase from Salto that the children can wear over their uniforms too. We will of course monitor the temperature in the classroom and make adjustments when necessary. When we receive notification from parents of a positive case that has been in school we will write to the parents of that class. The remaining children who have been identified as a close contact will be asked to take a LFT each day for 7 days.

I'm sure that you will be aware of the constantly changing Government guidance regarding COVID19. Confirmatory PCR tests following a positive lateral flow device (LFD) test result are to be temporarily suspended from Tuesday 11 January. This will mean that anyone who receives a positive LFD test result will be required to self-isolate immediately and will not be required to take a confirmatory PCR test. The isolation period has now been altered to 7 days from the point of symptoms or from the date of positive test if asymptomatic, on condition of two negative lateral flow tests undertaken on days 6 and day 7 at least 24 hours apart. There was a further Government briefing Wednesday evening and once we have further clarity from the Department for Education, I will update you again. This is a situation where Government policy is changing quickly at the moment and it is important that we take our lead from the Department for Education.

AWARDS OF THE WEEK:

Kid Awesome - Stars of the Week:

Nursery Bucket filler of the Week: Freddy C - for brilliant drawing and sharing with his friends this week

Reception: Olivia M for fantastic phonics and reading this week

Class 2: Thomas A who has been a superstar on his first week with us!

Class 3: Elspeth B for her exceptional art work



Mrs Robinson's Lunchtime Awards:

- Jenson B and Joey R - for their lovely manners and always eating up their lunches
- Ellie S - for being a great little eater and always making Mrs Robinson smile!

SCHOOL UPDATES



We are delighted to welcome some new children to Whittonstall this term. A big hello to Thomas A who has joined Class 2 and to Natalie B, Lucas M and Toppin P who have all started in Nursery this week. Well done everyone for settling in so well this week, we are so pleased to welcome you to our school and are looking forward to getting to know you all.



CHRISTMAS DVD ORDERS:

We have been in touch with the person preparing the Christmas DVD order. They have been having some technical printing difficulties as well as being hit by Covid over the Christmas holidays but are hoping to have the DVDs ready for early next week. As soon as we get them, we will let you know. Thank you all for your patience.

SPELLINGS UPDATE

We would like to introduce our new spelling scheme of work: **The Spelling Book: Transforming the Teaching of Spelling**. The scheme is carefully matched to the National Curriculum requirements for teaching spelling, and builds on the phonics knowledge the children gain in EYFS and Year 1.

As you will be aware, spelling in the English language is very tricky, with well over a million words affected by over 1300 years of history. Understanding the origins of words and pattern finding are more important teaching strategies than ever. This scheme provides a clear, systematic approach to help children understand 'probability matching' and the theories behind spelling patterns.

The scheme works on a two week cycle. In week one, two focused spelling investigations are taught over a 50 minute window. During week two, the same amount of time is split into five, ten minute slots. During these sessions the children experience pace, look at spelling errors and why these errors occur and revisit teaching to commit the spellings to their long term memory. The scheme focuses on teaching spellings, rather than testing them.

Year 1 and Reception will not have specific spelling lessons, as they will be continuing on their phonics journey.

As our new approach is classroom based there will **no longer be a weekly set of spellings** for any of the children (including Year 1) to learn at home. However your child's teacher will be sending home a copy of the most common high frequency words for your child's year group. These will be there for you to practise **if you wish to** throughout the rest of the year, but are not compulsory, and the children will not be 'tested' on weekly spellings.

We are very excited to introduce our new spelling scheme to the children, and monitor the progress in class. If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to ask your child's teacher, they will be more than happy to help.

TIMETABLE INFORMATION FOR SPRING TERM:

PE:

- Class 1 - Tuesday
- Class 2 - Monday and Wednesday
- Class 3 - Monday and Wednesday



Please can the children continue to come dressed in their PE kits on days when they have PE sessions. Where possible the children will be having PE sessions outside so will need to be dressed in school PE kit appropriate for the weather (jogging bottoms, t-shirt, hoodie and trainers)

There will be no outdoor/ forest school sessions for Year 1 and 2 this half term.

Class 1 will continue to have outdoor sessions on Wednesdays where the weather allows, although these sessions may be shorter if the weather is not great. Reception and nursery children will therefore still need to come in their outdoor gear on Wednesdays.



Music Lessons:



The whole class music lessons for Class 2 and Class 3 will continue on Fridays. We have ukuleles in school for these lessons but if children have a ukulele at home that they would like to bring in they are welcome to do so.

Small group lessons with Miss Humble for those children who have signed up for them, will continue on Tuesdays starting next week (11th January).

There will be no music lessons on week commencing 17th January and 24th January as Miss Humble is getting married.

After School Clubs:

We are looking forward to two after school clubs starting next week -



Art Club Year 1 & 2: A letter will be coming home with the children today about this new club, which will be run by Miss Wilson after school on a Tuesday, starting next week, from 3.15 - 4.15 pm. Spaces are limited and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. Please return the reply slip to school if you would like your child to take part and places will be confirmed next week.



Cookery Club Year 3 & 4: Mrs Robinson's ever popular cookery club begins again next Wednesday 12th January from 3.15 - 4.15 pm. We are asking for a voluntary contribution of £2.00 per week towards the cost of ingredients. Letters were sent home this week with the children - those children who have handed in a form will have had a parentmail today to confirm their place. Your child will need to bring a named plastic container into school each week to take their delicious goodies home with them. There are still a couple of spaces available; please return the reply slip to school if you would like your child to take part. If your child does not get a space this half term we will add their name to a waiting list for next time class 3 are offered sessions.



Uniform Reminder: As we start the new year, it is a good time to remind everyone of our uniform requirements. Part of the reason we have a uniform is to promote equality and keep all the children the same when they come into school and we appreciate your support with this. Uniform should be worn every day unless it is a PE or outdoor day. Our uniform consists of -

- School sweatshirt/cardigan with logo*
- Plain white polo shirt
- Black or grey school trousers/skirt/shorts
- Black, grey or white socks
- Black or grey tights (not leggings or coloured tights)
- Leather or leather look black school shoes
- Optional fleece gilet with logo for colder weather*

Please note that jewellery, nail varnish, hair colour or extreme hairstyles should not be worn in school.

Our uniform supplier is Salto UK <https://www.saltouk.com/> who supply all items with our school logo*. Our PTA collects pre-used uniform and sales of this are held on a regular basis for a small donation.



TEACHING ASSISTANT POST AT OVINGHAM MIDDLE SCHOOL:

We have been asked by our colleagues at Ovingham Middle School to provide details of a teaching assistant position they have vacant. If you are interested in finding out more, please follow the link below:

https://www.northeastjobs.org.uk/job/Teaching_Assistant/218465

DIARY DATES

- Tuesday 11th January Small group music lessons begin again (please note there will be no music lessons on week commencing 17th Jan and 24th January as Miss Humble is getting married)
- Tuesday 11th January After school art club begins Y 1&2 - places must be booked in advance
- Wednesday 12th January After school cookery club begins Y 3&4 - places must be booked in advance
- Wednesday 26th January M&M Production of Jack and the Beanstalk at Broomley - rescheduled date
- Friday 4th February NSPCC Number Day - mega maths fundraising day - more information to follow shortly
- Friday 18th March Comic Relief Red Nose Day - more information to follow
- Mon 21st - Fri 27th March Neurodiversity Week - more information to follow

On behalf of staff and governors may I wish you all a lovely weekend, take care and stay safe.

Mrs Barker

Executive Head Teacher