



Loose Primary School Newsletter



16th October 2020

Headteacher News

With only a week left this term it is time to reflect and consider how far we have come since the return to school for all pupils after lockdown and the summer break. We are of course delighted that children are so resilient and that systems we have put in place have ensured the safety and wellbeing of all. Following our first parent council meeting last week we agreed that it would be useful to share some of our planning and thinking behind systems to allow 655 children, over 120 staff and 500+ families are as safe as they can be in present times.

Please do take time to read our parent council minutes found here <https://www.loose-primary.kent.sch.uk/page/?title=Parent+Council&pid=92> to give you a fuller picture of the reasoning behind some of our decisions at Loose. As you know, we are a very large school and therefore have had to adopt quite different routines and systems to other local small primaries. We do thank you all for bearing with us and ensuring your children are happy and have settled back into school life. Working in partnership with parents is incredibly important and your views on what is going well and what further improvements we could make are always welcome.

Over the past few weeks, leaders and teachers have also been busy learning. They are familiarising themselves with online learning platforms that can be used to teach children in the event of a bubble needing to close or a future lockdown. This will allow teachers to provide links to lessons and provide work that can then be marked and feedback provided to the children. Children have also been getting to grips with this so that they are confident using the platform in school on our chromebooks and for use at home remotely if it is needed. We are also looking into how we can support families by providing the technology at home to allow this to happen, thank you all for completing the survey earlier this week. If your child is off, having to self-isolate because a member of the family is waiting for a test result, teachers have provided work packs on our home learning page that can be completed at home. From next term this will include using google classroom to ensure learning is checked and children receive feedback from their teachers. Home learning will be on google classrooms too next term as we know some of you have said that feedback is essential to ensuring your children complete it!

We have been incredibly lucky with the weather since lockdown but the recent rainy weather has been a reminder that autumn and winter are on their way. I appreciate when it is raining heavily, you do not want to be standing on the playground or by the gates waiting to drop your child off. This is particularly the case for parents who have to drop off an older sibling and wait to drop off the younger child. On the days that we have heavy rain, the teachers will open the classroom doors earlier to let the children in and avoid them being soaked. Please can I remind all KS1 parents that we ask only one parent enters the school site to drop off and pick up. Minimising the number of adults on site allows for people to keep socially distanced. Please note that we do try to keep the gates open to allow 10 minutes pick up and drop off although on occasions this may not be possible. If the gates are shut please always just come to the main gate to drop off or collect your child.

Contact books - As we are not using contact books at the moment please email the school office (Brook or Orchard emails), if you have an important message for the class teacher, and before lunchtime if your child is going home with another parent. Thank you.

Parent Evenings - We hope you have signed up for your call. We are currently undergoing much needed improvements to technology in school and at present therefore could not guarantee zoom type evenings for 21 classes. We therefore considered it vital for new parents of YR children to have this facility as usually so much communication happens in a child's first term with us and this year we, like you are missing this contact. We opted for phone calls for other year groups as a good compromise (although we only have 3 school lines so are very grateful to staff for using their own personal phones for this).

Open days for Year R 2021

We have been unable to hold any open afternoons this year and with the current restrictions in place it is unlikely that we will be able to hold any in the near future. Mr Farley and our Y6 prefects are creating a promotional film that will give prospective new parents a flavour of what life at Loose is like and existing parents, a snapshot of some of the wonderful things that are going on in school at the moment.

Thank you to those of you who have written to the school to personally thank staff, recognising their hard work. Staff do love to receive such positive feedback. However, please do not hesitate to contact your class teacher if you have any concerns as they will be more than happy to discuss things over the phone.

Have a good 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

- 20 Oct - Year 5 Spy Day
- 21 Oct & 22 Oct - Parents Evening Consultations - 4-7pm phone calls
- 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
- 02 Nov - Deadline for online Secondary Applications
- 03 Nov - Flu Vaccinations for Year R to Year 6
- 05 Nov - Online applications for September 2021 Year R Intake open
- 11 Nov - Kittle Photography taking KS1 Individual & Class Photos
- 12 Nov - Kittle Photography in taking KS2 Individual & Class Photos (excl Y6)
- 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
- 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 - Deadline for changes to secondary applications
- 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	George S
Opal	Coming soon!	Emerald	Ella B
Crystal	Coming soon!	Onyx	Olivia F
Diamond	Oscar A	Ruby	Mollie F
Sapphire	Annabelle W	Topaz	Lara-Belle M
Moonstone	Jesse-James A	Sunstone	Amber C
Tanzanite	Isabel J	Amethyst	Chloe H
Aquamarine	Matthew I	Peridot	Maisy-Jayne S
Turquoise	Jasper H	Zultanite	Zak T Summer S
Coral	Oliver R	Quartz	Gabriel A
Amber	William W		

Wearing masks at the gate

Thank you to all the parents who have been wearing masks when dropping off/collecting their children. It is really important that we all look out for one another as a community, and do everything we can to keep each other safe during these uncertain times. Staff are wearing masks/visors when walking around the school, so we would be very grateful if parents could please wear masks on the gate. Thank you so much for your continued support, as always.

May we also ask that if you need to speak to your child's class teacher that you make a phone appointment, by emailing either the Brook or Orchard email address. We are asking staff to speak to all parents about any issues over the phone, rather than catching up at the gate. This is to keep everyone safe.

Covid Reminders

Children should not be bringing large bags and rucksacks into school at this time. Essential items only to be brought in please. Although this seems a small thing to allow, please bear in mind we have to allow essential items such as coats, water bottles and lunchboxes in to school and are just trying to reduce non-essential items that harbour germs and possibly the virus. In our large school, if every child brought just a few items from home, very quickly we have thousands of items to clean on entry to school and to try to store these away from others is impossible. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

POTENTIAL IS LIMITLESS

Weekly Attendance

Opal	95.61%	Jade	95.00%
Crystal	98.33%	Emerald	99.06%
Pearl	100.00%	Ruby	95.63%
Diamond	98.00%	Onyx	94.65%
Sapphire	98.67%	Topaz	95.00%
Moonstone	98.00%	Sunstone	100.00%
Tanzanite	98.00%	Amethyst	99.38%
Turquoise	99.33%	Peridot	99.38%
Aquamarine	96.67%	Zultanite	99.06%
Amber	99.69%	Quartz	96.88%
Coral	98.00%		

Whole School Target
96.5%

Whole School Attendance
98.00%

Weekly House Points Result

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

Flu Vaccinations

A reminder the school nursing team will be in school on the 3rd November to give flu vaccinations to the children across all year groups. The letter giving parents all the details and a link for your permission or to advise you do not want your child vaccinated was emailed out earlier this term. **The deadline for completing the online form is the 27th October.** See website link below for the letter:- <https://www.loose-primary.kent.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=6094&type=pdf>

Year 5 Spy Day

On **Tuesday 20th October**, all Year 5 students who have successfully completed a series of missions in their initial training are invited to spend the day undergoing specialised training and participating in a series of Top Secret activities. These potential new recruits will be briefed in Orchard Hall by senior agents at precisely 09:00. All Secret Agent trainees are encouraged to wear appropriate undercover clothing to school on this day. This could be dark clothing with dark glasses, a disguise or an overcoat and hat. Any appropriate gadgets or devices may also be brought along to support training, at the owner's risk.

PTA News

Look out next week as your child will be bringing home an exciting letter and label ready for a Christmas fundraising art project. This year your child can create a design at home and then have it made in cards, labels, water bottles etc. So look out for the details next week.

Extended Services

Please be advised that any outstanding monies with extended services must be paid by the end of this term. Unfortunately, failure to clear any monies will result in your sessions not being booked again for Term 2. Any queries please call Mrs Monksfield on 01622 743549. Many thanks.

Kittle Photographs

We are pleased to confirm that Kittle Photography will be joining us to take our school photographs on Wednesday 11th and Thursday 12th November 2020. The KS1 children will have their pictures taken on the Wednesday with KS2 children, **excluding year 6**, on the Thursday. We are hoping to take the year 6 individual and year group pictures next summer. Due to social distancing, the class photographs will be taken in a traditional style and not a posed long picture. Please ensure your child is in full school uniform, including cardigan, ties and jumpers. Many thanks.

Onyx Class Assembly

It was Onyx's class assembly this week after lots of practice and rehearsal. They thoroughly enjoyed writing, choreographing and composing this assembly and were thrilled to pull off the big performance! The assembly was inspired by 'The Red Tree' written by Shaun Tan, a beautiful book about hope and courage. Miss Pye couldn't be more proud of all the children who have achieved this term and the assembly was a wonderful celebration of their hard work!

iRock

Last year we had an amazing company called iRock come in and show the children rock instruments. They are now offering lessons in small groups to children who would like to learn these instruments. The lessons will take place on a Monday out of class. We have sent a letter home with more information for anybody who is interested. Information on where to send the information will be on the letter. Miss Krangel

Assistant Headteacher News

Hello everyone, Mr Farley back this week.

We have some exciting news to share with you - GLO is returning in Term 2. For those of you who don't know, GLO stands for Global Learning Opportunities. Beginning in Term 2, each class will take part in an enrichment activity for an hour per week, delivered by one of the adults in their classroom. The activity chosen usually extends beyond that which children are already learning in their Year Group. In the past, Year 4 have experienced calligraphy, Year 2 have held and learned to care for live animals, and Year 1 have become cartoon artists.

We cannot wait to see what next term brings! Keep a look out on Twitter.

In the mean time, we look forward to speaking to many of you on the phone next week for our parent consultation sessions. Please ensure you're waiting eagerly by your phones at the time of your appointment and have plenty of network reception if possible.

Take care everyone.

Thank You!

We want to say a massive thank you to all the amazing parents who donated for non school uniform day last week. We have raised over £1000 which is an incredibly impressive figure so a huge thank you to everyone who donated. It is a brilliant contribution towards providing our children with an exciting new resource.

Year 1 - Monday 19th October

Weather permitting, as a year group we will be having an outdoor activity day based around our topic for this term. Please could you send your child into school on Monday with a coat and Wellington boots if possible. Many thanks. Year 1 Team

PE Term 2

We have decided that all classes in KS2 will have football as their focus for PE lessons in Term 2. Please could you make sure your child has football boots and shin pads ready for when they return in Term 2. Having these really speeds up the PE lessons and allows maximum time to be spent outside learning rather than sorting out equipment.

The children in Year 1 and 2 will have 'Send and receive with their hands' as their focus for PE learning. For this the children will need their normal PE kit. However, please can all children have a hoody and tracksuit bottoms as part of their PE kit to stay warm in the cold weather.

FINAL REMINDER - Maidstone Churches Winter Shelter Donations

A final reminder we are 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 **until Thursday 22nd 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 online applications is midnight on the 2nd November. The Kent Test results will be emailed to parents on 26th November from 4pm. 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. Applications can be amended up to the 11th December by emailing kentonlineadmissions@kent.gov.uk. 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.

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