



# WHYTRIG MIDDLE SCHOOL

One of the Seaton Valley Federation of Schools

Elsdon Avenue, Seaton Delaval, Northumberland NE25 0BP

Tel: 0191 2371402 Fax: 0191 2371830

Email: [admin@whytrig.northumberland.sch.uk](mailto:admin@whytrig.northumberland.sch.uk)

Website: [www.svf.org.uk](http://www.svf.org.uk)

**Executive Headteacher:** John Barnes

**Head of School:** Jonathan Souter

29 January 2021

Dear Parent or Carer

I hope this letter finds you well. It's been another busy week for everyone and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued efforts, particularly around supporting the children with home learning. I would like to congratulate our pupils attending our in school provision for their hard work in another demanding week and of course I would like to pay particular attention to our staff who continue to work incredibly hard, both in school and out of school creating lessons, monitoring work and following up concerns.

## COVID Lateral Flow Testing

This week we undertook covid lateral flow testing for children in Key Stage 3 attending school with consent and staff. The service only operates when strict procedures are in place and staff have had the required training. I would therefore like to thank all the staff on the Elsdon Avenue site who have worked together to complete the training and then put into place the necessary measures to ensure the testing process this week has been a success. A lot of time and effort was given to get the testing up and running and the testing process itself has been time consuming for the staff involved. Over the week we have improved the process so by today, when our children had their second test, we had made the process much more efficient. It is good for the children in school to have the confidence to attend school knowing that they have now been tested for the virus, as well as parents at home. It has certainly been an interesting week though, noting that there was never a section on this when any of us did our teacher training!

## Scheduled Work

There are three main types of resource issued through Google Classroom (and represented by different icons on the screen). They are:

- Assignment, which is the lesson and resources and work to be completed by a set hand in date. Assignments may contain links to other website or documents enclosed to be completed by the children. Staff will state what the child is required to do before the 'hand in' is clicked to submit the work.
- Material, which is a resource we send for children to look at, such as the assembly video or star of the week video – these do not have to be handed in as they are there just for reference. No action is required other than to follow the instructions. Sometimes there is a choice element to the material.
- Quiz, which is an online test created in Google Classroom which the children takes (usually in multiple choice question format) and then submitted by the child. A quiz created in Google Classroom will be marked instantly and if feedback has been added by the teacher, the child should be able to see what they need to do to improve.

As we have said previously, work is scheduled to appear on the day the lesson would normally be taught, although the time of day may differ to help you plan your day. A hand in time will usually be set; we will be looking at hand in times for assignments as a school next week in order to improve consistency across all subjects in this area. Please contact us if you are having any difficulties handing in work or with Google and we will continue to do our very best to address these issues.

## Pupil Engagement

Well done to our children who have engaged so well this week with their learning. We would also like to thank parents for their continued support as we continue working remotely. It is important to note that when we use the term engagement we are not referring to achievement or an academic grade, rather how much of the work that has been set has been completed. We do recognise that pupils may be struggling during this challenging time. Staff may contact home where subject teachers have recorded little or no engagement during the week but this should not be a cause of upset or worry for them. This is our way of checking everything is ok and that the children have what they need to be able to engage with the work. We have found out that some children are still not handing work in, so it appears that assignments are incomplete.

### **Remote Learning Surveys**

Thank you to all the parents who took time to complete the online learning surveys. The feedback has been very positive and there is a sense that the online learning is working far better than it did in the first school closure last year. We know things can still be improved and we appreciate the constructive comments that will help inform our provision when we review it next week. The survey is now closed. We had planned to survey the children this week but this will now be done over the course of next week instead.

### **School Assemblies**

This week our school assemblies were about Burns Night (what's in a name?) on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> and on Holocaust Memorial Day on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup>. Next week it is Children's Mental Health Week so our assembly on Monday will reflect that and we will also be adding some extra resources into the Mental Health section of each Year Group's Information class.

### **Stars Of The Week**

Well done to our Stars of the week that have been shared in Google Classroom today. It was a really difficult decision again for form teachers to choose just one child from the many nominees. If you don't know who they are, check out the Year Group Information class and the Stars of the week video can be played from there. The results will be shared in Google Classroom each week on a Friday.

We hope everyone has a fantastic weekend and a very well deserved rest. Once again, please stay safe and take care in these difficult times.

Yours sincerely

Mr J K Souter  
Head of School