



## The White Rose Federation

Executive Headteacher: Suzanne MacDonald B.Ed. (Hons), NPQH  
Co-Chair of Governors: Jenny Brown Co-Chair of Governors: Rev. Anna Burr

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### Federation Update for Autumn Term 2

Welcome back to our final half term before the Christmas break. We're pleased to be back and ready to continue delivering our catch up curriculum, alongside preparing for the normal fun activities associated with the Christmas term. This letter is to update you with a number of key points as our new term begins.

#### Thank you to Chris Taperell

Chris Taperell, our Co-Chair of Governors, has decided to step down from his role after serving our federation for a number of years. Chris has been a governor for over 5 years, leading both Chapel Haddlesey and Barlow towards their positive Ofsted inspections, providing invaluable advice and support during the Chapel Haddlesey building expansion in 2017, and leading the federation process to join our three schools together. He has been a valued and appreciated member of our team. He leaves with our thanks and best wishes and will be very much missed.

The governing body have decided to pause on the recruitment process to appoint a new parent governor to replace Chris until after the main threat of the pandemic has passed. Until then, we welcome Rev. Anna Burr, our foundation governor, into the temporary role of Co-Chair of Governors, a role that she will share with Jenny Brown, who will continue in her role as Co-Chair.

#### Parents' Evenings

We aim to conduct our parents' evenings during the week beginning the 9<sup>th</sup> November. Each school will have a slightly different way of organising them and more details will follow from your base school this week. We will not be able to have face to face meetings; therefore a phone call meeting will be arranged between yourself and your child's teacher. When staff ring, the call may display as 'blocked number' or 'no caller ID' on your phone, please do pick up as it will help us to stick to our timings. We ask that, wherever possible, separated parents arrange to dial in at the same time as part of a multi-conference call.

## Covid Update

The Prime Minister held a conference on Saturday to share that England is going to enter into another lockdown from Thursday, initially until December 2<sup>nd</sup>. All schools are to remain open and they are expected to operate as normal, continuing to deliver the catch up curriculum. The guidance is also clear that the government expects parents to continue to send their child/ren to school, non-attendance is no longer a parental choice.

At the beginning of last term, I reached out to parents asking for transparency should you have any reservations about returning your child to school and I am asking for you to do the same again if you feel concerned following Saturday's announcement. I reiterate what I said in September: I would much rather work with our families to ensure the continued education of your child/ren rather than have to move to the formal route of fining parents for non-attendance, as per the government ruling.

We were fortunate not to have any confirmed Covid cases in any of our schools last term. Whilst we are hopeful that this will be the same for this half term, we have updated our risk assessments to take increased reasonable steps to help to keep our schools open. If you need to update school with any self-isolation period for your family, please email [covid@wrfed.co.uk](mailto:covid@wrfed.co.uk) from any of our three schools for help and advice.

Therefore, starting from Tuesday, we ask that all parents who are able to wear a face covering, do so when stepping onto school grounds. This is particularly important for our parents at Barlow who access the grounds at collection time. I also strongly encourage parents to wear a face covering when dropping off and collecting. I appreciate that I cannot enforce this as it is outside the school grounds, but I respectfully ask as a further measure to protect everyone, particularly our most vulnerable parents who are higher risk. The more we do to minimise risk as we enter this term, the higher the chance that we will continue to stay open and keep teaching.

## Christmas Fun!

Whilst the run up to Christmas is chaotic in school, we absolutely love it and we are determined to put on as many activities as possible to ensure that our children have a memorable time. We will hold a nativity at each school; however, 'live' performances with an audience will not be possible this year. Instead it will be recorded and shared with parents in December. The nativity will involve children from Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. We will not include nursery children with the production as it can be distressing at such a young age. Year 3,4,5,6 will enjoy activities in class with the aim of holding a production at each school in the summer.

## And Finally....

Thank you for your continued support. Our children made huge strides in their learning last term and we are confident that, should attendance remain high, that we will successfully catch up. We all continue to take it one day at a time and I appreciate that some days will be more challenging than others, from both a home perspective and school. If any families need any extra support please email or ring in. All staff members are ready to help and Mrs Thornton, our federation pastoral support officer, has increased her hours to be able to support families with any concerns that are beyond the normal classroom day, such as mental health of adults and children, anxiety, stress, trauma and self-harm. You can contact her by ringing your base school or emailing her on [s.thornton@wrfed.co.uk](mailto:s.thornton@wrfed.co.uk).

Yours sincerely,



Suzanne MacDonald  
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