



Loose Primary School Newsletter

27th November 2020



Head of School News

Well, the Christmas trees have arrived! Although I cannot quite believe December starts next week and we are all wondering how we will celebrate this year. One thing does not change and that is the magic of Christmas for the children. The excitement and preparations will still be happening at school and it will be a Christmas to remember.

In last week's newsletter, we had to inform you of the news of our first bubble closure. We were preparing for this but even so, it has made us all realise that Covid-19 has no discretion. It also meant that staff, children and parents mainly associated with Year 3 have been the first to trial Google Classrooms and all that comes with remote learning. Remote learning in classes has been used where staff have been isolating. A huge thank you to everyone; we are learning from the few 'teething problems' but it has been successful and we have appreciated the positive, kind comments from parents.

I must also take this opportunity to thank all the staff for the way they have reassured the children and the positive way they deal with the many changes. They have been so dedicated during this crisis and are busily planning on-line learning alongside class teaching. We must not forget many are looking after their own families and are conscious that visiting their extended family members could put them at risk whilst others are leaving their own children at home to come in to school. Can I also thank those of you who have responded with such positive feedback. It is good to hear that children are coming home and talking positively about their day at school. Moreover, a huge admiration to those of you home teaching and ensuring your children feel connected with learning.

Our school community spirit and our values of compassion and determination are helping us during this second lockdown. Any message of support, hope or thanks to staff, groups of people or to your fellow parents help keep us all smiling.

Sunstone Assembly

A definite highlight of our week was Sunstone's Assembly. The children in the class spoke so proudly and articulately informing us of all the learning that has taken place so far this year in their class (thank you to Nicole the Newsround reporter). It was packed with thoughts on Alex Rider, poems, semaphore and Morse codes as well as important anti-bullying messages and thoughts on kindness. I was a bit worried at first as the assembly started with spies coming into the hall to the sound of 007 music but it ended beautifully with the class signing (not singing) to 'Reach out your Hand to Someone Today'.

Leaders in school

In the first instance, most queries should be addressed with the class teacher but if you need to speak to a leader, we are happy to catch up informally with a phone call. We have three Assistant Headteachers who are available if you have any concerns. Mr Farley for Year 1 or Year 2 queries, Mr Johnson for Year 3 and Year 4 queries or Miss Burman for Year 5 & Year 6 queries. Mrs Oliveri (also teacher in Year R - Pearl) is our Early Years leader and is always happy to speak with you about any child or concern in Year R. Please do talk to us if you have any worries or concerns so we can sort them as soon as possible.

One reason for highlighting this is we urge you to contact us with any concerns that you have. Whilst social media presently has many advantages and is used by all of us, there have been situations where issues have been raised and made other parents unnecessarily anxious. Please think before you post and contact us to find out more about the issues to resolve your concerns.

Finally we are aware of a number of parents who have had Covid tests but are not displaying any of the three main symptoms. In some cases these tests have come back as positive. If you or anyone in your household go for a Covid test, even if you are asymptomatic, can you please keep your children off school until the results have come back. This is to try and protect the school community.

Keep safe.
Anita Makey

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

Dates



Term 2 -

- 01 Dec - Topaz Class Assembly 9am Orchard Hall - sorry no parents
- 09 Dec - Year R Nativity to parents & siblings - arrangement to be confirmed - will be done virtually
- 10 Dec - Year R Nativity to parents - arrangement to be confirmed - will be done virtually
- 11 Dec - Deadline for changes to secondary applications
- 11 Dec - Parent Council Meeting 2.15pm - via Zoom
- 15 Dec - Christmas Lunch & Christmas Jumper Day
- 17 Dec - Loose's Race to Lapland Merry Mile Event
- 18 Dec - Christmas Services All Saints Church - via Zoom
- 18 Dec - Last day of term - children due back in school on 5th January 2021

Term 3

- 04 Jan - Staff Development Day - children not in school
- 05 Jan - Children return to school
- 11 Jan - Year 6 Magistrates Talk - to be confirmed
- 15 Jan - Deadline for Year R September 2021 Online Applications
- 22 Jan - Non School Uniform Day - more info to follow
- 26 Jan - Turquoise Class Assembly - sorry no parents
- 02 Feb - Aquamarine Class Assembly - sorry no parents
- 09 Feb - Tanzanite Class Assembly - sorry no parents
- 09 Feb - Safer Internet Day
- 10 Feb - Parents Evening Consultation - 4-7pm possible telephone calls - to be confirmed
- 11 Feb - Parents Evening Consultation - 4-7pm possible telephone calls - to be confirmed
- 11 Feb - Last day of term - children return to school on Monday 22nd February

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	Back soon!
Opal	Coming soon!	Emerald	Finley A
Crystal	Coming soon!	Onyx	Beau B
Diamond	Jacob O	Ruby	Amelia L
Sapphire	Florence P	Topaz	George J
Moonstone	Arabella M	Sunstone	Betsy E
Tanzanite	Ethan C	Amethyst	Lucie C
Aquamarine	Emilia V	Peridot	Ava M
Turquoise	Lottie B	Zultanite	Daniel B
Coral	Back soon!	Quartz	Samuel G
Amber	Back soon!		

Christmas Cards and Gifts

Any items brought in for Christmas will need to be brought in by Friday 11 December so they can be quarantined before being given out. This includes cards as we have class post boxes and feel it is important that children can get into the festive spirit for the last few weeks of term, in what has been a turbulent year.



COVID UPDATE

If your child is off school due to a member of the household having tested positive for Covid, they must self-isolate for 14 days. If someone else in the household then also tests positive for Covid the 14 days period starts all over again and your child will need to self-isolate for a further 14 days from the onset of symptoms of the second person tested positive. If this is the case, please advise the school office as soon as possible so we are aware and we can also make sure there is enough work on Google Classroom. Thank you.

POTENTIAL IS LIMITLESS

Weekly Attendance

Opal	99.66%	Jade	93.55%
Crystal	100.00%	Emerald	99.31%
Pearl	99.32%	Ruby	98.40%
Diamond	96.99%	Onyx	98.11%
Sapphire	96.35%	Topaz	97.44%
Moonstone	98.00%	Sunstone	99.38%
Tanzanite	98.30%	Amethyst	91.35%
Turquoise	99.33%	Peridot	95.64%
Aquamarine	99.66%	Zultanite	98.69%
Amber	100.00%	Quartz	97.74%
Coral	93.33%		

Whole School Target
96.5%

Whole School Attendance
97.90%

Term 2 House Points Results

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

KMFM Reflective Disks

Children in Years 2 -6 will each have received a free reflective disk as part of Road Safety Week. These have kindly been donated to the school by KMFM and the KCC Road Safety Scheme - a huge thank you to them. They can be clipped onto children's coats or bags in order to be seen in the dark. Please encourage your child to use this to help them be seen on these increasingly dark evenings.

Water Bottle - No Squash

Please note that children are only allowed water in their bottles in school. Squash/Cordial drinks are not allowed as if spilt it's very sticky on desks, hands and on work. Thank you for your co-operation.

Dropping Late Items Off

We've notice a recent increase in the number of parents returning to the school site with forgotten items. This means staff entering other bubbles. Please therefore do not drop off forgotten items for the office staff to deliver to your child after the start of the school day. Children in older year groups should be encouraged to take responsibility for their own things as part of growing up and as a preparation for their next school. We can provide plastic cups for water or a school lunch if water bottles or packed lunches are forgotten. Our thanks to all parents who have supported office staff in this matter - your help is much appreciated.

Mobile Library

The mobile library comes to Loose once a month: Thursday 10th December then every four weeks from this date.

Boughton Lane Car Park in Loose - 2.05pm - 3.35pm

Lancet Lane in Loose - 3.50pm - 4.20pm

Carlton Gardens in Loose - 4.25pm - 4.55pm

We are running a click and collect service, customers are welcome to fill in the on-line form, e-mail me direct (joanne.woolgar@gmail.com) or give our Allington staff a call with requests 0300 041 8558. A general age of the child with allow the librarians to pick suitable titles. <https://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/libraries/visiting-a-library/mobile-libraries-during-coronavirus> Children's book loan numbers are not limited during this time.

Loose Race to Lapland

Starting next week - Tuesday 1st December our school will be building up to Christmas by having a Loose Race to Lapland by completing daily miles! Please see your emails for more information on how this will work.

Children's Hospital Pyjama Charity

Thank you ever so much for all your generous donations of pyjamas.

Opening the box to find more and more donations really did bring a smile to my face, as did all the lovely emails etc, informing us of the Amazon donations made. I have no doubt that the children receiving your pyjamas upon admission to hospital will be incredibly grateful! Thank you! Mrs Bremerkamp



Assistant Headteacher News

Reading

I am overwhelmed with the response that we have had from sending out our Amazon wishlist two weeks ago. We have received so many fantastic books from parents, which have already been distributed into appropriate classrooms across the school. It is so important for our children to have exposure to high-quality texts that are rich with language and these books will be so beneficial for our pupils. We really cannot say thank you enough! We have attached the link below in case you did not see it the first time:

https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/2VSF26XLJP2TL?ref=wl_share

COVID-19

Please do remember to wear a mask when collecting/dropping off your child in order to protect yourself, other parents, children and staff. As we have seen over the last week, the need for caution is high and we want to protect your children as much as we can.

Thank you,
Miss Burman

Year R Admissions for September 2021

If you have a child due to start in Year R in September 2021 we would advise that online applications are now open for parents wanting to apply. The closing date is midnight on the 15th January 2021. Applications should, where possible, be made online using www.kent.gov.uk/ola. Offer day is 16th April 2021 where you will be offered a school for your child. Please see www.kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions for full details or contact Mrs Thomson in the school office should you have any enquiries. We hope you have seen our virtual tour here <https://www.ioose-primary.kent.sch.uk/page/?title=Admissions&pid=15>

PTA News

The PTA would like to send an enormous thank you to everyone who has already sent online payments for the parent/carer Christmas gifts. **We are delighted to announce that we are extending the payment deadline to Monday 30th November.** Please see your email for full details. Each gift will cost £2 and we can only accept online payments please. The children will be able to choose their gifts at school and bring them home w/c 7th December. Please note that all gifts will be quarantined for at least 72 hours before they are distributed to each classroom/bubble. Due to these measures being in place, regrettably we will be unable to accept any late orders after **Monday 30th November deadline.** Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

For those children who designed their own Christmas cards, we hope you are looking forward to receiving your orders very soon!

Photographs

Please be advised that if you wish to order any Kittle group or individual photographs with free delivery, please place your order with Kittle Photography as detailed on the reverse of your QR code ticket by 2nd December 2020. Any orders after this date may result in postage being charged. All Year 3 Class Photo QR codes and photo id's have been emailed home. Many thanks. Mrs Penny Monksfield.

Year 6 Parents/Carers

From next Friday 4th December the Year 6 teachers will be sending your child's Year 5 books home with them. These have been fully quarantined. If you do not want these books sent home then please email orchard@loose-primary.kent.sch.uk no later than next Thursday, 3rd December. Kind regards
Year 6 Team

Anti-Bullying Week

Finally, after Anti-bullying week last week

#ChooseKindness top tips

- Choosing kindness doesn't cost anything but can help someone enormously. We all have choices to make, do you #choosekindness ?
- Choose kindness, as you never know what someone else is going through.
 - Saying something nice can bring a smile to someone's face.
 - Acts of kindness will never come back to hurt you and are never wasted on someone.
 - Being mean and hurting others can hurt someone very deeply; think twice about what you say or do.
 - Acts of kindness are good for you - they release oxytocin, which lowers our blood pressure.
 - Being kind can help others feel happy and confident

Maidstone Children's Centres Facebook page is packed full of information, advice and support for families and lots of fun activities to keep your children entertained. Sign up and find out more about weekly activity emails, free Adult Education courses, our Virtual groups where we do arts and crafts, singing, stories and signing and much more". Maidstone Children's Centres Team

<https://www.facebook.com/maidstonechildrenscentres/>

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