

Whitehead
Primary School
& Nursery Unit

'LEARNING AND GROWING TOGETHER'

19 March 2021

Dear Parent

Apologies, but a “wee” correction to yesterday’s newsletter. In the section “Restarting School” it shouldn’t say “As the Nursery, Y1, Y2 and Y3 return to school” it should say “As the children in Y4-Y7 return to school and we now have all children back in school, I would once again ask you to err on the side of caution.”

While it is fantastic to have all of the children return to school and school is as safe as it can possibly be, you will see from the PHA letter which follows that Covid-19 is still here and we do still have to be on our guard.

A member of the school community has tested positive for Covid-19 and had the parent of the child not contacted school, and had I not advised the child not to attend, one of our class bubbles would have returned to remote learning. Thankfully, because the parent erred on the side of caution, no staff or children were deemed to be close contacts by PHA and can, therefore, attend school as normal. I know that a return to remote learning for any of our class bubbles would be the last thing that any of us would want, therefore, I ask for your continued support.

Please:

- Use the one-way system.
- Wear a face mask.
- Drop off and collect promptly and, if possible, arrange to meet your Y4-7 child away from the school site.
- Maintain 2m social distance.
- Err on the side of caution if you aren’t sure whether your child should attend school or not.

It has felt a bit warmer this week, the sun has been shining and the clocks will change very soon giving us longer evenings. We are looking forward to a really good term 3 in school and, as always, I value your continued support.

Kind regards.

J LOUGHINS
Principal

18/03/2021
Whitehead Primary and Nursery School
3 Islandmagee Road
Carrickfergus
County Antrim
BT38 9NE

Dear Parent / Guardian,

RE: Confirmed COVID-19 case in Whitehead and Nursery Primary School

The Public Health Agency has been notified of a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the Whitehead Primary and Nursery School community. The Public Health Agency has worked with the school principal to undertake a risk assessment to identify if any people who have been in close contact with the case. In this case **no close contacts** have been identified in the school setting.

- This means that staff and children do not need to make any change to their usual routine, including school attendance.

General advice for the wider public is that the most common symptoms of COVID-19 are recent onset of:

- new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature and/or
- a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

If your child, or anyone in your household, develops any of these symptoms, your whole household must remain at home and not go to work, school or public areas. You should arrange testing for the person who has developed symptoms. Testing for all symptomatic individuals in Northern Ireland can be booked at www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test . When the result is known further advice will be available.

Improving Your Health and Wellbeing

How to stop COVID-19 spreading

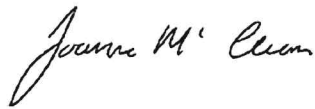
There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19:

- Wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- Use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- Wash your hands as soon as you get home
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- Put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

Further information

For further information, please see the Public Health Agency website <https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/covid-19-coronavirus> or contact NHS 111. If your child feels unwell and you are worried about their symptoms or about anyone else in the home, please contact your GP.

Yours sincerely,



Consultant in Public Health Medicine

