



Whickham School

Parent/Carer Bulletin 28/01/21

Dear Parents / Carers

Please can we remind you that if your child or anyone in your household tests positive for Covid-19 we must have a record of this. You can let us know if your child has tested positive by emailing us at covidtestresult@whickhamschool.org

Government announcement

The Government have confirmed that schools will not re-open to all pupils immediately after half term. The new target date is Monday 8 March. This will be reviewed nearer the time.

Remote Learning Expectations

Thank you for your continued support in ensuring our pupils have accessed their remote learning during school closure. As we are always keen to improve our provision for pupils and ensure they receive the very best teaching and learning whilst at home, we have made some changes to our procedures which will take effect from Wed 3rd February.

A letter will be sent to all parents and carers early next week which will outline our remote learning guidance and highlight the key changes we have made.

Places for vulnerable children and children of key workers

In line with the government guidelines, School remains closed to most pupils until at least Monday 8 March and lessons are taking place online. We will continue to provide a place for children of critical workers and vulnerable children should this be required.

- If your child has been attending a year group bubble we will **automatically allocate them a place each week**. Should you no longer require this place please contact school.
- If your circumstances have changed and you require a key worker or vulnerable place for your child please fill out the following form [here](#). Please read the guidance in the form carefully.
- All pupils attending school must wear the correct **full school uniform**. Any pupil who does not wear the correct full school uniform will be given the correct uniform to wear whilst they are in school.
- **If pupils wish to take part in lunchtime sporting activities they must bring a pair of trainers to school**

Achievement Team

- Tomorrow marks the launch of our first "Fab Friday". We have asked staff in school to nominate students whom they feel have been going above and beyond in their home learning and we will be sending out certificates via email to those who have been nominated. Congratulations in advance to all those students who receive a certificate!
- If your child is struggling to access any of our online platforms, particularly Google Classroom and Teams then please follow the link below to the achievement section on the school website that contains some troubleshooting advice on using these platforms. If you are having any issues getting into ClassCharts then please contact the achievement team at achievement@whickhamschool.org and we will be happy to help.

<https://www.whickhamschool.org/achievement/on-line-resources/>

- If you have not yet had chance to fill in the parent survey on remote learning then it can be found here:

<https://forms.gle/KaYxrT6kiiRCkgBG9>

Key information from previous bulletins: Information has not changed

AEN pupils

All of our AEN pupils have been assigned a Key Worker, who will be in weekly contact with pupils and their parents/carers, to ensure that they are engaging with remote learning and to provide an additional layer of support. It is also worth mentioning that teachers will do their utmost to continue to take into account individual pupils' needs when planning, setting / delivering remote learning.

If you have any queries about AEN support during lockdown, please contact dcroslan@whickhamschool.org.

Sixth Form

Every Friday the Sixth Form team are sharing the FAQ from the week. This week we will answer questions on apprenticeships, learning and destinations.

All students have a one to one mentoring session each fortnight with their tutor. So far these have been really effective. Please encourage your son/daughter to attend their allocated session.

Each Monday year 12 and 13 will have an assembly delivered via teams 8.45am. This will include vital information.

If your son/ daughter requires any well-being support please continue to contact Mr Turnbull (Head of year 12) turnbulli@whickhamschool.org or Miss Flint (Head of year 13) kflint@whickhamschool.org

Pastoral Team

As always Pastoral Leaders and the wider Pastoral Team are here to support you and your children. Should you have any issues or concerns please do not hesitate to contact the relevant Head of Year. We are going to make regular contact with all pupils and you may receive a 'check in' call from a HOY or a wider member of the team.

- Y7 - Miss Herrington eherrington@whickhamschool.org ext 224
- Y8 - Mrs Hall ahall@whickhamschool.org ext 239
- Y9 - Mrs Bensley abensely@whickhamschool.org ext 240
- Y10 - Ms Elliott delliott2@whickhamschool.org ext 226
- Y11 - Mr Houston ghouston@whickhamschool.org ext 225

Mental health support

- We appreciate that the current situation we all face can significantly impact upon a young person's mental health and well being. We are here to support families and any person requiring additional support.

- We have a counsellor in school, a family support worker and pastoral staff who have been trained in supporting children with their mental health. If you feel that you would like some support from school staff please contact mhsupport@whickhamschool.org and we will ensure that provision is put in place.
- You can also access a range of resources on the school website, including the link to [Kooth](#) which will help your child have immediate access to mental health support services.

Achievement Team

The achievement team is here to support you with any issues your child may be having accessing their work or with IT. If you have any issues please email achievement@whickhamschool.org or contact the following year group representatives:

- Y7 - Miss Envy ext 318
- Y8 - Mrs Hammerton ext 228
- Y9 - Miss Jones ext 201
- Y10 - Mr Day ext 317
- Y11 - Mrs Hughes ext 206
- Y12/13 - Mrs Ross ext 252

If you requested extra data for a mobile device please be aware that to qualify you will need to meet all of the following criteria:

- Not have fixed broadband at home
- Not be able to afford additional data for your devices
- Are experiencing disruption to their face-to-face education

This is a government directive and we regret that not everyone will qualify for the scheme.

This week, teaching staff have moved to a new way of reporting concerns and successes in remote learning. Teachers will be recording “**strong engagement in remote learning**” and “**concern over engagement in home learning**” in ClassCharts and you will be able to see all feedback in your child’s activity feed. We are hoping this will allow you to clearly see how well your child is engaging in their remote learning. While students are learning remotely this replaces our usual Class Charts notifications.

Free School Meals Vouchers

- The national Edenred voucher system is now operational and vouchers have been ordered for three weeks worth of lunches per child. We have asked for the e-codes to be sent to parents/carers on Monday 25th January by email and this will mean that you receive one payment of £45 per child, taking you up to half term.
- Edenred is the same national system that was used last year during the lockdown period and many parents/carers will be familiar with the process of redeeming the e-code for a voucher which can be used in a number of supermarkets. Further details can be found here: <https://www.edenred.co.uk/reward-recipient/Free-School-Meal-Vouchers/>
- Please also read the FAQs at the bottom of the information page for full details and if you have any queries please contact Email: info@whickhamschool.org Phone: 0191 4960026 and we will support you.

Year 11 Post 16 Destinations

Over the next few weeks all year 11s will be contacted via email to ensure we have accurate information about their post 16 destination and to offer support to students who are unsure or need further guidance.

Literacy

In Accelerated Reader lessons at Whickham, students have a vast choice of books of all genres. This allows our students to explore their imagination, develop their vocabulary, and track their progress with reading. In order to support home learning during students' usual library lessons, we'd encourage your child to sign up to your local library's online server to access e books. Your child can then use the "Accelerated Reader Bookfinder" website to see if there's a quiz available. See how to access your local library online in the following [video](#)