



# Newsletter

The White Hills Park Trust

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## Keeping Schools Open and Communities Safe

As we move towards half-term, the challenges of keeping schools operating successfully in the current climate have become ever more acute. We have had to develop totally new ways of operating that give a completely new level of complexity to the business of running a school. There are huge challenges and changes in terms of curriculum, teaching methods, safeguarding, pastoral care, links with parents and almost every other area of school life, as well as maintaining a safe physical environment, which has led to enforced timetable and curriculum changes at times. I would like to pay tribute to the staff teams at Alderman White, Bramcote College, and The Florence Nightingale Academy for the magnificent work they are doing. I'd also like to thank parents and carers for your support throughout this period.

As you know the situation in Nottinghamshire, including Broxtowe, has deteriorated in recent days, with a large rise in confirmed cases, and we are facing additional restrictions. It also seems likely that the picture may continue to change over the next few days. An increasing number of schools in our locality have either had to move completely to remote learning, or have asked class or year groups to isolate at home.

However, it has been very clear that despite the prospect of stricter measures, the government expects schools to stay open wherever possible. We welcome this, and it is a desire we share. It has been very good to see our schools full again, it has enabled their schooling to continue and in many cases, it has supported parents and carers in their return to work. Attendance at our schools has remained high.

There were many fears expressed in the media that children and young people would return to school having somehow forgotten how to behave and learn. In all of our schools, pupils have returned feeling positive and ready to get back to work. Despite their time out of the normal classroom environment, they have settled back into their school routine with very little fuss. Behaviour remains excellent and pupils are beginning to make rapid progress again. Despite the fact that there are obviously some gaps in the content of the curriculum as a result of the time out of school, we have every confidence that these gaps will be closed over time.

It has also been noteworthy that in all schools, students have taken their own responsibility seriously to create a safe and hygienic environment. They have followed the new rules about hand-washing, one way systems and so on, and have understood that a little inconvenience is a price worth paying to keep their school open. They have also provided support for each other, in a way that was not possible during lockdown.

Nevertheless, we are in a crucial period. The hugely increased prevalence of positive cases in the local environment obviously increases the risk of positive cases reported in school. It is vitally important that everyone in our school community plays their part in keeping the virus under control, and follows the guidance and advice, not just in school but in the wider community. It is difficult to overstate the importance of everyone maintaining social distancing, following sensible hygiene advice and avoiding mixing in large groups. Most importantly, if anyone develops symptoms, they should self-isolate, and get tested – this is the only way we can put a brake on the current spread of the virus. If you have concerns that your child may be developing symptoms, or may have been in close contact with someone who is showing symptoms, or with someone who has had a positive test, please do not send them into school.

The two-week half term break gives an opportunity for our communities to begin to get the spread of the virus back under control. If things go well at this point, that will give us the confidence to know that we can keep our schools open, and our pupils learning. We share the frustration of everyone in our community that we cannot get back to normal, but will do everything we can to ensure that our pupils are safe and continuing to learn. Thank you again for your support.

**Dr. Paul Heery**  
Chief Executive Officer

## Golden Book Assembly

We celebrated our first Golden Book Assembly this week, well done to the following children:



- Dina Asher Smith Class – Alfie
- Leonardo Da Vinci Class – Nila
- Billy Jean King Class – Lloyd
- Ellie Simmonds Class – Nola Rose
- Evelyn Glennie Class – Emily
- Nina Simone Class – Joshua
- Greta Thunberg Class – Ines
- Ada Lovelace Class – Abdur
- David Attenborough Class – Naomi
- Martin Luther King Class – Charlie
- Sanna Marin Class – Alfie
- Barack Obama Cass– Kayden
- Michelle Obama Class– Sophie
- Joseph Rowntree Class– Lexi

## World Mental Health Day

For World Mental Health day, the children made yellow accessories to show we are all a team here at the Florence Nightingale Academy.

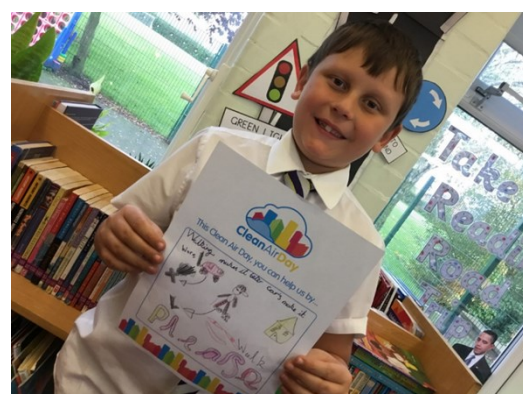
They also had a #HelloYellow challenge to make a member of staff smile, tell a joke and wave and smile at a friend. They also learnt about being Mental Health Superheroes in EYFS and KS1, whilst in K2 they learnt about being resilient.



## Clean Air Day

As a school we learnt this week about the importance of having clean air.

We joined in celebrating Clean Air Day and Year 6 designed some campaign posters.



## Black History Month

At the Florence Nightingale Academy, we are celebrating Black history month and are looking at historical figures from across the world. We are discovering how they have shaped the future both in this country and across the globe.

It is a month during which we highlight and celebrate the contribution that black people have made. We think it is extremely important that our children at the Florence Nightingale Academy are taught a rich and diverse understanding of the world within our history curriculum.

As part of our celebrations, each year group are researching an inspirational black person and finding lots of information about their lives and the impact that they have made.

**Nursery/F2** – In Early years, children are researching the famous civil activist Rosa Parks and are using lots of stories to find out how black people have been treated unfairly. They will be taking part in lots of exciting drama activities and creating portraits of Rosa Parks.

**Year 1** – In Year 1, children are finding out about Ruby Bridges – she was the first black child to attend an all-white elementary school in America. They will be creating beautiful collages and writing fact files about her to share their new learning.

**Year 2** – In Year 2, they have been reading stories about Martin Luther King and listening to his famous speech. The children will be creating their own speeches including the changes that they want to make in this world.

**Year 3** – In Year 3, the children are reading poems by the wonderful poet Maya Angelou. The children will be using her poetry to help write their own and also creating art work inspired by her poetry.

**Year 4** – In Year 4, the children are learning about George Carver Washington who was a scientist and inventor. They will be using his empowering quotes to create their own inspirational art work pieces.

**Year 5** – In Year 5, the children are researching Harriet Tubman who was particularly prominent in the anti-slavery movement. She helped lead hundreds of slaves to freedom. Children will be creating their own non-fiction pieces of writing to help teach others about the amazing ways in which she helped others.

**Year 6** – In Year 6, the children are discovering information about the athlete Jesse Owens. He competed in the 1936 Olympic games in Berlin winning four gold medals. This ruined Hitler's plan to use the Olympic games to demonstrate the superiority of the German race. Jesse Owens set many world records, including one which stood for 25 years. Children have created their own portraits of him and will be creating non-fiction pieces of writing.

