



# The Whartons Primary School

Head Teacher: Mrs Julia Dickson

[www.whartonsprimary.co.uk](http://www.whartonsprimary.co.uk)

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Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been three weeks since we entered another lock down and we had to unfortunately close our doors to all children, with the exception of key workers' children and those who are vulnerable. Although this is frustrating for everyone, we need to play our part in the whole country's effort to minimise contacts and drive down cases.

I am so thankful for all your efforts with home learning, which is I know is a huge challenge, alongside your patience and understanding of any problems with the home learning offer. Your many lovely emails have been so welcome.

We are constantly discussing how to provide the best offer we can, making changes and tweaks in light of government guidance and improving the accessibility for the children.

Below is a set of guidelines to clarify our aims and hopefully explain clearly and consistently how we can work together to support children's learning, whilst enabling many of you to continue with your work and home commitments. It is important to stress that we do not expect you to teach your children.

- Following government expectations, we have provided 3 hours of home learning for KS1 children and 4 hours for KS2 children. This includes watching the teacher led lessons and completing the set work/quiz. **Children should not spend more than one hour on each session in total.** It does not matter if they do not finish the work, as long as they have watched the lesson and made an attempt at some independent task, which is uploaded for their teachers to analyse progress and understanding.
- For both KS1 and KS2 children there is a daily English, maths and topic session which we need the children to watch and submit evidence for (**these take priority please**). In KS1 the English lesson may be split into 2 sections (phonics/writing) but will total 1 hour. In KS2 the teachers have identified a fourth lesson/activity to meet the longer time expectations. This extra session **does not** need to have uploaded work.
- Across school there will be an **independent extended writing** session once per week so that children's stamina for writing does not diminish. The teacher can build a good picture of children's progress through these extended pieces of work.





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- On the Google Classroom for each class there is a 'stream' section where messages from the teachers are loaded and a '**class work**' section where work for each day is organised together under a date heading. It is clear then what children need to do each day.
- We have chosen pre-recorded teacher led sessions, either government recommended Oak Academy lessons or class teacher pre-recorded sessions. Children should be able to follow these without further explanations and make an attempt at completing the assigned quiz or worksheet fairly independently.
- It is very important that children submit work for every lesson, as they would in school. The teacher can gauge from the submitted work if the child is confident or needs extra input and plan interventions such as an email/phone call or differentiated work, as necessary.
- Class teachers will acknowledge submitted work and will feedback in more depth on key pieces throughout the week.
- Class teachers will invite all children to a twice daily zoom. The first in the morning to check in with all children and to introduce the tasks for the day. The afternoon zoom is an opportunity for the children to ask questions about the day's work and to signal an end to lessons. We have staggered these live sessions to ensure that families with more than one child do not have a clash in timings.
- An adult must be present in the room during these live sessions; however, we request that adults **please do not engage in the session between teacher and children. Also do not record or put any of these sessions on social media.** Many thanks with your cooperation on this matter.
- On the Google classroom teachers will have also identified extension or additional resources which your child may like to attempt. **There are no expectations that children complete these extra tasks.**
- The teachers will identify on the Google Classroom some daily activities to practice key skills in addition to the pre-recorded lessons. This is to ensure children continue to commit key knowledge to memory with **Times Tables Rock Stars, Phonics and Spellings practice** and **reading from 'Active Learn'**. Although short, these daily tasks are vitally important. Please make sure your child engages at some point in the day with these activities.
- If you have issues, please message the teachers through the google classrooms and they will reply as soon as possible. Please be aware that teachers are covering bubbles at school, planning and uploading





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work to the Google Classroom, hosting live whole class sessions, recording short videos and marking and feeding back on submitted work. Keeping on top of all these elements is very challenging. In order to ensure the workload is manageable teachers will allocate times to reply to messages and to mark and feedback on children's allocated tasks. This will be by the end of the next working day. Unfortunately work submitted after 7pm at night will not be able to be marked.

- We understand that this is a very stressful and upsetting time for families at home. Teachers have loaded some ideas for daily resilience and mindfulness activities. We used these activities with all the children during the autumn term and this supported children's (and staff) mental health and well-being. **Please try to dedicate some time each day for positive thought, talking things over or mindfulness.**
- If at any time you or your children feel overwhelmed or need support, please contact the class teacher and we will do our best to support you in any way we can.

I apologise for the length of this letter and suggest perhaps reading in sections to ensure all the guidance is clear.

We all wish you the best during this time and hope we can all be together soon. Please send messages and photos of anything super you have been doing at home.

Remember daily exercise is very important for well-being too. Joe Wicks is great fun or a walk in the fresh air.

Your sincerely,

Julia Dickson (Headteacher)





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