

Whiston Junior and Infant school

Newsletter: November 2021

<https://www.whistonjunior-infant.co.uk/>



Dear parents and carers,

I hope that you have managed some quality time with your children and families over the half term and that you have all been well. This term is another busy one for us with many exciting events for the children to look forward to.

We have booked a Panto to come into school this year, instead of attending the Rotherham Civic and our PTA have offered to fund this, so we will not need to ask you for any contributions. We are also hopefully planning for FS2 and Y1 to present their Nativity plays to parents and carers too. I will email further details in the coming weeks.

Temporary staffing changes:

Unfortunately, we are starting this new term with some staff illnesses. Many of us, including myself, have been hit by COVID-19 and other illnesses over the half term break and during the previous weeks too. Therefore, you may notice some new faces in school this week.

In FS2, Mrs Thomson-Plant and Mrs Green teach Monday and Tuesday and Ms Frith with Mrs Green will teach Wednesday to Friday. Ms Frith is a supply teacher who worked in FS2 before the half term break and she will continue to work in FS2 until Mrs Lodge is feeling better.

However, due to COVID, Ms Frith will also work on Tuesday this week too. Mrs Thomson-Plant will continue to plan for FS2 throughout Mrs Lodge's absence and will liaise with Ms Frith on a daily basis. Mrs Mercer will also support FS2 at various points of the day.

No changes in Y1, with the exception of the return of Mr Roberts, now he is feeling better. Mrs Mercer will continue to support Y1 at various points of the day too.

In Y2, Mrs Widula will continue to teach until Mrs Perry returns and Mrs Waddington will continue as the teaching assistant until we recruit a new member of staff. Mrs Mercer will also support Y2 at various points of the day.

No changes in Y3 or Y4.

In Y5, this week we have Mr Hirst. Mr Hirst is a supply teacher and will teach in Y5 until Mrs Thompson is feeling better.

In Y6, Mrs Francis will continue to teach with Mrs Fretwell supporting. Mrs Fretwell will support in Y6 until Mrs Haynes or Mrs Carlin are feeling better and are able to return to school.

To add further capacity, we also have our CEO, Ms Kate Davies in school during my absence and you may also see some of our Trust premises staff, who will be around school to give us extra support too.

Pupil Voice - Well done Charlie!

Charlie in Y5 visited 10 Downing Street in the half term break to speak to Boris Johnson about climate change as part of the children's conference, prior to the World leaders meeting this week.

#COP26 

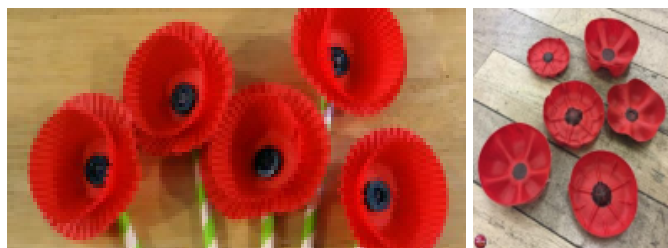


Remembrance: Thursday 11th November



To mark the 100th Year Anniversary of the British Legion, I would like us to mark this occasion by trying to create 100 poppies (or more) to be hung on our Mindfulness Tree (metal tree at the front of school).

If you would like to join us please make a poppy with your child and hang it on the tree by Thursday 11th November. I look forward to seeing your creations being added to hopefully make a truly respectful display of 'Remembrance'.



A few ideas and links below:

<https://www.pennyblogs.com/crafts/plastic-poppies-a-remembrance-day-craft/>

Poppy Appeal: British Legion Merchandise

Our new School Council will also be selling a range of poppies, wristbands, reflectors and other merchandise from Thursday 4th November. If you would like your child to purchase any item, please send any money in a named envelope. Suggested donations range from 20p for a poppy up to a suggested donation of £1.50 for snap bands etc.



School Photographs

We have the photographer in school on Wednesday 3rd November. They will be taking photos of individual children and only siblings that are in school.

Any queries please email enquiries@wji.wwp.at.org.

Immunisation: Flu Vaccine

Flu Vaccine 18th November: If you haven't already given permission but you would like your child to receive the nasal flu vaccine in school, please follow this link to complete an online consent form: <https://nhsimms.uk/FLU/information?Id=140115&Type=FLU...>

Any issues contact 0333 358 3397 (opt 2)

Children in Need



Children In Need this year is on **Friday 19th November**. This will be a non-uniform day. The theme is yellow or spots. If your child would like to take part, we are asking for a donation towards the appeal.

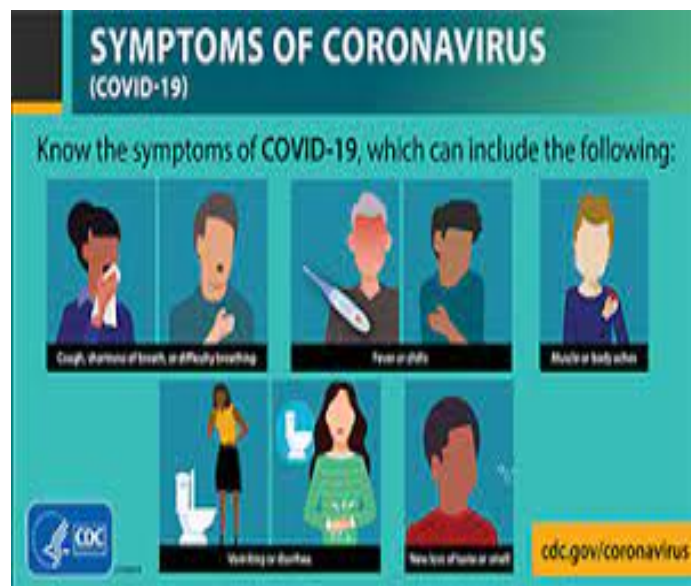
Year 2 Phonics Check

The Department for Education (DfE) and Standard Testing Agency (STA) announced earlier that in the 2021 to 2022 academic year, schools must administer a past version of the phonics check to year 2 pupils, this is due to the cancellation of the year 1 phonics screening check in June 2021.

Mrs Woodward will assess all our Year 2 children's phonic knowledge during this term. I will email further information to all our Y2 parents and carers.

Covid updates

We continue to follow advice from our Trust from the DfE, our Local Authority and PHE with regards to limiting the spread of COVID-19. In light of a higher proportion of staff being affected by COVID over the last couple of weeks, I have asked our Health and Safety lead to contact the Local Authority to check if we need to return to any further safety guidelines. If we do, I will inform you of any changes as soon as possible.



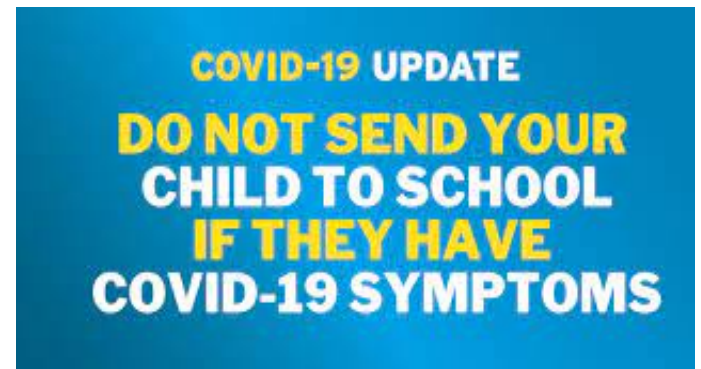
Watch for Symptoms

People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. Anyone can have mild to severe symptoms. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Fever - high temperature
- New continuous cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

This list does not include all possible symptoms. CDC will continue to update this list as we learn more about COVID-19.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>



November Diary Dates: (so far)

2.11.21 - 11.11.21 Make and attach a poppy onto the Mindfulness Tree as a mark of Remembrance/Reflection

3.11.21 Individual School Photos

4.11.21 - 12.11.21 Poppy Appeal merchandise on sale

18.11.21 Flu immunisation in school

19.11.21 Child in Need Non-Uniform Day