



Newsletter

The White Hills Park Trust

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 whptrust.org

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Changing our Practices and Adapting to Restrictions

As you are well aware, last Thursday signalled the beginning of a four-week period of national restrictions designed to halt the rise in infections of Covid-19. Although the local restrictions were already quite stringent in our area, it still resulted in the necessity for us to go back again to our risk assessments and safety plans and make further adaptations to comply with the new requirements.

Clearly, this is very different from the initial lockdown period in the spring, not least for us in schools. The government has been very clear that schools will stay open and, as all of our schools have done since the start of the crisis, we will do all we can to meet the requirements and make our contribution to the national effort. One thing we all agree upon is the need for education to continue in whatever way we can achieve that safely.

The current situation does, of course, present us with some real challenges in all of our schools. Our staffing levels have been reduced as a result of staff having to isolate at home and the high level of cases in our locality has been demonstrated by positive cases and student groups being sent home for a period of up to two weeks. We are keenly aware of the impact on families when this happens, and do not take the decisions lightly, always taking into account the official advice we receive.

Despite the challenges, the measures we have taken have been effective so far in limiting the impact of positive cases. We have not seen any evidence of in-school transmission and when positive cases have been reported, we have been able to limit the number of students and staff who have been asked to stay at home. School systems to reduce contact, and to ensure that safety measures are maintained and that pupils adhere to them have been very well established. The hard work we have done in establishing online and remote learning systems, including providing resources for pupils who did not have access to IT, has paid off and has meant that learning can continue to take place when pupils have had to stay at home.

Our teachers have done a magnificent job to establish such a high-quality remote learning offer, and the vast majority of our pupils have embraced the new way of working. It will undoubtedly lead to permanent changes in the way we deliver our curriculum in the years to come. However, the best possible environment for our pupils to learn is in the classroom with their peers and their teacher in front of them. In all of our schools, staff are working hard to identify learning gaps as a result of the disruption and put plans in place to address them, with the recognition that this may take some time.

It was heartening to hear that there is now a real prospect of an effective vaccine becoming available in the coming months. This gives us hope that at some point we will be returning to running our schools in the way we know best, with the full range of opportunities and enrichment, and allowing everyone to feel safe and secure. It reinforces the vital importance of maintaining the current level of vigilance, in the knowledge that reducing infection rates will lead to fewer people falling seriously ill and the avoidance of needless deaths this winter. Thank you once again for all of your support and understanding.

Dr. Paul Heery
Chief Executive Officer

Remembrance Day

At the Florence Nightingale Academy this week, we have been learning about why we commemorate Remembrance Day. We have learned about the sacrifices made by our brave service men and women and why the poppy is a symbol for remembrance.

KS2 Classes have also been reading and reflecting upon the well-known poem 'In Flanders Field' written by John McCrae.

Each year group also created their own poppy in various styles which are proudly displayed around school for all to see!



Nursery

Nursery have had a bright and busy start back as we have begun our learning about this half term's topic, colour and pattern. We started by learning about fireworks, watching firework displays and talking about how to stay safe. We then performed our own firework display using streamers to create the colours and instruments to represent the noise!



This week we have been learning all about Diwali! We have used our gross motor skills to decorate our outdoor area with Rangoli patterns to bring us good luck and our fine motor skills to design mehndi hands. We became investigators as we explored and talked about Diwali artefacts and compared the ways in which festivals are celebrated.



Golden Book Assembly

Well done to everyone who was chosen for the Golden Book Assembly this week!

Dina Asher Smith class: **Eva**

Leonardo Da Vinci class: **Lara**

Ellie Simmonds class: **Ianis**

Billie Jean King class: **Harrison**

Evelyn Glennie class: **Noah**

Greta Thunberg class: **Nikil**

Nina Simone class: **Lily-Mai**

Ada Lovelace: **Samuel**

David Attenborough class: **Lina**

Martin Luther King class: **Skye**

Barack Obama class: **Layla**

Joseph Rowntree class: **Aston**

Sanna Marin class: **Lucia**

Michelle Obama class: **Lydia-Mei**





HOW MANY MINUTES CAN YOU BE ACTIVE FOR?

Can you improve your personal best, or even be the most active individual, school, or family?

Being active for at least **60 minutes a day** is linked to better general health, stronger bones and muscles, and higher levels of self-esteem; it's also proven to increase mental wellbeing, reduces anxiety, and improves mood.

PRIZES AVAILABLE IN EACH CATEGORY, VISIT

broxtoweactiveschools.co.uk/active60
for more information and ideas.

BE HAPPY, BE HEALTHY, BE ACTIVE

