



Loose Primary School Newsletter



15th January 2021

Headteacher News

At the end of our second week, I would like to say an enormous thank you for all your support and your kind comments we have received on the gates and via email they are greatly appreciated by all staff. I know you will join me in thanking our staff in showing such commitment and resilience during this time and over the coming weeks. Thank you to all our parents too – you are doing a great job!

As advised by the Government, we will do all we can to stay open for:

- Children of critical workers
- Children with identified vulnerabilities

This instruction must be taken seriously by all to safeguard children and staff, while allowing Critical Workers to continue their role to support the country at this unprecedented time. Please note that it is parental choice if you meet this criteria and want to use this facility or not, just let us know if you have booked a place but prefer your child to stay at home and learn. The beauty of our learning now (compared to March 2020) is that all learning in home or at school is the same, using our chosen learning platform, Google Classrooms. We wrote to parents earlier this week and are very grateful that over 50 parents have kept their children at home this week to keep numbers in school and hopefully the spread of the virus low.

Please note that this is a national closure, so while it is a challenging situation, we are not alone. This is the same across the UK and the world. We know that working from home and supporting remote learning is hard. We are doing everything we can to ensure that the children can complete their remote learning independently and without disrupting you. As we said in a letter to you all last year - lots of people are feeling stressed, overwhelmed and under pressure by everything that's happening. This includes the work being sent home for your child. It may be helpful to remember -

1) This is not homeschooling. This is an unprecedented emergency situation impacting on the whole world. Keep perspective. Homeschooling is a choice, where you considered it, you plan for it and you are your child's school teacher in whatever form you choose. This is remote learning and we are all doing our best to ensure our children have an education at this time.

2) You are, and always have been, your child's primary educator. If you decide that your child isn't going to engage with anything sent home and is going to spend a few days playing in the dirt, or baking, or watching TV, then that is your choice. That is your right. There is nothing to stress or feel guilty about.

3) It is absolutely not possible to facilitate distance learning with a primary aged child and work from home at the same time. You can certainly have activities where your child learns each day, but your focus is your job, and survival. Again, unprecedented. Stop trying to be superheroes – you are doing a fantastic job. We have deliberately not planned too many timed / live slots to help you with this so you can decide when is best for your child to learn each day. Remember there are lots of resources out there to help you – the BBC learning platform is just one way if you are struggling with google classroom learning – have a look <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/dailylessons> and <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc>. Of course Joe Wicks is back again too to ensure we get exercise in a fun way – join his live sessions on his YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/c/TheBodyCoachTV/featured> at 09:00 GMT on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. The Government have said that we should aim to provide up to 3 hours each day of learning for infant children and up to 4 hours for juniors. We set planned work on google slides and offer additional work too if you want it but please do not feel compelled to do this, just do what you can. If you are busy at work and choose for your child to learn from BBC TV one day, just let your child's teacher know - this is absolutely fine and will help reduce stress we hope.

Remember - you are doing enough. You are loving your children, and supporting them through a difficult time. Look after yourself too. Minimising stress is absolutely vital in a time like this for mental health. Don't let this be something that stresses you. Only you can control that by accepting it is in your circle of control, you are the primary educator and this is all your call.

Please do follow our Twitter feed. Many of you are tweeting photos and comments. It is great to share these to keep in touch as a community. We are also sharing good sites to learn with your child at home as the vast numbers of websites can be quite overwhelming – we share the best ones on [@LoosePrimary](https://twitter.com/LoosePrimary) We are looking at ways of sharing stories and keeping in touch with you for the coming weeks. We will of course let you know when we do this so you can join in.

Remember too the 'Wellbeing' tab on our website also has some super activities for children to do at home including a 14 day challenge and non-screen activities. We are continually adding to it but please look at the following link: <https://www.loose-primary.kent.sch.uk/page/?title=Wellbeing&pid=144>

Stay safe and well by staying at home. We look forward to seeing you all again when we can!

With best wishes from the team at Loose.

Sarah Holman
Headteacher

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

Dates



Term 3

- 15 Jan - Deadline for Year R September 2021 Online Applications
- 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 - rearranged to 24th March 4-7pm via zoom
- 11 Feb - Parents Evening Consultation - rearranged to 25th March 4-7pm via zoom
- 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

Parents Evening Consultations

Please note these have been rescheduled for Wednesday 24th & Thursday 25th March. More information will follow at the start of term 4.

Thank You

We would like to say a huge thank you to some parents. Mr Inchley has really kindly offered to donate some laptops to the school for our children to use. Mr Cutmore has offered to try to repair any ageing/faulty laptops that could possibly be brought back to life to use for home learning. Please contact our office and we will put you in touch with him. Thank you Mr Inchley and Mr Cutmore! Last but certainly not least, Mr and Mrs Morris have very generously been buying fruit for the Early Years children to eat. We are so grateful to you all thank you.



Please can we remind all parents to keep their distance from each other whilst waiting for your child at the end of the day and to adhere to the government guidelines to wear a mask.

SATS and tests in 2021

You may be aware all are cancelled, this particularly is for children in Y1 (phonics screen), Y2 and Y6 all SATs tests cancelled and Y4 – multiplication check.

Remote learning workshop

Thank you to the parents who attended this on Monday and huge thanks to Mrs Oliveri who ran the session. We hope you found it helpful and are finding things a little easier. Google Classrooms is a fabulous resource once you get used to it (we are learning this too!). If you were unable to attend and need help navigating things, please just ask your child's class staff who will be happy to assist you or your child. Remember too the apps are a great way to access learning on tablets or phones. We recommend just 3 – Google Meet, Google Drive and Google Classroom. All free from the app store. See our website here too dedicated to supporting you with this great software <https://www.loose-primary.kent.sch.uk/page/?title=Google+Classroom&pid=212>

LOOSE LOCKDOWN BAKE OFF!

We have decided to have a Loose Lockdown Bake Off!! We want to have a whole school event to bring all our community together again during a very difficult time. It is very simple, all you need to do to enter is bake a cake and email your photos as follows:-



Years R, 1 & 2 brook@loose-primary.kent.sch.uk
Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 orchard@loose-primary.kent.sch.uk
These should be received by **Wednesday 27th January**. You can send your photo in before this date but this is the final deadline for entries. We wanted to give you plenty of time to decide on your cake and get baking! All pictures will be collected together and a winner will be chosen from each year group and then an overall winner for the whole school so **please title your small Bake Off and include your child's year group and class on the email with the picture**. Hopefully, you will enjoy the opportunity to learn new baking skills and enjoy eating your end product. Good luck and get baking! Mr Johnson

Dropping off late items

Please do not drop off forgotten items for office staff to deliver to your child after the start of the school day. This means staff entering other bubbles. 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.

Assemblies

We are going to begin over the next few weeks introducing some assemblies into our remote learning so that children both in school and those learning at home can access them and try and make remote learning as close to normal school as possible. I have attached a link to an assembly for this week which your children can watch at home if they are remote learning. All you need to do is click on the attached link and use the password: PTA2021 to access the assembly. <https://www.loom.com/share/1bc391e26cc4b6d8108828a2e9b3f5c>
We hope small things like this will keep us close as a community and introduce some normal school routines into remote learning. Mr Johnson

Helpful Videos

Presented by HeadStart Kent and Draw Your Own Solution, the link below takes you to short videos that are a must watch for any parent in Kent to learn about how to support their child to be resilient and how to be a resilient parent themselves. <https://kentresiliencehub.org.uk/resources/resilience-webinar-for-parents/>

Assistant Headteacher News

Happy Friday everyone! It is Mr Johnson writing for you all and I want to focus on one group of people for my briefing today and that is the children. I have spent lots of my day today looking through different classes Google Slides and the work that has been handed in, and one word comes to mind - amazing! I am so impressed with all the amazing learning that all of our children are completing. Children really are the most resilient, incredible people and we are so lucky to get the chance to play a small part in their lives. They are showing us every day how they can adapt to difficult situations and amaze us with the work that they produce. I think they all deserve a huge pat on the back and I hope they all enjoy a well deserved break this weekend before coming back next week to blow us all away again. Take care and stay safe!

POTENTIAL IS LIMITLESS