



**Great Whelnetham CE Primary School**  
Stanningfield Road, Great Whelnetham, Bury St Edmunds, IP30  
0UA  
(01284) 386203  
Executive Head Teacher – Mrs. Claire Flatman  
Head of School – Ms. Imogen Wallis  
office@greatwhelnetham.co.uk

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Great Whelnetham C of E Primary continues to be a vibrant and happy place for all of our children and staff across the school. They are all enjoying their new learning topics and the sunshine (when it makes an appearance) brings a smile to us all. I continue to be amazed by the work that the children are producing throughout the school; it's fantastic to see evidence of great progress across all areas of the curriculum and they are always so enthusiastic to share their achievements. They really are working very hard.

Please find in this newsletter important information that we would like to share with you all.

### Remote learning survey

During lockdown we introduced a new learning platform, Google Classroom. It was very important to the school that we receive feedback from our parent community and from our children in terms of how this worked and how easy it was for you all to access. I am including the feedback from the recent Parent survey in this newsletter. The staff and Governors are very pleased with the results and would like to thank all of you that completed the survey; your feedback is valuable and helpful in ensuring that our children remain happy and that they continue to have positive experiences of school life here at Great Whelnetham. The survey was distributed to each family and 23 replies were received.

Class of my child: **Whole school Response**

Number of responses: **23**

Statement	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't know
Google Classroom was an appropriate platform for online learning	61% (14)	39% (9)			
My child was set a range of tasks (e.g., online, paper based, creative/ practical tasks)	57% (13)	43% (10)			
The learning set by teachers was supported by resources (e.g., pre-recorded	70% (16)	30% (7)			

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videos/ links / live inputs / work sheets etc)					
My child was set a suitable number of daily tasks	43% (10)	57% (13)			
The daily live sessions benefited my child	52% (12)	35% (8)		4% (1)	9% (2)
The wellbeing of my child was considered by their classroom teacher and the school	61% (14)	35% (8)			4% (1)
My child was supported by their classroom teacher and the school	65% (15)	35% (8)			
As a parent, I was supported by their classroom teacher and the school	61% (14)	39% (9)			

### Parent comments below:

*We found it very easy and helpful, my child really liked speaking to his teacher when she called.*

*Live sessions didn't suit my child as he personally didn't respond to them.*

*I only put "don't know" for the live session question because unfortunately we were not able to attend*

*Miss Tyler went above and beyond to ensure the welfare needs of my child were being considered, both academically and emotionally. She checked in with us regularly and gave both encouraging and constructive feedback.*

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*I was generally happy with the resources and tasks set. My only suggestion that has arisen during our experience is to have some further work set if the child finds what is set too easy. This happened with one subject where my son would complete the set work too easily. This was only for one subject-most of the time he was suitably challenged.*

*The first lockdown last year came as a shock and so it was hard to get the kids into a home- schooling routine.*

*This time round, with google classroom and online teaching sessions it seemed so much more organised and was actually really good fun for myself as well as the children.*

*Really impressed with online learning this year. The variety was good and the amount of teacher feedback and voice notes. Mr Sharp and the school did a great job of adapting and adjusting and trying new things. We're really grateful for all your hard work, both during lockdown and otherwise. Thank you!*

*Feel the online world works well as long as you have a laptop/other media for your children to use.*

I would like to thank all of our parents who took the time to complete this survey. We are very pleased that the majority of you found Google Classroom to be a positive and improved system. I feel that the work and commitment from our children and our parent community at the time was very impressive and I thank you all for your continued efforts.

### **Bikeability**

Congratulations to Hayden, Faith, Sam, Lilly F, Freya, Sophia, Maisey, Taylor, Abbigail, Archie, Lily W and Sophie on completing their level two cycle proficiency assessment. Our year 5 children were fantastic and feedback from the instructors was very positive. Well done children. Happy cycling everyone, we are very proud of you.

### **Victorian Day**

Larks and Robins class have recently had an amazing day in the BIG Victorian house. The children had the opportunity to take on different jobs whilst learning about life as a Victorian. During the afternoon they learnt a new skill to perform at the Music Hall, a great way to bring history to life and engage the children's enthusiasm for learning all about this wonderful period from our past. A huge thank you to Miss Tyler and Mrs Masson for all their

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hard work organising such a fantastic event and also to all the parents who helped support the children on the day. We really appreciate your support.

### **School dinners**

Our school dinners are now being provided by Hardwick Primary school daily. This seems to be working very well and the children are really enjoying their lunches each day. Hardwick Primary school has recently joined our academy Trust and it is great to have a local school as a partner in All Saints Multi Academy Trust. A warm welcome to Hardwick.

### **Books**

Reading is such an important part of our school curriculum. The staff at Great Whelnetham C of E primary school have worked hard this year to promote this across all our subjects. Events such as the masked reader and the new reading initiative have helped promote the importance of reading within the school. Well done to all the children and families that continue to take part and read every evening. We are so impressed with you all.

The school has invested in each class and donated £2000 for new books to inspire a love of reading across each year group. Our children have responded so positively and have been sharing their experiences of these new and exciting books with all of the staff and their peers. We are delighted that our children are engaging so positively with these new books and hope to add to these libraries each year moving forward.

### **Staffing changes**

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Anna Liwak to the school staffing team. Mrs Liwak is working with the children in Swans class and has settled incredibly well since arriving a few weeks ago. Welcome Mrs Liwak to Great Whelnetham C of E Primary school.

We say goodbye to Mrs Medcalf, Mrs Gomersall and Miss Curry. We thank them all for their hard work and dedication and wish them well for their new adventures. We shall miss them all.

Mrs Hawkins will replace Miss Curry as our new MDSA.

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### **National school travel awards.**

Earlier this month our school was awarded the Bronze Modeshift STARS award for our commitment to sustainable and active travel.

Modeshift STARS is the national schools awards scheme that has been established to recognise schools that have demonstrated excellence in supporting cycling, walking and other forms of sustainable travel. The scheme encourages schools right across the country to join in a major effort to increase levels of sustainable and active travel and in so doing, improve the health and well-being of children and young people.

A big thank you to our Junior Road Safety Officers, Mrs Gomersall and Mrs Kimber for their hard work in making this possible.

### **Arbor**

Thank you everyone for logging on to our new Arbor system. It seems to be working very well and we thank you all for your participation and support.

### **Covid restrictions**

We are aware that parents will be thinking about the future and possible events that the school may be planning. For now, we will remain cautious, our children will remain in their class bubbles until half term and we will continue to follow the procedures that have worked so well for us. We will review our risk assessment at half term and be in touch with you all to let you know what decisions we will make about the second half of the term. We thank you in advance for your co-operation and support with this.

### **Important dates for the dairy**

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May- Last day of half term.

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June- Children return to school

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Thank you everyone for your continued hard work and support.

Yours sincerely,

Claire Flatman

Executive Headteacher

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