



Mitchell House School Newsletter

From school to home, keeping you informed.
March 2021



Classes Closed

We sincerely apologise that we have had to take the regrettable decision to close classes recently. Please be assured that it is not a decision that we take lightly, and we are very aware of the massive impact this has on parents.

It has become increasingly difficult to secure substitute staff to cover absences therefore we have to risk assess daily to determine how many pupils it is to have safely in school the next day. **The safety of our pupils and our staff remains our top priority.**

The fluctuating nature of absences means that we are often unable to determine the staffing needs for any given day until the last minute. We endeavour to give you as much notice as possible and appreciate your understanding of the current situation.

Our staff have stretched themselves on many days to ensure that we can have as many pupils as possible in school, we deeply appreciate their co-operation and dedication during some very tough days.

We are really hoping that the staffing situation begins to ease as we move into spring and the need to close classes will become less frequent.

Important Dates

- **Thursday 17 March and Friday 18 March school is closed for all pupils.** Normal finish time on Wednesday 16 March.
- Monday 21 March – Annual Reviews start.
- School closes Friday 8 April for Easter. There will be a 12.30pm finish for pupils. Lunch will be provided as normal.

Charities

The pupils had a wear red day on Valentine's Day for Children's Heartbeat Trust and raised £166.50

The pupils took part in some valentine themed activities in class and enjoyed a disco in the hall.



Contact us:

Marmont, Holywood Road, Belfast, BT4 2GT

Telephone: 028 9076 0292

Email: mdonnan748@c2kni.net

Website: www.mitchellhouseschool.com

Facebook: @mitchellhouseschool

Visit

We were delighted to host a visit from Mr Barry Mulholland to school last month. Mr Mulholland is Chair of the Education Authority Board.

Annual Reviews

The Annual Review meetings will be taking place later this month. Letters confirming the date and time of the meeting for your child were posted home at the start of February.

A copy of your child's Annual Review document will be sent home next week so please look out for it in their school bag!

Remember these meetings are being held via Zoom (joining details are on your letter). Please sign in to Zoom at least 5 minutes before your allotted time and use a username that identifies who you are – not your device!

Testing

We are continuing with our programme of Lateral Flow testing for pupils and staff. The recommended testing is twice weekly, Sunday and Wednesday evening.

Thank you to everyone who is taking part, remember to report your testing weekly (even if you don't request a new box of kit). New tests and reporting of testing can be done using this link:

<https://forms.gle/9WoxnvLQsLgs9Cq79>

If you haven't consented to the programme and would like to please contact Miss Donnan for more information.

Sickness

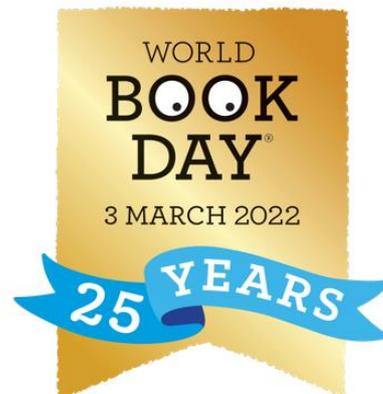
Please remember that if your son/daughter is ill not to send them into school, particularly in the current climate.

Please phone school on the first day of absence.

If your son/daughter tests positive for COVID please inform us immediately. During the school day please phone the office. Outside of school times you can report to the school mobile on 07735 573827 and someone will get back to you.

World Book Day

We were very excited to be celebrate World Book Day on Thursday 3 March. Pupils and staff dressed up as their favourite character. There were activities organised for all of the pupils, including a whole school gathering in the playground! Look out for pictures on Facebook!



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