



# Whitley Park Primary and Nursery School

Brixham Road, Reading RG2 7RB

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Email: [head@whitleypark.reading.sch.uk](mailto:head@whitleypark.reading.sch.uk)

Headteacher: Mr Nathan Butler-Broad

Website: [www.whitleyparkprimaryschool.co.uk](http://www.whitleyparkprimaryschool.co.uk)

Monday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022

## Re: Term 3 Update

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to give you an update on our progress this term.

### COVID-19

As I am sure you are aware, most schools are currently facing challenges caused by a rise in cases caused by the Omicron variant. We are no different and are seeing rises in pupil infection across all year groups. This is also having a significant impact on staffing capacity.

As a result, we are having to review the staff plan daily and at times this has led to class closure. We will always aim to make a decision as early as possible in order to give families as much notice as possible. We understand this puts pressure on families and will always do everything we can to keep classes open and operate safely. We will also ensure learning continues online and Key Worker and Vulnerable children are offered a place in school.

Please help us to keep disruption to a minimum by continuing to complete LFD tests regularly, daily where possible. We will keep you informed of developments in school and together I hope we can keep interruption to a minimum. For more information, see our [website](#).

### Parent/Pupil Surveys

Before Christmas, we asked you for your views on how we are performing. I was pleased to be able to share these with inspectors as part of our inspection and overall the feedback was positive, as illustrated by the summary chart below:



2019-2022





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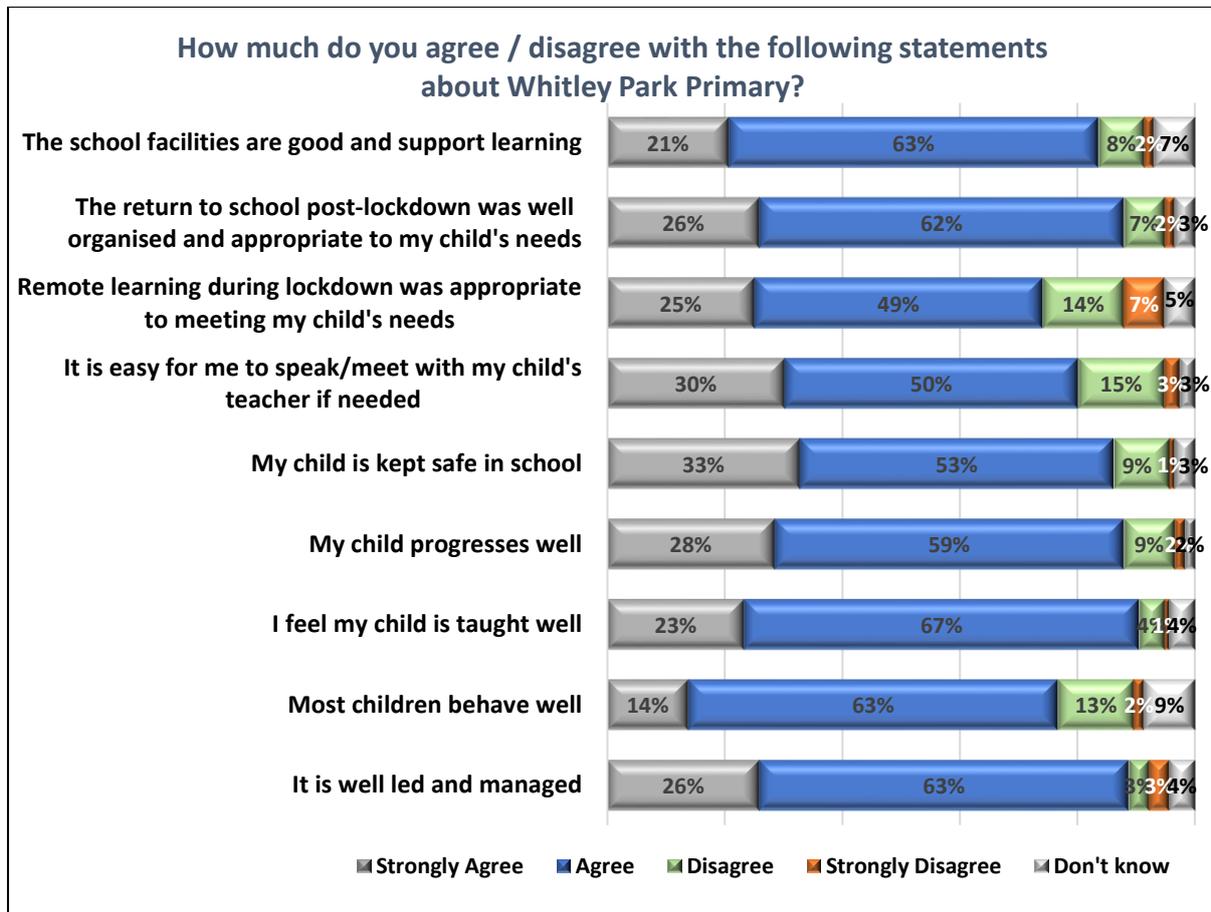
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We asked for feedback on areas where we can improve. Communication is always an area that requires input and one we are working hard to develop, particularly around support for children with additional needs as it can be a confusing and complicated process.

I would like to reassure all parents that we are working hard towards this aim and reshaping the support we offer. In January, three Special Needs Assistants took post. Their roles are to support children on pathways, provide specialist intervention and support and offer practical support and guidance. Dr Lynch will manage the team and I am confident you will see improvements in this area. More information can be found on our new website.



2019-2022





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## School Rules

Another areas highlighted in the latest round of questionnaires was pupil behaviour. The vast majority of pupils behave well at all times. This was an area ratified by Ofsted. Some pupils require extra support and overall it is important we are consistent and persistent in our effort to make this a strength across the school.

Recently, we reviewed the school rules as part of our renewed focus on behaviour expectations and continued shift away from the Behaviour Tracker system. All staff have been trained and the new policy will soon be available on the website. I firmly recommend all parents and carers spend a few minutes reviewing this document. It provides a rationale behind the approach as well as helpful guidance and scripts.

Currently, we are in the process of promoting our three key rules with all children and building a shared language around behaviour. Our new rules are:

### School Rules

#### **Be Kind**

- *I communicate politely and kindly*
- *I work cooperatively with others*
- *I take care of resources and materials*

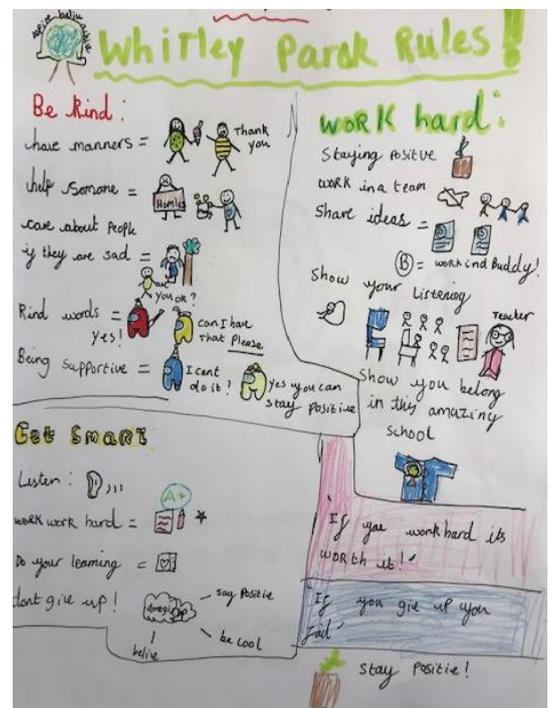
#### **Work Hard**

- *I always try my best*
- *I show resilience when learning is tricky*
- *I complete work to the best of my ability*

#### **Get Smart**

- *I practice new skills*
- *I learn from my mistakes*
- *I explain my thinking and listen to others*
- *I use feedback to improve my learning*

We have gone through these in assembly and children have designed posters to display around the school. Staff are



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currently introducing praise boards to help capture expectations and positively promote the expectations we want to see.

Moreover, we are in the process of refining lunchtime and playtime expectations. Already, we have trained pupil play leaders, provided new equipment, separated Key Stage 1 classes so they now play out the front, introduced more staff at these times, reviewed the risk assessment and added additional controls to limit the movement around site.

Anecdotally, this is proving successful and with continued focus I believe we can expect to see further benefit both on the playground and in the classroom.

## Staffing Update

Following Mr Cook's departure, we are still advertising for a new Science Teacher to support PPA and cover. In the meantime we have extended our partnership with Reading FC who are providing us with Kickstart coaches. The children appear to be loving this arrangement and it has been extremely supportive so far. We are continuing to look for additional staff, including HLTAs and Support Staff and I ask that parents spread the word. All [vacancies](#) can be found on our new website which includes a section where parents can see a photo of every member of staff. I hope this new feature helps with communication and knowing who to go to.

Lastly, I would like to finish by providing a summary of what pupils said about our school when they completed a questionnaire in December. Their words have been condensed into a Wordle which I think provides an effective visual summary.

I hope you agree it has been a busy and productive term and, whilst we continue to face additional challenges, we are moving forward.

Kind regards

Nathan Butler-Broad

Headteacher

## *I like learning at Whitley Park because.....*

toys make new friends Topic miss roberts play freinds every day PE keep safe improve cause  
always big easy talk whitley park teachers especially read everything freinds safe  
see know things happy love enjoy teachers help feel safe  
play friends new friends really Spellings lots skills help sometimes  
good well school need help fun lessons learn quite  
teachers stuff maths nice friends smarter work  
drawing playing work hard make love maths  
learning Whitley Park supportive learn new things teaching  
challenging great also place kind studying lots friends understand art phonics  
hard beacuse good school help us coming improve handwriting people explain work  
teachers nice enjoy school time learn new stuff class



2019-2022

