



WHITEHOUSE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mrs. S. Randle

Dunelm Road, Elm Tree, Stockton on Tees TS19 0TS Telephone 01642 678212

www.whitehousepri.org.uk

whitehouse@sbcschools.org.uk



School Closure – Week 2

15/01/21

Dear Families, Once again, the children have been making rainbows and displaying them in school. If any families want to send in any new rainbows to school we will happily transform those bare walls and windows into spaces of hope and colour.

When I was fortunate to go on a couple of trips to Italy I was surprised by the juxtaposition of such beautiful buildings in the cities but sadly there is so much graffiti across the cities which spoils the magnificence of the historic architecture. Therefore, I was pleased to read about an Italian street artist who transforms words and symbols of hate into incredible colourful murals. Pier Paolo Spinazzè, who uses the pseudonym Cibo, is an Italian street artist who transforms walls which have hateful graffiti into wonderful colourful murals with a theme of food.

For many years in Verona, he has worked to erase the hate he sees and replace it with something beautiful. You tube has some examples of his work if you are interested. We are once again in challenging circumstances and in times such as these we must try to change the negatives into positives. I know that some families have already set themselves challenges to keep up their spirits and to help the children see the positives of being at home for their learning.

Thank you for continuing to support the children in their home learning and also in being able to attend the zoom sessions each day. The digital learning sessions are multi-faceted in that it provides daily contact but is not a 'one size fits all' for a whole class of primary age children. Learning in Primary schools involves much more than a teacher directing from the front of a class, it involves children practicing skills, talking to others to enable them to clarify their thinking and being practically engaged in a range of enjoyable activities. Changing from school-based learning to home learning will take some adjustments like the last time and we will continue to work together on these adjustments to help minimise the children's disruption to their learning.

Practical activities such as cooking can be just as valuable as completing pages of sums, with children using measuring, reading scales and reading recipes. By encouraging the children to draw they are developing their hand/eye co-ordination (fine motor skills) which help in both hand-writing and reading when tracking words across the page. If the children draw characters this can then be developed to write imaginative stories and increase their vocabulary by describing their characters. Learning for children happens all the time as they are growing up, not just in a classroom at school. So please be assured that with your continued support your child will always be learning. Reading has become a solace to many adults during these anxious times and it is the same with children. If they are given the opportunity to read each day and the right environment to lose themselves in an imaginative story it will help their well-being and also develop their ability to think more deeply with empathy and understanding. Do you as a family turn off all the technology and sit and enjoy reading each day? As parents we are the role models for our children, if they see parents as avid readers then they will also develop those good habits.

As with the last school closure, it is good to try to have a regular routine and similar to the one that families would normally have. This will help the children when school re-opens and they once again resume the routines of the school day.

I know that the teachers continue to be impressed by all the home learning going on and the great communication with families, thank you.

"You're braver than you believe, stronger than you seem and smarter than you think."

—Christopher Robin

Yours sincerely,
Mrs. S Randle
Head Teacher

