



Remote Learning

You will be aware that, due to the increasing infection and transmission rate of COVID-19 all learning will now take place remotely.

I apologise to our nursery parents who up until Tuesday 5 January were of the understanding that nursery would return on Wednesday 6 January. Due to the lack of information from DE by lunchtime on Tuesday 5th the Chair of Governors and I decided that in order to allow parents some time to arrange child care and to ensure the safety of all children and staff, nursery would not re-open until further information had been received from DE. This decision proved to be the correct one, as DE announced late on Tuesday evening that nurseries should also close.

We used Seesaw in the previous lockdown and also for homework since we returned to school in September. Seesaw lessons began on Thursday 7 January except for Y7 (AQE children) who will begin Seesaw on Monday 11 January.

In a previous newsletter I forwarded a copy of our 'Remote Learning Policy' and 'Our Seesaw Pledge'. Both documents can be viewed on our school website www.whiteheadps.com

If you have any issues or concerns, please contact your child's class teacher through Seesaw. Should you need to speak to me you can contact by email at jloughins453@c2kni.net or in school at 02893353280. The office will be open each day from 9.00am – 2.00pm. Should you ring outside these hours please leave a message on the answer machine and either Mrs Lowry or myself will be in contact.

AQE Transfer Test

I'm sure that you are all aware that the three AQE transfer tests planned for January were cancelled. AQE then announced that they would hold a one-off test on Saturday 27 February.

As you can imagine this has caused a huge amount of anxiety for the Y7 pupils (& their parents) who were to complete the tests. One parent described it has been 'an absolute roller coaster ride!'

Our thoughts are with the Y7 pupils and their parents. I would like to take this opportunity to express how proud we are of our Y7 children who were set to complete the test.

"Boys and girls you have worked so hard and have taken everything in your stride. It's perfectly normal to feel a 'wee bit' anxious but don't worry about a thing. Mrs Hill & Mr Baird have everything under control. You are in the really good hands of two wonderful teachers."

Nursery & Y1 Applications

We have produced three short videos in lieu of Open Night. A day in the life of WPSNU and a focus on Nursery & Y1 are available on our school website www.whiteheadps.com. If you would like to chat to me, please don't hesitate to contact me on 02893353280.

Online applications (www.eani.org.uk) opened on Thursday 7 January 2021 at 12.00 noon.

Key Worker & Vulnerable Children Provision

While the children are learning remotely, school is still open in order to facilitate Keyworker and Vulnerable Children. The initial communication from DE stated that both parents should be key workers. DE have now clarified that one parent should be a key worker. However, given the extremely high rate of infection and transmission at the moment DE have advised that provision in school **SHOULD BE A VERY LAST RESORT. While I always recommend that children should be in school, I am 100% convinced that the safest place for children at the moment, is at home.** The children who attend will be facilitated in the Gym Hall and supervised by classroom assistants from 9.00am – 2.00pm. As stated by DE there will be supervised learning but there will be no face to face teaching. In order to limit possible transmission (keeping the children and staff as safe as possible), the children will be outside as often as the weather permits, classroom assistants will wear PPE and will maintain 2m social distance at all times. While we will encourage children to socially distance from each other, I'm sure that you appreciate that this is impossible with primary aged children. For the period of remote learning this group will become a 'bubble' and will be treated as such should any child or adult test positive. If you would like to chat to me about the provision don't hesitate to contact me.