



Newsletter

The White Hills Park Trust

Friday 18th September 2020

www.whptrust.org

Issue Number 259

Keeping Our Schools Safe for Pupils and Staff

As you know, we're living in extraordinary times. Schools are obviously not alone in having to cope with a totally different context from the one we're used to – we appreciate that many of our families continue to face huge challenges and uncertainty, and it is very unclear when we might return to anything approaching normal pre-Covid life.

We have been pleased that our schools have managed a successful return to school over the last three weeks, and it has been very good to see children and young people back in their classes, working with their teachers and teaching assistants. This has been the result of a shared effort by school staff, parents / carers, and pupils themselves.

Over the last couple of weeks, the potential impact of positive cases of the virus has come closer. We have had the first instance of one of our schools having to ask a group to self-isolate on the advice of the Local Health Protection Team, and we are aware of other cases within our local area. A growing number of schools in the Nottingham and Eastwood area have suffered partial or full closures, including some that are very close to us.

We know that we cannot take chances with the health of our pupils and staff, or with the wider community effort to limit the spread of the virus. As well as making sure that our own safety measures are in place and adhered to, we will seek and follow advice from the experts. Please rest assured that if we ask for your child to be kept at home as a result of their displaying symptoms, it is not a decision we have taken lightly, but we know that swift action could potentially avoid a far greater number of pupils being kept at home, with all the disruption that would cause you.

Our greatest challenge remains the availability of rapid testing, particularly for staff. There is nothing more frustrating than the situation where staff are forced to stay at home because they cannot find out whether they have coronavirus or not. We have had numerous occasions already where teaching staff are required to self-isolate whilst awaiting the test, and the test has then returned a negative result. Although they can, and do, work very hard from home, it begins to put a strain on the smooth running of the school if staff are not present on site.

We are doing everything we can to address the situation, including making representations to the people responsible for the current system to let them know our views and to share the challenges we face. Rest assured that we are delivering a full curriculum, managing pupils' wellbeing and ensuring that our schools are safe and welcoming. We are also making sure that we can continue to deliver the curriculum if pupils are required to stay at home for an extended period.

Thank you for your support so far. I have said before that coping successfully with the crisis is dependent on strong relationships and high levels of trust between school and home. Fortunately, that is the case for our schools and, if anything, those relationships and that level of trust has been strengthened over the last six months.

Dr. Paul Heery
Chief Executive Officer

Settling into School Life

We are so proud of how well our Michael Rosen and Beatrix Potter classes (F2) have settled into school life. We love to explore, investigate and create. Here are some activities that we have been doing over the last 2 weeks:

A lovely sunny day so we need to look after the flowers growing in the garden. The children independently fill up watering cans and sprayers to help water the flowers.



"It's nearly full Mrs Hopkins" says Logan as he checks the water level.

Understanding the world - Shows care and concern for living things and the environment.

"This one has buds so the flowers are coming soon" - Indie waters the flowers with the watering can.

Understanding the world - Developing an understanding of growth, decay and changes over time.



Aniyah uses the water spray on a stone "Look, look" she says excitedly, "The water is making the stone darker and all shiny" Aniyah then explores the stone as it dries in the sunshine: "It's all dry now"

Understanding the world - Can talk about some of the things they have observed.



Working hard at the woodwork bench. Well done for applying our safety rules to use the saw and hammer!

Expressive arts and design - Selects tools and techniques needed to shape, assemble and join materials they are using.

We are so fortunate to have extensive outdoors grounds and landscaped play areas. The children love to climb and clamber, developing those large physical skills.



"I've reached the top" says Zak as Lily-Rose climbs up too!

The children having a game of 'The floor is lava'



Aaliyah and Hunter enjoy rolling down the hill while...



...Lucian just 'hangs around'



Physical development - Moves freely and with pleasure and confidence in a range of ways, such as slithering, shuffling, rolling, crawling, walking, running, jumping, skipping, sliding and hopping. Travels with confidence and skill around, under, over and through balancing and climbing equipment.

The Florence Nightingale Academy has also welcomed some new nursery children in our Mae C Jeminson class.

The nursery children have been exploring feelings and emotions this week and using materials and resources around us to create faces. We have thought carefully about the features that we need on our faces.



What a super smiley face you have made Niall!
A broken bucket handle makes the perfect smile.

Maddison used some resources from our tray to make a face
"Big teeth" - yes they are Maddison!



Daisy-Rae showed her family our face activity at home and made a lovely face using fruit and her toys. I think you'll agree that the keys on the piano make perfect teeth!

Expressive arts and design - Experiments with blocks, colours and marks.

See more on our Twitter Account!



@tfnacademy

The Florence Nightingale Academy · Sep 17
Michael Rosen and Beatrix Potter classes found a 'huge' caterpillar in the garden yesterday. This promoted lots of discussion and investigation.
#EYFS #spontaneous #childled #everyopportunityislearning



Michael Rosen Class F2
michaelrosenclassf2.wordpress....

The Florence Nightingale Academy · Sep 17
Socially distanced target games in PE. How can we hit the target using the frisbee? Year 3 finding out how.

