

WEST HESLERTON C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

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"Children are at the centre of all we do."

NEWSLETTER November 5th 2021

A paper newsletter will be sent home each Friday, you may wish to isolate this for 48 hours before reading it. This will also be on the school website. www.westheslertonschool.co.uk

SCHOOL


Welcome back after the holiday. We are looking forward to a busy half term ahead. We are hoping to be able to run all the planned activities including sport events, the panto in December and to invite parents to church for the nativity/ carol service. These arrangements may have to change depending upon updated advice from NYCC. Please see the letter over the page.

We are pleased to be welcoming Miss Westcombe in Badger Wood this half term. She is training to be a teacher and is joining us to gain experience during this school year.

Thank you to the Fire Service for their safety talks to all children before Bonfire Night.

Photos – please find attached the proof of the recent photos and details of how to order online.

REMEMBRANCE DAY

We will be observing the silence at 11 am  on Thursday, November 11th. Poppies and other goods are available to buy from school for the Royal British Legion- details on Dojo.

RUGBY EVENT

The children in Farthing Wood will be taking part in a rugby event at Norton College on **Wednesday, November 10th**. They will travel with Fletcher's coaches and be accompanied by Mrs Bickerton and Mrs Wardell. We will leave school at 12.30 and return for the end of the school day. Children should come to school in their P.E. kit and they will be issued with a team shirt. Please would parents wash the team shirts and return them to school as soon as possible.

Pupils will need to take their own inhalers if necessary. School carries insurance for all school trips. In case of emergency please contact the school.

COVID

Should you have **any positive Covid test results**, please share these with us using covid@heslerton.n-yorks.sch.uk so that we can work with Health England. Emails are checked daily, including weekends, to identify cases of children at school and home. Pupils, staff and other adults must not come into the school if they have one or more coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms. A PCR test should be arranged and pupils should stay away from school until the outcome is known. If positive, they should remain at home for at least 10 days. School regularly communicate with Public Health England and we are monitoring our situation. Please see the letter from NYCC regarding measures in place.

FOOTBALL EVENT

The children in Keeper Wood will be taking part in a football event at Malton Community Sports Centre on **Wednesday, November 10th**. They will travel with Fletcher's coaches and be accompanied by Miss Shackley and Mrs Triffitt. We will leave school at 12.30 and return for the end of the school day. Children should come to school in their P.E. kit and they will be issued with a team shirt. Please would parents wash the team shirts and return them to school as soon as possible. Pupils will need to take their own inhalers if necessary. School carries insurance for all school trips. In case of emergency please contact the school.

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

29th October 2021

Dear parents and carers,

Over the last few weeks we have seen a significant increase in the number of children and young people who have tested positive for COVID-19. Parts of North Yorkshire have recently had some of the highest rates of COVID-19 in the country. Transmission rates are particularly high among school-aged children and young people, their households and contacts. The number of cases seen in both health and social care is also increasing. The number of people in local hospitals with COVID-19 has risen steadily throughout October, with an increasing number of cases also seen in care homes. This comes at a time when health and social care settings are already facing challenges with workforce shortages, increasing workloads, and preparations for a difficult winter. We need to do what we can to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 in schools and our communities. Keeping COVID-19 rates as low as possible over the next few months is crucial to keeping children in classrooms, allowing time for vaccinations for young people to be rolled out and take effect, and minimizing the long-term impacts of COVID-19 on young people.

We continue to work with education settings to make sure that appropriate measures are in place to minimise the risk of transmission. We have written to all schools reinforcing public health guidance on managing and preventing cases. This includes:

- 1. Encourage regular twice-weekly lateral flow testing for all staff and pupils aged 11+**
- 2. Considering reintroduction of face coverings in settings experiencing cases to minimise onward spread.**

These should initially be for a period of 2 weeks, then reviewed in line with the number of cases currently in the setting.

- 3. Wearing face coverings on shared transport**
- 4. Continuing to reinforce messages on good hand and respiratory hygiene**
- 5. Maximising ventilation in classrooms and other shared spaces.**
- 6. Reducing mixing between year groups and classes and limiting visitors to the school**
- 7. Assessing whether educational trips and residential visits should go ahead**

These measures are recommended based on the current picture of COVID-19 locally and nationally, and will continue to be reviewed on a regular basis. Some schools may choose not to follow all of the above advice based on their existing COVID-19 measures and infection rates. We continue to provide bespoke advice for any schools identifying concerns.

On top of the measures that schools are taking, there are measures that you can continue to support to keep young people safe.

This includes:

Face coverings: Face coverings should be worn by everyone travelling to school via shared transport, in line with national guidance. This includes buses or trains or any transport where they come into contact with people they do not normally mix with. Schools experiencing increased numbers of cases can bring back face coverings on site. Regardless of outbreak status individuals across all settings who wish to wear a face covering are able to do so.

Testing: If you have a child aged 11 or over, please continue with regular lateral flow testing at home twice a week for the rest of this term. If anyone in your family has symptoms of COVID-19 they must isolate and book a PCR test. Schools may give additional advice on testing if your child is identified as a possible close contact of a case. The 3 main symptoms of COVID-19 remain a fever (temperature 37.8°C or higher), a new continuous cough, or a change to/loss of taste or smell. However, other commonly reported symptoms of the Delta variant include headache, sore throat, tiredness, and cold-like symptoms, so please be aware of these as well and stay at home and seek further testing if you are in any doubt.

Hand and respiratory hygiene: Continue to encourage children to wash their hands regularly with soap and water, or use hand sanitiser if handwashing facilities are not available. Encourage children to use a tissue to catch coughs and sneezes as part of 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it' messages.

Vaccination: We would also encourage families to take up offers of vaccination when made available. There is clear evidence that vaccination has had a positive impact on reducing COVID-19 transmission and severity of disease across those age groups already taking part in the programme.

In addition to the school COVID-19 vaccination programme for 12-15 year olds, some appointments are now being made available through the NHS National Booking Service (<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/> or calling 119). The availability of appointments will vary week to week and NHS colleagues are looking to further develop this offer with additional sites as the programme continues to progress. We continue to encourage all residents of North Yorkshire to follow general COVID-19 guidance on an everyday basis as part of 'living with COVID'. Regular handwashing, wearing face coverings in indoor and crowded areas, maintaining a respectful social distance from others where possible, maintaining good ventilation, and regular testing (including before travelling, attending events etc.) are all measures that will help keep North Yorkshire a safe place to live. Finally, we would like to thank you for everything you have done to keep your family and community safe, and for your patience in supporting schools at this difficult time.

Kind regards,

Louise Wallace Director of Public Health for North Yorkshire

Stuart Carlton Director of Children and Young People's Service

WOODLAND ACTIVITY CLUB

The children attending this free holiday club had a wonderful few days, thank you to Will Watts and his team. Please take a few minutes to complete the attached feedback form to help us plan future clubs.

This club will run again on December 20th, 21st, 22nd and January 4th and 5th. Booking forms will be sent out shortly.

NUT FREE

Just a reminder that we are a nut free school. No food or snacks may be brought into school which contain nuts. This to protect all children and staff with a nut allergy.

CHILDREN IN NEED DAY

We will be supporting Children in Need Day on **Friday, November 19th**. Please wear your pjs or fancy dress and bring a donation but don't forget it is Forest Schools so dress up warmly!!

VACANCY

We have a vacancy in school for a **cleaner/caretaker**.

Working for NYCC as a Cleaning Assistant, you will be responsible for the cleaning duties on site including dusting, vacuuming and the cleaning of sanitary fittings. Full training will be provided and the hours are between 3.30 pm and 6.30 pm daily, with some flexibility on start and finish time and totaling 10 per week over 5 days. No weekend work! For this you will be paid £9.25 per hour. In addition to this we can offer the additional Caretaker responsibilities of locking the site after cleaning, setting the alarm and ensuring the site is fully secure. For this we will pay you an additional £9.43 per hour based on 5 hrs per week.

One applicant may be suitable for both roles although we will consider each role individually. Full details can be found on the NYCC Jobs website.

SCHOOL DINNERS

Next week is National School Meal week so why not try our home cooked meals. Children in years R to 2 receive these free of charge. For children in years 3 to 6 it is £2.50 for a two-course dinner. Meals may be ordered on the day, the school menu is on our website.

National Roast Dinner Day is on Wednesday, November 10th when the menu will be:

Roast pork and apple sauce with creamy mashed potatoes, broccoli, carrots and gravy, homemade bread followed by Cheese and crackers or yoghurt.

HESLERTON AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

Heslerton After School Club is open to all pupils from 3.30pm-5.30pm Monday to Thursday to relax and have fun with their friends.

Children need to be registered before they attend.

Please book ahead where possible. **If you are booking on the day please contact the school office on 01944 728286 to check availability and leave a message.** This club is very popular. We are not always able to check emails and Dojo messages on the day. Full sessions cost £8.00 per child and a 1 hour session, 3.30-4.30 or 4.30-5.30, costs £5 per child. At the end of each session, please collect your child from the wildlife area or buzz the front door. A staff member will sign your child out.

We look forward to welcoming you all to our exciting provision.

Please see attached a voucher for a free session if you have not already been this term – come along and enjoy the fun!!

PARKING

May we please remind you not to park at the top of the road as it is narrow here for access for emergency vehicles, deliveries and vehicles find it difficult to pass. Please pass this on to anyone collecting your child as we have had a few incidents of inconsiderate parking this week thank you.

Children from years 3-6 may walk down to the village if a permission slip has been completed.

BADGER WOOD

YORK MINSTER CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

We have been working on our decorations for the school Christmas tree that will be displayed in York Minster. We have investigated the Minster and the children were particularly interested in what happened when it was struck by lightning on the 9th July 1984.

If you wished to visit, then the festival will open to the public on Thursday 18th November and run until Thursday 6th January 2022. Entrance will be free, although donations will be welcomed, and visitors can take part in a competition for the best Christmas tree. There will be two awards, one for best commercial organisation and one for best charity/school.



KEEPER WOOD

FIRE SAFETY

Malton Fire Department came to talk to the children about keeping themselves safe at home, on Bonfire night and when riding a bike in the dark. There were some really good questions asked to clarify their understanding.

FARTHING WOOD

The children have been busy with homework challenges based on our Space topic, to do each week. Here are just a few great examples: cookies that look like Earth; buns decorated with planets; watercolour art of the solar system; a timeline of space travel; and a space-themed board game .



AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

This week students have been green wood carving to make firework rockets with flames, collecting white chalk pebbles to illuminate the paths, toasting marshmallows in the tee-pee, and enjoying hide and seek games in the dark now that the clocks have gone back.



ATTACHED

Please find attached:

- Letter for year 2 children
- School closure letter
- Woodland activity club feedback
- ASC voucher
- Photo proof

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