



# Loose Primary School Newsletter

## 6th September 2019



### Headteacher News

Welcome back to all our families after a lovely summer break. We do hope you all had a great time and a rest with your family and friends. I wanted to begin our first newsletter by saying a huge thank you to everyone who has made me feel so welcome during my first week as Headteacher at Loose Primary School. It has been lovely getting to know all the new faces and seeing all the junior children again who I remember so fondly!

I am delighted to return to Loose after working at Coxheath Primary School (also part of our trust). The same values, ethos and drive continue to develop schools in the Trust and I have regularly returned to Loose in the past two and a half years to see the school continue to grow and develop. I am excited to be a part of the next stage in the journey at Loose and value and look forward to working with you all and of course your amazing children in coming years.

I would particularly like to welcome all our new children and families who, like me, are beginning their learning journey at Loose this term.

Please feel free to catch me on the playgrounds or pathways in the mornings or at the end of the day should you have any questions that you would like to ask. I believe passionately in working together and would encourage you all to speak with your child's class teacher should you have any concerns. Class teachers are available to catch up with you after school, or please do make an appointment to meet with the teacher via the office if you prefer.

See our key dates to the right, these are added to each week but there is also a link on our website to keep you up to date with things going on. Have a look here <https://www.loose-primary.kent.sch.uk/calendar/?calid=1&pid=0&viewid=1>

Myself and Mrs Makey (our Head of School) will take turns to write this section of the newsletter on alternate weeks from now on, so you will hear from her next week.

#### YR Parents

Welcome to Loose Primary School if this is your first child joining us. The children in Pearl, Crystal and Opal have been wonderful all week and look so grown up in their uniforms! They have made some good friends and love coming to school so this is a great start. We look forward to them having lunch with us also next week and you collecting them (from the classroom as usual) at 1pm.

#### Y1-6 parents

At the start of the new year we are delighted to offer an open invite to you for our open mornings to see your child's work so far and classroom. Your children will also be able to give you a tour of the school if you would like one. If you have not popped in already, please do come to one of the open afternoons (letter sent separately) next week (commencing 9th September) so you can meet the teacher, have a tour by your child and see our wonderful school. The quality of work in books already and on display is just wonderful. I am very proud of our amazing staff who have worked so hard to get the school and classrooms ready for this week.

Have a look on Twitter – we are delighted to be able to Tweet as we go so you will be able to see your children in 'real time.' We try very hard to ensure a variety of school life is shown over the week so please keep looking to see what your children are up to in school. Please note, we may have back or side-of-head shots of any pupil but they should not be recognisable if we do not have your permission to put them on our website or Twitter account. Please do always speak to the class teacher or let the office know if you have any queries about Twitter so we can assist you.

#### Thank you

Special thanks go to our caretaking team who have worked tirelessly to ensure the school has been cleaned from top to bottom in time for the start of term. Finally, thank you all for getting your children in this week, on time and looking so smart in their new uniform and shiny black shoes. I have not stopped commenting on how smart your children look and what pride they are taking in themselves and our school.

Another exciting year at Loose has definitely begun!

Have a lovely weekend  
Sarah Holman

**With trust, we lead  
With pride, we act  
With respect, we serve  
With compassion, we care  
and  
With determination, we excel**

### Dates



#### Term 1

09 Sep - Year 1 Meet the Teacher 3.30-4.00pm  
10 Sep - Year 2 Meet the Teacher 3.30-4.00pm  
11 Sep - Year 3 Meet the Teacher 3.30-4.00pm  
12 Sep - Kent 11+ Test  
16 Sep - Year 4 Meet the Teacher 3.30-4.00pm  
17 Sep - Year 5 Meet the Teacher 3.30-4.00pm  
18 Sep - Year 6 Meet the Teacher 3.30-4.00pm  
20 Sep - Phonics Workshop for Year R & 1 parents - 2.45pm Orchard Hall  
23 Sep - NSPCC Assemblies  
27 Sep - MacMillan Coffee Morning and Bake Off Competition  
01 Oct - Kent Messenger First Class Photos of Year R  
04 Oct - Harvest Church Services All Saints Church Loose  
07 Oct - Road Safety Assemblies  
16 Oct - Parent Evening Consultations 3.40pm - 6.30pm  
17 Oct - Parent Evening Consultations 4.00pm - 7.00pm  
17 Oct - Kent 11+ Test Results emailed to parents from 4pm  
17 Oct - Last day of term  
18 Oct - Staff Training Day - school closed

#### Parent Council - New Recruits!

As many may know we have a parent council at Loose Primary school to make sure parents opinions and voices are heard. We have 6 meetings a year and welcome a representative from each class. Please let the office know if you are interested by emailing [office@loose-primary.kent.sch.uk](mailto:office@loose-primary.kent.sch.uk). Our first meeting is on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October. You can find a page on our website with information and members of the parent council <https://www.loose-primary.kent.sch.uk/page/?title=Parent+Council&pid=92>

#### Sickness & Medicines

If your child is sick, please telephone the school each morning on 01622 743549 between 7.30am and **no later than 8.45am** and leave full details on the absence line. If your child has sickness or diarrhoea they must not return to school until at least **48 hours** after their last episode in line with the Kent Health Protection Unit guidelines.

We are only able to administer 'prescribed only' medicine during school hours and this should be brought into the school office in its original container, with the prescriber's instructions attached where relevant. All medicines must be labelled. You must complete a form giving us authorisation to administer the medicine ([See website http://www.loose-primary.kent.sch.uk/page/?title=Forms&pid=16](http://www.loose-primary.kent.sch.uk/page/?title=Forms&pid=16)).

Medicines are given at **11.40am in Years R, 1 & 2** and as necessary for Years 3 to 6 who come to the office themselves for medicines. Please arrange medication times so that they fall outside school hours, where possible.



#### Meet the Teachers

A reminder that we are offering the opportunity for parents/carers to come in to school early this term so your child can show you their work, classrooms, staff that work with them and so on. It will also be an opportunity for you to ask any questions of staff and see the kind of materials we use to help them learn.

All sessions run from 3.30pm until 4.00pm and parents/carers should see below where to report at 3.30pm. The dates are as follows:-

Year 1 – Monday 9th Sept - please go straight to class via outside classroom door  
Year 2 – Tuesday 10th Sep - please go straight to class via outside classroom door  
Year 3 – Wednesday 11th Sep - please go straight to class via main reception  
Year 4 – Monday 16th September - Orchard Hall  
Year 5 – Tuesday 17th September - Orchard Hall  
Year 6 – Wednesday 18th September - Orchard Hall

#### Office Drop Off Box

We regularly experience a high volume of parents queuing in the Main Reception at busy times of the school day to hand in forms such as:

Contract Dining payments, trip authority slips, extended services forms, letters to members of staff, after school sports activity slips, photograph order forms, PTA communications.

We recognise that queuing for some considerable time to simply hand in a form can be frustrating and inconvenient. In order to alleviate unnecessary queuing we have introduced a 'Drop In Box' facility that the items noted above can be posted in. This is located outside of reception. Please try and use this where possible thank you.

A supply of envelopes will be located under the Drop In Box for payments or dinner money to be placed in and securely sealed prior to posting. Any envelopes posted in to the Drop In Box must be clearly marked with details of who it is intended for, the amount enclosed and the child's name and class.

**POTENTIAL IS LIMITLESS**

## Weekly Attendance

Opal	100.00%	Jade	100.00%
Crystal	97.50%	Emerald	100.00%
Pearl	100.00%	Ruby	98.44%
Diamond	100.00%	Onyx	96.88%
Sapphire	99.17%	Topaz	98.44%
Moonstone	93.33%	Sunstone	96.88%
Tanzanite	98.76%	Amethyst	99.22%
Turquoise	99.17%	Peridot	97.66%
Aquamarine	99.17%	Zultanite	96.88%
Amber	95.70%	Quartz	100.00%
Coral	93.75%		

**Whole School Target**  
**96.5%**

**Whole School Attendance**  
**98.05%**

### Dragon Boat Race

Staff from Loose and Coxheath Primary Schools have assembled a team to compete in the KM Charity Dragon Boat Race at Mote Park on Sunday 22nd September. They will be racing to raise money for Emilia's Little Heart Foundation and if you would like to make a donation please visit our fundraising page via the following link: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/clairwebb21> There will be lots going on throughout the day, starting from 10am, and so feel free to come along and support us if you can.

### IMPORTANT - Nut Allergies in School

There are a number of children at the school who suffer from severe nut allergies, which in some cases could be fatal. We would therefore be very grateful if parents could avoid, as far as possible, sending in food items that contain nuts in their child's packed lunch or snacks. Many thanks for your help.



### Uniform

It has been wonderful to see such pride in our appearance this week. It is vital to look smart and to uphold our high expectations at Loose. Please can we remind you that we only allow small, school coloured bows as hair accessories and only stud earrings and watches for jewellery. Your child should be able to remove their own earrings for PE / swimming sessions and it is sometimes a good idea to provide a box to keep them safely during the lesson if you wish to so they don't get lost. Of course we do not expect children to come to school with temporary tattoos or nail varnish. Please see here for our uniform expectations as a reminder <https://www.loose-primary.kent.sch.uk/page/?title=Uniform&pid=33> Thank you for your cooperation.

### Friday Assemblies

Please note that from next week you may receive a text on Wednesday to invite a family member if your child has been chosen to share their work in assembly at 9 am in either Brook or Orchard hall on Friday. One child from each class will be chosen by their teacher each week. We hope you or a family member can join us to celebrate the learning that is happening at Loose. The assemblies last for 30-40 minutes. Parents can ask for their child's slide to be shown early if they need to rush away for work commitments. Reception children do not come to assemblies until nearer Christmas time so will not be part of this for a while to allow them to learn through play and settle in before coming into the hall with the rest of the school.

### Communication

We truly value our relationship with parents and the importance of working with you. Please don't forget to keep us informed about any concerns you have, any suggestions you feel we should consider and, of course, anything you particularly like about our school. We are always happy to hear from you.

### After School Club & Teaching Assistant Vacancy

We are currently advertising for an After School Club Assistant. Please see the link below if interested. The closing date is the 11<sup>th</sup> September. <https://www.kent-teach.com/Recruitment/Vacancy/SearchResults.aspx?Keyword=loose>

### Old Clothes Needed!

Loose Amenities Association are holding a Scarecrow Festival on Saturday 21st September. We would like to make and enter into the competition our very own Loose Primary School scarecrow! For this, we are requesting that if anyone has any old clothes of any kind lying around at home, you would kindly donate them to the school to be used in our scarecrow project, ideally before next Friday. Many thanks

### School Website

For all new parents, we have a wonderful website full of useful information for you. Click on the link below for a diary of everything that is happening in school throughout the year.

<http://www.loose-primary.kent.sch.uk/calendar/?calid=1&pid=0&viewid=1>

### Late Arrivals

Should you be late arriving to school in the morning please make sure you go to the main office and sign your child in. The office staff will then take your child to class. Thank you.

### School Office – delivery of forgotten items

Please do not drop off forgotten items for the office staff to deliver to your child after the start of the school day. Children should be encouraged to take responsibility for their own things as part of growing up and as a preparation for their next school. Please note that if non-essential items are left with office staff during the day, we cannot guarantee that these will be delivered. This will depend on pressure of work in the office on the day. Clearly we will ensure that essential items, such as lunch boxes, are delivered to the child. Our thanks to all parents who have supported office staff in this matter – your help is much appreciated.

### IMPORTANT - PARKING

A reminder that only Blue Badge holders are allowed to drive on to the school site to drop off and collect their children. If the Blue Badge holder is not in the vehicle, it **must not** be driven on to the school site. There are two disabled parking places for badge holders only. Parents **MUST NOT** park on the pavements and if there are no parking places available they must leave the school site and park elsewhere. This is for safeguarding reasons and has been reviewed to avoid potential accidents at all costs and keep the school site safe for you and your children. Breakfast Club parents can still drive on site until the gates close at 8.15 am.

### SCOPAY

As a school we still receive a vast amount of payments for trips and extended services by way of cash and cheque. This week a letter has been sent to all the new Year R parents/carers providing instructions on how to set up this online payment facility, together with the individual codes. Scopay is a much more convenient way for parents to pay for any school related charges (apart from Contract Dining Company) by debit or credit card. This could be done in the comfort of your own home and avoid queuing up at reception. We are aware that most other schools use Scopay and WisePAY and do not accept cash or cheque at all. In order for us to fall in line with other schools and to make it easier for those parents who no longer receive cheque books we would like all parents to use Scopay this year where possible. We do not hold change on the school premises.

## PTA News

### Welcome back!!

We are looking forward to a new school year of fundraising through lots of exciting PTA events. Coming up over the first two terms is Lucky Lotto, the Quiz Night, Christmas Card designing, the Christmas Fair and the Christmas Gift event - more information about these to follow.

We have our first PTA meeting of the year on **Tuesday 17th September at 8pm in the Swan** and our all important **AGM on Wednesday 9th October at 8pm in the Staff Room** at the school. If you have any exciting ideas on how to raise money for the school or you just want to come along for a chat and make new friends, why not come along to a meeting? You'll also be able to find us every morning 8:30-9am by the Year R classrooms from Monday 16th-Friday 20th September. Looking forward to a fabulous year of fundraising, **PTA Team**

### Wet Play

If anyone has any unwanted board games, top trump cards etc. at home that they don't use any more, we would be very grateful for them for the children to play with during wet play. Please hand any donations in to the class teacher or via the school office thank you.

### Communities

#### Sutton Valence Hockey Club Open Day - Sunday 8th September

Please come along to our open day on Sunday to come and try hockey. We are a small local club and we are very proud of our Junior section which is friendly and inclusive. The emphasis is on having fun and making new friends whilst enjoying an exciting sport. We welcome all ages and abilities. The Junior session will be 10.30 to 11.30 with a fun session with parents 11.30 to 12. It will take place at Sutton Valence Prep School. Further information please see our website: [www.suttonvalencehockey.com](http://www.suttonvalencehockey.com)

Maidstone Hockey Club are launching a fun new "Hockey Heroes" programme for 5-8 year old beginners on Fridays 4.30pm - 5.30pm starting Friday 27th September. It costs £32 for 6 sessions, which includes 2 sticks, a ball and a personalised t-shirt. Sign up here: <https://play.englandhockey.co.uk/hockeyheroes> by searching for your postcode or "Maidstone" - we look forward to unlocking your children's superpowers soon!

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