



Loose Primary School Newsletter

8th January 2021



Headteacher News

Thank you so much from all the staff at Loose for your many generous gifts and lovely cards we got for Christmas. Although this seems so long ago now, we are very grateful for your thoughts and wishes and gifts given to us.

I would normally start the year wishing everyone a happy new year but think we have done this several times already due to letters and emails that we needed to send. Anyway – we do hope that 2021 is a year where we are kind to one another and look out for friends, neighbours and family, even if from afar. Remember the small things mean such a lot at times like this – a smile, a wave, a quick call or email or positive message on social media all go a long way. We never know what others are experiencing. I said to staff recently, although we are all in the same storm, we are in very different boats and vessels and our school values of respect and compassion can be upheld, particularly at this time to help see us through the darker times.

Despite the various challenges that we continue to face, we wanted to let you know our staff continue to learn online alongside teaching your children in real life and virtually. We have subscribed to various online packages for staff training and development to continue when many staff are not in school together and are unable to have staff meetings and professional development sessions. This is very different for us but we felt it important to let you know we are still learning and developing all the time so we can offer the children at Loose the very best provision. Of course we are all learning how to best use Google Classrooms too!

Reading and Language development

We value the importance of reading and language development and want our children to become enthusiastic, engaged readers that develop a life-long love of books and reading. Reading opens doors to new skills and enables our children to access the whole curriculum and world beyond their local area.

We also believe in developing children's spoken language as this goes hand in hand with reading and developing children's general literacy skills. By teaching children to become more effective speakers and listeners, we empower them to have a better understanding of themselves, each other and the world around them. We prioritise children's language development as soon as they start school. Our YR team are introducing 'The Nuffield Early Language Intervention' to improve the spoken language ability of children in reception, hopefully next term. It combines small group work with one-to-one sessions delivered by trained teaching assistants, targeting vocabulary, narrative skills, active listening and phonological awareness. We hope that this will help build the vital foundation blocks to be successful learners as they move throughout the school.

Please continue to support the work of the school by reading with your child at home and developing their language at every opportunity. We are sure without their friends to chat to each day they will definitely love talking to you at every opportunity!

Parent Council

Our next meeting is on Friday 5 February. The focus for this meeting will be virtual learning so please do pass any comments on to your representative so they can be discussed. This will be a few weeks into the school closure and we will therefore have a better grasp of what works well for our children and what could be improved. Please do feed this back to us also via your child's teacher so we can make adjustments quickly and easily if we need to, but remember to be kind we are trying our best!

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 3

- 11 Jan - Year 6 Magistrates Talk - **Postponed**
- 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 - **Postponed**
- 02 Feb - Aquamarine Class Assembly - **Postponed**
- 05 Feb - Parent Council Meeting - via zoom 1.30pm-2.15pm
- 09 Feb - Tanzanite Class Assembly - **Postponed**
- 09 Feb - Safer Internet Day
- 10 Feb - Parents Evening Consultation - 4-7pm zoom or telephone calls - **to be confirmed**
- 11 Feb - Parents Evening Consultation - 4-7pm zoom or telephone calls - **to be confirmed**
- 11 Feb - Last day of term
- 12 Feb - Staff Training Day - children not in school. Children return to school on Monday 22nd February - **to be confirmed**

Remote learning / staffing

Please see our current protocols for what we offer for remote learning <https://www.loose-primary.kent.sch.uk/page/?title=Home+Learning&pid=139> at Loose. This may be different to other schools, just as what we offer in school is different. Schools are unique and we have carefully chosen learning themes and tasks that we hope your child (ren) will like to learn both in school (with other staff often) and at home (maybe alone). Thank you for your many appreciative comments and praise with what we are offering – we are trying our best and doing something very new and unfamiliar. As I said in a previous letter to you this is a learning experience for us so please bear with us. I know some of you have had difficulty getting used to the platform, especially if you have other children using different ones. The challenge for you as parents is immense – well done for trying to ensure your children get the best from remote learning that they can. This will be different for everyone, but please remember lots of devices can be used to access google classroom – kindles (change to adult function), Xbox, Playstation, Smart TVs.

Some of you have asked for more learning, some want set times / live learning, some less. We are trying to offer a middle ground that suits most of you so you can choose when to access learning at a time convenient to you. Teachers will start to use more functions (such as google meet) so children can socialise with their friends too as time goes on and we get used to things.

From next week teachers and TAs will have more time not in school to do this so we will continue to see what we can offer to keep the school community spirit going, please don't worry, everyone in the UK is in this situation and we have to work with what we have and together. We also continue to tweet additional learning resources that you may (or may not) wish to use with your child. Please follow us if you do not and feel free to tweet your child's learning at home so we can share great things with the whole school community too.

I thank staff who this week were working with one set of rules and expectations that will again change next week. We have many staff off school unwell too so cover for children in school has been needed from year group teams, meaning less staff are available to help children at home. The task is a very difficult one but we will continue to try to offer the best we can to all children.

Places

A number of parents have asked about places for their child. We set clear expectations for booking places in our communications and surveys last week and we are sorry but we are unable to help families who change their mind in what is needed. Please remember this is a pandemic where continual changes and challenges are happening and we need to ensure that bubbles in school (staff and pupils) are protected as much as we possibly can.

COVID Remote Learning Pathways

Throughout this year we have been continually updating our processes and procedures for remote learning. We have put all this information together into one handy document so you can know what to expect at every level of remote learning. This information covers individual children isolating and whole bubble closures. You can access the document following the attached link and opening the COVID Remote Learning Pathways document. <https://www.loose-primary.kent.sch.uk/page/?title=Home+Learning&pid=139> If you have any questions regarding our remote learning please direct them to Mr Johnson via the Brook or Orchard email addresses.

Accessing Google Classrooms

As we enter this second period of lockdown we are in a very greater position with regards to remote learning. We use the amazing Google Classrooms resource and teachers have worked extremely hard to get their heads around this new technology and how to best use it. One of the issues we have found is accessing this but we have recently found out that Google Classrooms can be accessed via Xbox and PS4 which we know many children have at home so hopefully this will reduce the pressure on devices at home. Attached to this email is a link to a YouTube video that explains how this works. For the children to use the resource effectively they need a USB Keyboard to attach to their Xbox or PS4. We are currently in the process of seeing how many we have in school that can be loaned to parents or they can be purchased cheaply via Amazon. Links have been included for these as well. They must be compatible with your child's Xbox or PS4 so please check this before purchasing.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h6wKiz2KXoE>
https://www.amazon.co.uk/Acco-Kensington-6010715-ValuKeyboard-Wired/dp/B0001Z7N7AO/ref=sr_1_3?dchild=1&keywords=USB+Keyboard&qid=1609931220&sc=computers&sr=1_3aa

Assistant Headteacher News

Mr Johnson with the AHT update this week. I hope everyone had a lovely Christmas break and I wish you all a happy new year. I want to start by saying a huge well done to all our members of staff who have shown again how we can adapt at such short notice. The announcement surrounding school closures was delivered to us at the same time it was delivered to the rest of the country. It brought with it a series of challenges and plans to implement and as a school team I am so proud of everything we've done. I just want to end by saying I really do urge our parents to really think hard before sending their children in. **If children can learn from home they absolutely should and school must only be used if they cannot learn from home.** We want to reduce transmissions and bring down the R number as quickly as we can and reducing the number of children in school will help this to happen so things can be normal more quickly.

POTENTIAL IS LIMITLESS