



Loose Primary School Newsletter



2nd October 2020

Headteacher News

Learning

Again this week we have seen amazing learning opportunities for children with the introduction of new technology 'Now Press Play' which we currently are trialling. Have a look here <http://nowpressplay.co.uk/> at this great resource that engages all children through emotion, imagination and movement. It helps children to access the curriculum by integrating experiential and kinaesthetic learning into the classroom. Have a look on twitter for some great learning that the children have experienced already! Help us raise funds in our non uniform day next week to purchase this wonderful resource that all children will be able to use. It is particularly necessary for us to enhance our curriculum this year whilst on the school site to experience new things whilst we may not be able to go on educational visits or have visitors to us.

Your child should have a Purple Mash (or Mini Mash for YR) log on where children can share their learning with you at home as well as do home learning and fun activities online. We have recently purchased this amazing software to not only enhance the curriculum we offer in school but to also ensure children can have meaningful learning opportunities at home should they need to self-isolate at any time. We welcome any feedback on our newly purchased resources so please do let us know what you think about these subscriptions (and others that we have such as Bug Club or My Maths) so we can always try to offer the very best to our children.

School Priorities

Now we have settled into term and school life we would like to share our school priorities with you. We attach the version re-written by the School Council so you can see our focus on the basics of course to ensure all children are literate and numerate, along with a focus on our wonderful curriculum opportunities and the wellbeing of all.

Harvest

Today we enjoyed our virtual harvest festival and thank Loose Church for ensuring we could still celebrate harvest, albeit in a different way, and remember those who are less fortunate than ourselves and enjoy the gift of giving. Donations again this year will be for Maidstone Churches Winter Shelter to help the homeless in Maidstone. Thank you for your kind donations.

Twitter Pictures

When we take pictures of the children for Twitter we try to be extremely careful in making sure we only post images of children with consent. There may be some images of children without consent in the background of pictures or of their side profile or back of head. We would only post an image when we feel children are unrecognisable to the public, however if you are unhappy with any image posted please let us know and we are happy to remove it.

Attendance

It is proven that good attendance results in good outcomes for children. We would like to thank you for your support in ensuring that your children are in school regularly so that we are able to move their learning on. We would define good attendance as above 96% which is the national average. In line with government policy all term time holiday requests are recorded as unauthorised unless there are exceptional circumstances and a fixed penalty notice issued. Where unauthorised rates are high and/or attendance rates are significantly below 96%, we will have no option but to consider referring on to other agencies. Of course in present times we are coding absence for self isolation differently so do not worry that this would negatively impact on your child's attendance rate as we would not be taking any action regarding this necessary non attendance to keep our community safe.

Parking Concerns

We have received photos of a grey Toyota Auris registration number **GV59 PYU**. It was parked so far up on the pavement at the top of Lancet Lane near the Loose Road that anyone with a buggy would have to walk onto the road to get round it which is extremely dangerous. We would yet again ask all parents to seriously consider the safety of all children when you decide where to park. The photo has been sent onto the local PCSO and local councillor Brian Clark.

Parent Council

Please email the office email if you have any matters that you would like us to discuss at our meeting next Friday. We will be discussing school improvement priorities along with our risk assessment for COVID (including staggered start and finish times, assemblies, hot lunches and current arrangements) but welcome your input so we can have a discussion about what you as parents want us to consider and discuss. Although for the time being these meetings are virtual, we hope they still give us your important viewpoints that help us make informed decisions about what is going on at Loose and what you feel as parents are strengths and areas we need to work on. We always share the minutes of meetings after we have them so you will be able to read what has been discussed and be kept informed.

Staff leaving

It is with mixed emotions that I inform you that Mrs Makey will be leaving us at the end of the autumn term to take up her first Headship at Hunton Primary School. Although she will still be close by we will miss her experience in leading inclusion and wealth of knowledge of our families at Loose. She has been a superb member of our leadership team at Loose Primary for many years and has been working at the school (as a teacher at Loose Infant School previously) for almost 17 years in total! I am sure you, like we, pass on your congratulations to her and will wish her well in her new post that starts in January. Due to her promotion, we are currently recruiting for a new leader to join our team to start in January and we will keep you updated when we have more news on the new post holder.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you as members of our wonderful school community for ensuring your children are arriving at school and are collected on time and really appreciate your patience and understanding in these continuing challenging times. We can assure you that once in the gates and in the class the children have taken to the new normal like ducks to water. They are having the most fabulous time at school which is just what we wanted and planned for when setting up arrangements in the holidays and in the changes we have made so far this term to try to continue to be safe but as normal as possible (if we can recall what that was like!). Thank you all.

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

- 05 Oct - Ruby Class Assembly - sorry no parents
- 09 Oct - Non-Uniform Day - wear your own casual clothes to school for a donation!
- 09 Oct - Parent Council Meeting - 1.30-2.15pm - via zoom
- 12 Oct - Onyx Class Assembly - sorry no parents
- 15 Oct - Kent 11+ Test
- 20 Oct - Year 5 Spy Day
- 21 Oct & 22 Oct - Parents Evening Consultations - bookings go live after school!
- 22 Oct - Last Day of term
- 23 Oct - Staff training Day - children not in school

Term 2 - we will confirm in term 2 if the climate improves and parents are allowed to attend the events below.

- 02 Nov - Children back to school
- 03 Nov - Flu Vaccinations for Year R to Year 6
- 11 Nov - Kittle Photography taking KS1 Individual & Class Photos
- 12 Nov - Kittle Photography in taking KS2 Individual & Class Photos
- 13 Nov - Children in Need Day - more info to follow
- 17 Nov - Amethyst Class Assembly 9am Orchard Hall
- 24 Nov - Sunstone Class Assembly 9am Orchard Hall
- 26 Nov - Kent 11+ Test Results from 4pm (subject to change)
- 01 Dec - Topaz Class Assembly 9am Orchard Hall
- 09 Dec - Year R Nativity to parents & siblings 9.30am Brook Hall
- 10 Dec - Year R Nativity to parents 2.00pm Brook Hall
- 11 Dec - Parent Council Meeting 2.15pm
- 15 Dec - Christmas Lunch & Christmas Jumper Day
- 18 Dec - Christmas Services All Saints Church, Loose
- 18 Dec - Open Afternoon 2pm-3.30pm - children can be signed out from 2pm
- 18 Dec - Last day of term - children due back in school on 5th January 2021

Learners of the Week

A huge well done to the children who got their achievement certificates in assemblies this week! Congratulations for all their hard work.

Pearl	Coming soon!	Jade	Cai A
Opal	Coming soon!	Emerald	Jake C
Crystal	Coming soon!	Onyx	Kiishi A
Diamond	Charlotte W	Ruby	Fraser C
Sapphire	Dylan K	Topaz	Glory A
Moonstone	Chloe W	Sunstone	Joshua D
Tanzanite	Imaya H	Amethyst	Ethan S
Aquamarine	Toby S	Peridot	Gabriela A
Turquoise	Naomi Z	Zultanite	Thais B
Coral	Bailey S	Quartz	Jasmine S
Amber	Tyler M		

Casual Dress Day - Friday 9th October

Coming up next Friday, 9th October, we have our very first casual dress day. We have decided for this first casual dress day to raise the funds for a project within the school. We are looking to purchase a fantastic resource for the school called Now Press Play. It is a brilliant resource that enables children to go on 'experiences' around the school focused around specific themes. All the money we raise will be put towards this brilliant resource so please contribute whatever funds you can. Please see attached a link to the website that you can look at for more information. <http://nowpressplay.co.uk/>. So we invite your child to come to school in their own casual clothes for a donation.

COVID UPDATE

There are three simple actions we must all do to keep on protecting each other

- **Wash hands** keep washing your hands regularly
- **Cover face** wear a face covering in enclosed spaces
- **Make space** stay at least 2 metres apart - or 1 metre with a face covering or other precautions

POTENTIAL IS LIMITLESS

Weekly Attendance

Opal	95.53%	Jade	93.75%
Crystal	99.29%	Emerald	98.43%
Pearl	98.97%	Ruby	100.00%
Diamond	100.00%	Onyx	96.56%
Sapphire	98.67%	Topaz	100.00%
Moonstone	99.33%	Sunstone	98.75%
Tanzanite	99.00%	Amethyst	99.39%
Turquoise	97.33%	Peridot	99.06%
Aquamarine	99.32%	Zultanite	96.88%
Amber	95.81%	Quartz	97.50%
Coral	99.38%		

Whole School Target
96.5%

Whole School Attendance
98.23%

Weekly House Points Result

DONALDSON	2nd	PARKS	1st
ATTENBOROUGH	3rd	CURIE	4th

Emerald Class

This week Emerald Class took on the daunting task of being the first class to hold their class assembly in very different conditions. They were absolutely brilliant! They performed 'The Red Tree' brilliantly and all gave amazing examples of what they do when they are having a tough day. Fabulous to see them so engaged in their learning.

After School Club Collection

A reminder that parents cannot drive onto the school site to collect their children from after school club. This is in accordance with the school risk assessment following the Covid guidelines for schools.

Home Learning

We have set up work for 2 weeks per year group here <https://www.loose-primary.kent.sch.uk/page/?title=Home+Learning&pid=139> for your child should they need to self-isolate or if we need to close a bubble.

Holiday Play Scheme

We still have spaces in our forthcoming Holiday Play Scheme which commences on Friday 23rd October until 30th October 2020. If you need to book any sessions, please visit our school website where you will find the facility to book your slot under Extended Services. The closing date for booking is 12th October 2020.

Sports News

We are extremely proud to announce that 3 boys from Year 6 Aidan, Freddie and Bobby will be representing Maidstone District School for the upcoming 20/21 season. The boys trialled with 60 other children from local schools and were fortunate enough to make the final squad of 18. Through the course of the season they will play other districts such as Medway, Thanet, Dover, Ashford and Canterbury. We wish the boys and the Maidstone District Squad the best of luck for the upcoming season.

Homework

We understand that your children, if they have been set homework by their class teacher, have been working very hard on this and are keen to bring it into school to show their teachers. However, having a class set of books from different households coming into class to mark and return is not possible at the moment. Our school risk assessment states that children are not to bring items from home into school apart from lunch boxes, water bottles and coats. We appreciate your understanding during this time and will update you as soon as guidance changes. Thank you.

PTA News

You will have received an email this week about the return of our Lucky Lotto! We are very excited for its return and hope you are too - we hope lots of you take part so that there is a wonderful donation for the children and a decent prize fund for you! As you are aware, Covid is putting many restrictions on the number of events that we can run this year which means it will be very difficult to raise as much money for the children so any support you can give on these occasions would be hugely appreciated. Please see this link for a reminder of the details for the Lucky Lotto. <https://www.loose-primary.kent.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=6155&type=pdf>

Assistant Headteacher News

Mr Johnson writing to you all this week. Over the last two weeks, we have seen a change in the weather and it has been a little wet in the mornings but what has been brilliant is the way the children have been waiting with respect to come into school, despite the not so lovely weather! A huge well done.

One of my roles within the school is to work closely alongside the Pupil Premium children we have in school. I work to make sure they receive the support they need and we are generating exciting opportunities for these children (and all of our children). If your financial situation has changed due to Covid -19 please do contact the school to see if your child(ren) are eligible for free schools meals and pupil premium support. You can also apply online yourself using the following link:- <https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/kent/>

We want to make sure we can support all our children to the best of our ability so please do make contact with us if you wish to apply for this.

Mr Johnson

Harvest Festival and Maidstone Churches Winter Shelter Donations

A reminder we are now collecting donations for the Maidstone Churches Winter Shelter who aim to provide comfort and support for the homeless and give them the opportunity for a brighter future. Due to current restrictions, the shelter are unable to offer overnight accommodation for the local community but the charity are working hard to provide a hot meal each evening from Monday 4th January – Sunday 28th March. Below is a list of items that you can donate.

Food items: any tinned/packet foods preferably with a long shelf life, tea bags, coffee, sugar, hot chocolate sachets, breakfast bars, cereal pots.
Hygiene items: antibacterial sprays, tissues, hand gel, reusable face masks, knickers/pants – men's and ladies (all sizes)
Other items: puzzle books, pencils with erasers, adult colouring books and coloured pencils.

We will be collecting in donations from **today until Friday 23rd October** as the items will need to be kept for 72 hours to decontaminate before sending them to the shelter. Any donations will be greatly received especially during the current climate and cold winter months. Thank you.

Secondary School Applications

A reminder that online applications for secondary school admissions opened on the 1st September and the **national closing date for all secondary school applications is midnight on the 2nd November**. KCC are hoping to get the Kent Test results to parents by the 26th November but this could be subject to change. As the results date is after the closing date for school applications you can therefore apply for up to 6 schools, putting them in order of preference. It's in your best interest to list 6 schools. Naming only one school does not guarantee your child a place at that school or give your child priority for a place over another child, neither does naming a school more than once. For advice call 03000 41 21 21 or email kentonlineadmissions@kent.gov.uk. You can also find lots of information on the following link:- <https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places/secondary-school-places#tab-1> National Offer day is Monday 1st March 2021. Emails will be sent from 4pm and parents can log on from 5pm to see what school their child has been allocated.

Scholarships – Year 6

Please contact the school office with plenty of warning if you are completing a scholarship for your child's admission to secondary school to allow time for the school section to be completed. Ideally we would like these all in by this Monday, 5th October, however, we will accept these up to Monday 12th October at the latest. This gives us time to complete scholarship paperwork which will be ready to collect on Thursday 22nd October from the main office. We do need the application booklet to stick our section in and sign.

EXTENDED SERVICES

Please may I remind you to ensure your payments for Breakfast and After School clubs are made to your Scopay account as soon as possible. Any issues relating to this subject should be referred to Mrs Penny Monksfield in the school office on lasc.asc@loose-primary.kent.sch.uk. Many thanks

Communities

Perform is a different type of drama school. We use a unique mix of the performing arts - drama, dance and singing - to bring out every child's potential in a safe and secure environment. Classes are kept small to ensure lots of individual attention by our experienced teachers - hand-picked for their warmth, energy and professionalism. They'll focus on your child's enthusiasm and engagement in the activities. And they'll be with your child every step of the way to guide, inspire and encourage. As well as having fun at Perform, your child will enjoy real benefits: greater confidence, improved concentration and an increased awareness of what they can achieve. All children are entitled to a no obligation introductory free class which can be booked at this link - <https://www.perform.org.uk/free-drama-class>. You can also watch a video about our safety measures at [perform.org.uk/covid-safety](https://www.perform.org.uk/covid-safety). If you would like to sign up after the free trial session, you will receive a £40 discount. We look forward to welcoming you soon.

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