



# Loose Primary School Newsletter

## 29th January 2021



### Headteacher News

As we are at the end of another week we want to thank you for showing such perseverance and determination in your home schooling. This is for the children and parents who all are doing so well in such very challenging circumstances. As always we will keep you up to date with any information or changes as they occur, please remember usually we hear of government announcements at the same time as you do. Like so many of you, we do dream of the time when things are more normal and children can return to school, however we do not know when this will be (although we do now know this will not be before 8 March) and have to follow stringent government guidelines for school reopening for all pupils. Please do try to take some comfort in knowing that all schools and families are in the same position and that we are doing all we can to offer the best education we can in the circumstances.

#### Wellbeing

We hope you found Mrs Dutch and the nurture team's tips to help you (sent earlier this week) useful. The link to all our wellbeing tools, tips and links can be found here <https://www.loose-primary.kent.sch.uk/page/?title=Wellbeing&pid=144>. If you do have time to take a look there are some truly simple and wonderful things to help us reflect and re-engage during this national lockdown. We regularly tweet direct links to sections too if this is easier for you.

#### Children in school

With the continued unknown about the exact school return date (and much speculation in the media) a few parents have contacted us this week wanting to know if we could reconsider arrangements for next term. Depending on what the Government guidance is regarding a possible return to school or continuing the current arrangements after 8 March, we will of course come back to you as parents to see if your requirements have changed since January so we can make arrangements for term 4 if needed. As in my letter yesterday, you will have received a new survey so parents can indicate if they meet the criteria for critical worker and now need a place. It is vital that parents complete this and return within the deadline set so we can make arrangements in school. With 30% of children in school currently this is very high and much higher than other schools so we thank you for doing all you can to keep numbers as low as we can in school to prevent the spread of the virus in the community. If you feel you no longer need your place in school and can allow your children to learn from home we would very much appreciate hearing from you so places only go to those families and children who really need to be in school.

#### Parent Evenings

We have postponed these until next term as we are hoping that things may have improved regarding the lockdown and pupils may be allowed to return to school. If however, this is not the case, the Zoom meetings will still go ahead so we can touch base with each of you and discuss your child's learning requirements and see how they are getting on.

#### 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 is now a few weeks in to the national lockdown and we 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.

#### Lateral Flow Tests

Staff have been testing at home with the lateral flow tests and reporting to school and Test and Trace. This is of huge benefit as often people are not displaying symptoms but are spreading the virus. Where staff test positive, they can immediately isolate and help to reduce the risk of spreading COVID to others. This of course may lead to staff absence and bubble closures for critical worker and vulnerable children, but we are hoping how we have set up teams of staff to work in year group bubbles, this will have as little impact on learning as we can manage.

#### Remote learning workshop

Thank you to the parents who attended this on Monday and huge thanks to Mrs Oliveri and Miss Chapman 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!). 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 to dedicated to supporting you with this great software. <https://www.loose-primary.kent.sch.uk/page/?title=Google+Classroom&pid=212>

#### Term dates

With learning from home it is difficult to know when we are meant to be in school and when not. Please see dates for this year and next year here <https://www.loose-primary.kent.sch.uk/page/?title=Term+Dates&pid=48>

#### 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

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  
11 Feb - Last day of term  
12 Feb - Staff Training Day - children not in school. Children return to school on Monday 22nd February - for children of critical workers & vulnerable children only

#### Term 4

22 Feb - Children return to school - to be confirmed  
22-26 Feb - Multicultural Week  
01 Mar - National Secondary School Offer Day - emails from 4pm  
02 Mar - Sapphire Class Assembly - 11.30am via Google Meet more info to follow  
04 Mar - World Book Day  
05 Mar - Diamond Class Assembly - 11.30am via Google Meet more info to follow  
08-12 Mar - British Science Week  
09 Mar - Moonstone Class Assembly - 11.30am via Google Meet more info to follow  
19 Mar - Comic Relief Day  
19 Mar - Parent Council Meeting - via Zoom 1.30-2.15pm  
01 Apr - Easter Services at All Saints Church - virtual service  
01 Apr - Last day of term - children return to school 19 April

#### Assemblies

We have started to record assemblies for the children to watch to try and keep a strong sense of community and togetherness during these difficult times. You may have seen some of these already. To make this easier they will be included in the Google Slide presentations that each of our children receive everyday. The assemblies will be on a range of topics and each Friday we will have a special 'Shout Out' assembly similar to our usual Learner of the Week assembly to celebrate children who have worked hard both in school and outside.

#### Smart Watches

We are seeing more and more of our children wearing these amazingly technological smart watches. It is great that our children get the opportunity to use such devices but we do need to have some rules regarding these in school. When in school, these watches should be set to 'Watch-Only' mode and children shouldn't be able to access any other features of the watch. Also, they are an expensive item and we would suggest that they are handed in to class teachers at the beginning of the day like we expect with mobile phones and then handed back at the end of the day. This would allow them to be kept safe and away from the risk of being damaged or used inappropriately during school hours. Please note the school is not liable for any loss or damage to these items whilst in school.

#### February Half Term

Schools will close as usual over February half-term and are not expected to remain open to vulnerable children and the children of critical workers during that week. Schools do not need to provide lunch parcels or vouchers during the February half-term.

#### Holiday Playscheme closure

We have taken the very difficult decision to not run our Holiday Play Scheme this February. We are doing this as a precautionary measure, to prevent further spread and to protect all members of our school community – both staff, children and their extended families. Kindest regards, Malandra Cornell

### PTA News

#### SPRING RAFFLE

Calling all parents, carers and small business owners - your PTA needs you! Lockdown has affected everyone, not least the events the PTA can run to raise important funds for the school. We are currently restricted to online only and will be holding a raffle in March. We are looking for suitable prize donations/vouchers. Please contact [loosepta@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:loosepta@yahoo.co.uk) by 11th February if you can help. Your business will feature in the poster advertising for the event. Thank you so much! You will have received information this week about an evening of Virtual Bingo with a stand up comic. Please book yourselves a space for an evening of fun family entertainment on Friday 12th Feb at 6.30pm—it should be a great way to raise spirits as well as raise money!

#### Thank You!

We would like to say a huge thank you to Mrs V Relfe (grandmother of Simon R, Onyx) for her generous donation. This will go towards continuing to provide technology to children at home, but can also be used once we hopefully return to school.

#### Message from the Kent Messenger - My Mum and First Class supplements.

As you will be only too aware, the last year has presented us with all kinds of logistical challenges and we have had to make some changes to how we go about things. Whilst we normally work closely with schools to produce our My Mum publication - with classes sending in drawings to our offices - we have had to change our approach this year with so many children currently home-schooling. Instead, we are asking parents to help children submit pictures direct to our website at [www.kmmymum.co.uk](http://www.kmmymum.co.uk) Children can add their own special message to their mum, and the pictures will appear in time for Mother's Day in week commencing March 8.

### Assistant Headteacher News

Hello everyone, it's Mr Farley this week.

I would like to start by saying how proud I am of the teaching staff here at Loose. Online learning is as new to our staff as it is to you, and the time and effort staff are continuing to put in to develop Google Classroom to support our home learners is nothing short of remarkable. Our teachers have set their own high standards for online learning that far exceeds the Government's expectations, because our staff believe your children deserve more. As a result, all our teaching staff are regularly working around their own children and families to mark learning and prepare the following day's work very late into the evening, on weekends and on their days off. This demonstrates to me that our Ethic of Excellence, that we value so highly in our school, is truly embedded within our teaching staff, as well as our children, of course.

Google Classroom messaging gives parents unprecedented direct access to class teachers. Please remember that this facility is only there for questions and answers about learning specifically and nothing else. I'm sure you understand that using this facility to criticise a class teacher or decisions that have been made as a school will not be tolerated. Please use our office email address [office@loose-primary.kent.sch.uk](mailto:office@loose-primary.kent.sch.uk) for any communication not appropriate for Google Classroom. Have a great weekend.

**POTENTIAL IS LIMITLESS**

## Nurture Update January 2021

So here we are in week 4 of term 3. How much longer will this lockdown last? When will we welcome all children back to school? Well, we are hoping from the governments latest announcement that this may possibly be around the 8th of March, but they will give us 2 weeks notice. So until then all we can do is try our hardest to remain as upbeat and positive as we can be. For a lot of us, this is possibly one of the most difficult times, some parents are dealing with loss, illness, grief, loneliness, stress, money troubles, loss of income, mental and physical health issues to mention just a few. On top of these, often crippling issues, lots of children are at home being encouraged to learn virtually which for some is enjoyable and others a cause of anxiety and increased pressure.

Whilst we would love all our children to be really engaged with their home learning, we completely appreciate that some children will just not click with these changes and new way of learning. There is a whole multitude of reasons behind this. Not only are all children completely different, some learn at a different pace and for others, the school environment is where they get their thinking caps on. We know that children have 'off' days where it is a struggle to keep them motivated, where as other days, they are on fire! Do what it is right for you and your child. Being at home and learning won't suit everyone and we are totally aware of this. Please, please don't put so much pressure on either yourself or your children that it becomes unbearable. Take breaks from the learning, go for that walk, bake that cake, let them do the washing up, create a chore list or just sit and watch a movie. You may also find you need a few moments on your own away from your children and that is totally normal! Gather up some blankets and tell your kids to build a den in the lounge or bedroom, this will guarantee you at least a 30 minute break. We fully understand that many of you are able to commit different amounts of time to supporting your children at home with their learning as everyone's circumstances are different. We would like to thank all of you for as little or as much of the home learning as you are able to do at this difficult time.

It's also ok to say you're not ok! Please do get in contact if you need someone to talk to. Often just saying something aloud and having a listening ear can make things feel a whole lot better. Mrs Dutch and I have been keeping in contact with lots of our families, often just to say hi and that we are thinking of you. Please shout if you would like a call. You can email us via [orchard@loose-primary.kent.sch.uk](mailto:orchard@loose-primary.kent.sch.uk) .

Rest assured that the children currently in school are either from families of critical workers, children with Educational Health Care Plans or vulnerable children. Whilst we would love nothing more than all our children to be with us, please bear with us during this incredibly tough time. We are receiving an ever increasing number of requests for us to have just a few more children as parents are finding juggling working from home and home schooling challenging. It's a worrying time for all staff too and we too are trying to keep ourselves and our families' safe and well so we can continue to offer the support we are offering. A new survey for term 4 was sent yesterday for critical workers. The advice is, if your child can be at home, then they should remain at home to reduce risk all round. We are not offering any further spaces after that.

Thank you for all your support and for your children's ever increasing resilience. I hope you all remain safe and well. Be kind to yourselves.

Kind regards,  
Mrs Linda Bremerkamp  
Nurture Lead Teaching Assistant.



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