



## WEST HESLERTON C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

Head: Rachel Wells B.A.(Hons)Q.T.S. NPQH

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“Children are at the centre of all we do”

February 12<sup>th</sup> 2021

Dear Parent,

We have come to the end of another strange half term. Next week will be a break from home learning for everyone. This may relieve some of the pressure you have been experiencing. We are looking forward to welcoming everyone back to school, hopefully next month.

### **Half Term Break**

The Half Term break is Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February. No home learning will be set for this week. School will **reopen to critical worker children only on Mon 22<sup>nd</sup> February.**

### **Return to School**

We are awaiting details of when we can welcome more pupils back to school. We'll be keen to hear of school news in the planned national announcement on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February.

### **Positive Covid cases**

Should you have **any Covid test results**, please share these with us (whether learning at home or at school) using [covid@heslerton.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:covid@heslerton.n-yorks.sch.uk) so that we can alert Health England and all families as soon as possible to any contact (within 48 hours) that has taken place. Emails are checked daily, including weekends, to identify cases of children at school and home.

### **Keeping staff and children in school safe**

On several occasions during the last few weeks, some families attending school are not following the Lockdown rules when not in school. A few are still meeting outside of school, often at the school pick up time in the village. **For families who are attending school, we must insist that you adhere to the lockdown rules.** If it comes to our attention that your family is not following these national Covid rules when not in school, **the Governors will immediately consider your child's place in school** to keep everyone else safe. **This will happen irrespective of your role as a key worker.**

I hope you can understand why we need to do this – please make sure you and your child follow the rules to help everyone stay healthy.

### **Covid testing in school for staff**

Asymptomatic staff members are voluntarily testing themselves twice weekly to minimise the spread of Covid in school. We have, thankfully, had negative results so far. These tests will keep your child safer but may result in bubbles having to close and pupils isolate from school.

Attendance at school will result in children and families following any local health protection team advice given. This includes track and trace; self isolation, bubble closure and possibly whole school closure. Please check Dojo daily for updates and **have an alternative emergency childcare plan in place. If you do not need your child in school, please keep them at home.**

If you require this in a different format, please contact the office

### **After School Club**

Please book ahead by phone for our after school club. Staff will be furloughed during sessions that are not needed. Telephone bookings on the day may not be possible if this facility is closed.

### **Feedback to school**

Thank you for the feedback to school as requested in recent newsletters. I have attached the feedback we received.

### **Illness**

Please contact us if your child is ill and unable to complete remote learning tasks at home. We will not expect completed work until your child is better.

Please do not send your child to school if they are not well. In addition to Covid, there are many other bugs around at present. We are working hard to keep regular staff with your child to prevent the spread of germs but this is not possible if staff are off poorly.

### **Current Vacancies**

#### **General Teaching Assistant**

Governors have recently decided to appoint an additional member of staff to work in Badger Wood class alongside Mrs Woodward and Miss Johnson. We are very fortunate to be able to support pupils in this way. If you are interested in working with children at our school or know someone else who may be, please check the vacancy information here.

<https://nyccjobs.engageats.co.uk/Vacancies/W/5171/0/287602/20234/general-teaching-assistant-west-heslerton-church-of-england-primary-school>

#### **Parent Governor Vacancy**

We have a vacancy for a volunteer parent governor. The application closing date is Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February. For details, please see <https://www.heslerton.n-yorks.sch.uk/parents/newsletters>

#### **Co-opted Governor Vacancy**

We have a vacancy for a volunteer governor. If you know of anybody locally who would like to guide and support the direction of the school, please ask them to contact school.

### **Safer Internet Day**

Safer Internet Day provides a focus for online safety. This year with lockdown learning, it is more relevant than ever. Safety is paramount for work and gaming. This link helps parents to keep their children safe when playing games with others online.

<http://www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/parents-carers/parent-info/games-consoles-smart-devices-and-how-to-keep-your-children-safe/>

Let's work hard to keep all children safe online wherever they may access the internet.

### **Critical Workers**

Thank you to Sainsbury's who provided lunch for staff today to celebrate the end of half term.. We appreciate the recognition of the hard work taking place in all schools at this difficult time. Thank you to all the key workers in our area who continue to do a great job which allows us to do ours! We are grateful to those risking their health on behalf of our families and community.

### **Activities at home**

We recognise the hard work of everybody at home this half term, especially those who are remote learning full time. Parents and children have done a grand job! Those at home full time should have received a Dojo message about a wellbeing catch up, please do check messages. Should you be at a loose end next week, there are lots of additional ideas online for younger pupils at <https://hungrylittleminds.campaign.gov.uk/> and <https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people> There are ideas for older children at <https://literacytrust.org.uk/family-zone/>

### **Contacting School**

Due to limited office staff hours, please contact teachers on Dojo for learning questions. The office can be contacted on 01944 728286 for the fastest response. School can be emailed on [admin@heslerton.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:admin@heslerton.n-yorks.sch.uk) and these emails are usually checked daily.

### **Lent**

Next week is Shrove Tuesday (pancakes!) followed by Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent. We are unable to hold an Easter Service this year so will focus upon reflection in Lent instead:

#### **Kindness Challenge**

We are giving all children and families the Lent Challenge via your child's class teacher on Dojo. Instead of giving something up, we are encouraging people to give instead. This is also on the website in the newsletters section so that you can find it over the coming weeks.

#### **Fitness Challenge**

As the lighter nights arrive, we are encouraging all children and families to take part in the Lent walking Challenge. Details are on the website in the newsletters section so that you can find it easily over the coming weeks.

### **World Book Day**

World Book Day will be held this year on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March. We will not be fully reopen to all pupils on this date so have planned to bring events to your homes. Please see the separate letter on the website for details of activities commencing from Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February.

### **Further updates**

We are looking forward to seeing everyone back at school as soon as we can. Please get in touch if you need any further support until we are able to welcome everyone back.

Take care and stay safe.  
Rachel Wells,  
Headteacher

“The school's work to promote pupil's personal development and welfare is outstanding”

OfSTED inspection, February 2019

If you require this in a different format, please contact the office



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“Children are at the centre of all we do”

Dear Parents / Guardians,

At West Heslerton School we value the relationship we have with parents and guardians and appreciate the importance of good communication between home and school.

The current school lockdown happened suddenly and has been extremely challenging for schools and families. We have tried to prioritise the well-being of children and families and ensure that children's education continued as normally as possible. The national situation is shifting all the time and we have already learnt lots about how sustainable learning can be best delivered. As a result, our remote education offer is evolving.

We would welcome comments from parents to help celebrate the things that have worked well and consider suggestions for future learning at home and school. We would welcome comments on the form below or on messages to me on Dojo.

Yours sincerely,  
Rachel Wells

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### Remote Learning Feedback January 2021

#### **Things that have worked well:**

Hope all is well in school. It's nearly the end of another lockdown week. After our first week of mixing home school with XXX being in school, we can safely say it's gone really well & all the information we are being sent is brilliant. We particularly love the way the week is broken down day by day & there are extra activities to do if you want to and have the time to. There is also a brilliant mix of interactive things to do on the iPad coupled up with good old fashioned writing and using books too. We love the idea of the live meet & greet, I think that's a really nice idea especially for the families home schooling every day who are not seeing their friends and teachers. Hope it goes well! We really do think you are all doing a great job in such tricky & stressful circumstances, keep up the good work! Have a brilliant weekend.

The content of the home learning material is good.

Feedback is prompt and positive

The teachers and TAs are doing a fantastic job during a difficult time. Having children both in and out of school is very difficult.

#### **Further suggestions:**

It would be nice if they could have more worksheets to print off and write on rather than doing the majority of things online (I notice that XXX has got some this week which is great).

Using a tablet/ipad or laptop is terrible for the posture especially if you don't have the correct workstation at which to work which we don't at home.

I am fortunate in that I have access to books for XXX to read rather than relying on online books as again, it isn't good for young children to be using screens this much.

Lets hope things get back to normal sooner rather than later and that the government recognise that online learning is no real substitute for children being in school.

If you require this in a different format, please contact the office