



Loose Primary School Newsletter

5th February 2021



Head of School News

It is the end of another week at Loose where changes and challenges have been thrown at us all once again. Thank you so much for your cooperation and understanding as always, it warms my heart to know that we are all trying our best to get through these tough times together and trying to support our children and one another. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our staff for ensuring the children at Loose get the very best opportunities. The whole team of over 120 staff, from our teachers and teaching assistants to our site, office and all other teams, work tirelessly and give their very best to make Loose Primary the wonderful school that it is, even when it is a mostly virtual school.

Twitter

We currently have over 1300 Twitter followers and we are pleased that the numbers keep growing. Loose Primary joined Twitter back in 2015. Since then we have been able to share with you the children's incredible learning journeys and the exceptional work for you all to see. Please keep looking; you never know what might come up next!

Woodland Walk

We are delighted to be working with an outdoor learning company again this year to develop an outdoor learning environment in our woodland walk. Work begins on Monday and it will be exciting to see from afar (or via Twitter) it gradually taking shape. Once it is finished we will look at timetables so each class can use it, especially when we are all back in school. Improving playtime and outdoor learning opportunities is frequently discussed at our School Council meetings and we thank them for choosing this equipment.

Safeguarding

All staff regularly receive updates for child protection and safeguarding. Click here for safeguarding information <http://www.loose-primary.kent.sch.uk/page/?title=Safeguarding&pid=91> and remember that although we have a number of Designated Safeguarding Leads to help you, Mrs Dutch can always assist if you need help or advice and Mrs Holman is the safeguarding lead at Loose Primary.

Winter Weather

As the weather continues to be distinctly wintery, questions will inevitably be asked about the school operating as normal (whatever normal is now!). We will always endeavour to stay open at all times and only in very rare circumstances would we consider closing. If this was a decision that we needed to take we would ensure that all parents receive a text or email as well as adding messages to our website and Twitter feed. Remaining open may mean that the organisation of classes and staffing may alter slightly due to the potential for some staff not being able to travel to work. Please avoid calling the office to check if the school is open as it will be unless you receive a message. Of course remote learning this year is the norm so a snow day would just mean moving when you choose to do your learning at home!

Leaders are here for you – just let us know ...

As a large primary school there are always so many people who are available to help you. Please do not ever worry about contacting us. We are there for you so your children have the best experience at school that they can. This is obviously more tricky at the moment with so many children at home, but we are there to listen and help in any way we can so please do let us know if you need us.

AHTs - We have four Assistant Headteachers who are available to speak to if you have any concerns and need to speak with a leader. Miss Jess Burman (currently working from home but always available to call or speak with you); Mr Ben Farley (also teacher in Y2 – Turquoise); Mr Sean Johnson (also teacher in Y4 – Emerald) and Mr Chris Hogwood (also teacher in Y6 – Quartz) are our AHTs. They are available on the gates before or after school or you can ask to call / virtually meet with any one of our AHTs via the office.

Leaders - Our other leaders are Mrs Hayley Oliveri for Early Years and Y1 and Y2, Miss Chelsea Chapman for Y3 and Y4 and Miss Jenny Whitlock for Y5 and Y6. All our leaders are dedicated teachers and are there to help you with any worry or concern, however small, please do not hesitate to contact us if you need to even just talk things through.

Nurture team - Our nurture team are on hand too – Mrs Ingrid Dutch and Mrs Linda Bremerkamp and Miss Joanna Michaelas are always happy to assist and can call you back if they are working with children or families when you call.

SEND team - We also are very fortunate to be able to offer the expertise from our SEND team – Mrs Jen Stanley, Mrs Lisa Maynard and Mrs Jo Black. Please do talk to us if you have any worries or concerns so they can be addressed as soon as possible.

Have a lovely 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

- 05 Feb - Parent Council Meeting - via zoom 1.30pm-2.15pm
- 09 Feb - Safer Internet Day
- 11 Feb - Last day of term
- 12 Feb - Staff Training Day - children not in school.

Term 4

- 22 Feb - Children return to school - children of critical workers/vulnerable
- 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

Wellbeing Wednesdays

As a school, we are so amazed by the stunning learning that the children have produced using Google Classrooms throughout this term. However, we are also very aware that our children are spending an increased amount of time using devices to access learning and this is something we wouldn't usually promote. We are very keen to reduce the amount of time children spend on screens whenever we can. Therefore from next week we are going to introduce Wellbeing Wednesday which will involve the children spending all day away from screens. On this day there will be NO work set via Google Classrooms and instead we will be sending activities/ideas home for children to complete. More information will be sent to you directly via email to give you ideas of what you might want to do on these days. These days will be every Wednesday from 10th February. If you would like to share what your children do on these day please do send us photos via Twitter.

February Half Term

A reminder that school will close next Thursday 11th February (Friday 12th is a staff training day). Schools are not expected to remain open to vulnerable children and the children of critical workers during the half term that week.

TT Rock Stars

When it comes to times tables, speed AND accuracy are important – the more facts your child remembers, the easier it is for them to do harder calculations. Times Table Rock Stars is a fun and challenging programme designed to help students master the times tables! Your child has a login for ttrackstars.com from their class teacher and have already logged on to customise their avatar as well as selecting their rock star name (this ensures they remain anonymous when playing against other children from across the world). Is your child trying to beat their personal best and where do they appear in the school leader board? Older children will need to play ten games in the studio to set their base speed. It is this base speed that they will need to improve on each time they play. Once they are secure they can progress to play in the festivals or the arenas. Younger children will just be working on learning one times table initially (set by their class teacher) which they will play in the garage. The children will earn coins for each question they answer correctly which they can use in the shop to customise their avatar. TTrackstars can be downloaded as an app and a link is on our school webpage here <http://www.loose-primary.kent.sch.uk/page/?title=Times+Table+Rockstars&pid=135>



Assistant Headteacher News

Mr Johnson this week. One of my roles in school is to work closely with our pupil premium children in school and support them in a variety of ways. I know this has been a terribly difficult time for many families and I want to extend that support to more children if possible. Throughout the difficult time we have been going through due to coronavirus, the financial situations have changed for many people and we want to support everyone as a school. As a school, we are able to receive funding to support your child academically if you are eligible due to financial changes. If you feel that due to financial changes within your household that you might be eligible for additional support in school including Free School Meals, etc., please either contact the office about what needs to be completed to receive this support or click on this link for more information and to apply online <https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/free-school-meals>. Even if you're not sure about if you are eligible please do make contact and our amazing office team will be able to support you in finding out more. If you have any other questions regarding pupil premium support in school please do contact me via the appropriate school office email. Mr Johnson

POTENTIAL IS LIMITLESS

World Book Day

World Book Day will be taking place on 4th March 2021 this year which means that for many of us it will be a virtual event. This year, we will be continuing our vocabulary parade tradition and encourage you to begin thinking about which word you may wish to represent in costume form! We will be sharing lots more exciting details with you in the weeks ahead but for now we suggest you browse through this fantastic PDF full of creative and original words to get you inspired: https://www.scholastic.com/content/dam/teachers/blogs/alycia-zimmerman/migrated-files/vparade_frasierwordlist.pdf



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 by 11th February if you can help. Your business will feature in the poster advertising for the event. Thank you so much! Don't forget Tuesday's deadline for booking your place at the Virtual Bingo night on 12th Feb—it is the perfect way to have some safe fun whilst raising money! Congratulations Ross McDermott—you are January's Lucky Lotto Winner! Thank you for your support.

Coats etc. for cold weather

Please make sure that your child is suitably attired for school now the weather has turned colder. They do need a coat for lunch times as they will, of course, normally be outside for a period of time. Can you please also ensure that your child brings in a track suit or 'old' sweater and jogging bottoms for outdoor games lessons. They can be left in school in your child's PE bag. It is important that all children take a full part in PE and games lessons and are suitably clothed for outdoor sessions so that they can enjoy them without getting too cold. We are sure you will support us in trying to encourage them to adopt healthy life styles now and for the future.

Y6 World War 2 Day

To all Year 6, we are very much looking forward to our World War 2 day at school and virtually on Wednesday 10th February. We would love you all to join in with this by dressing up as an evacuee for the day. We will provide some activities to do during the day off screen to coincide with Wellbeing Wednesday. We are also planning some Google Meets during the day, and Mrs Mellett is doing live baking if you want to join her at 10am. All links will be set on google classroom.

Wellbeing Update:

There is a very good parent toolkit on our website under wellbeing. I would recommend P9-11 for KS1 parents and P12-14 for KS2 parents. Both those sections give advice and tips on how to support your child with anxiety, resilience and self esteem. It gives some good techniques to support your child in these strange times. The tips and advice have been created with the rationale that they are flexible and can be adapted to suit the needs of your child including those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. So it is a great starting point and an excellent read, please do take a look. If you need any help or support then please don't hesitate to contact one of the fabulous Loose team. <https://www.loose-primary.kent.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=6354&type=pdf>

Safer Internet Day 2021

Children in school will be taking part in Safer Internet Day on Tuesday 9th February. You may find some of these resources on your child's home learning slides, but if not, please look at the website below for a fantastic range of resources to support your child. <https://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers>

Music at Loose

As you are aware we are delighted to be lucky enough to employ an amazing music teacher at Loose. Mrs Harris has already met those of you in school and now she has created some music lessons on her You Tube channel for you to join in at home too! Please have a watch, join in and subscribe if you would like to. We will of course tweet them too so you know about them as they are shared. Mrs Harris' first music lesson is for our younger children and is introducing soft and loud sounds for you to think about. https://m.youtube.com/watch?fbclid=IwAR180vW2OXCKOtqOutB79kj8tH1XkkmkFOyjXytBeaBCjREh1hAEpZqvpOo&v=gHtKvZh5_k&feature=youtu.be

PE at Loose

As you are aware, we are very lucky to have two fantastic sports coaches at Loose - Mr Corcoran and Miss Carter. Mr Corcoran has very kindly been creating PE at home videos, which have been uploaded to our school YouTube account. We have also added these to our Twitter feed. Please have a watch, join in and subscribe if you would like to. Perhaps you could even challenge someone at home to join in with you? We have included the links below:
Key Stage 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qGBRAFcdGY0&feature=youtu.be>
Key Stage 2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qRMYoICnZXA&feature=youtu.be>

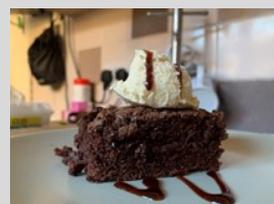
Reading stories aloud

Please see the Books for Topics website link below. This will take you to some documents they have put together of authors reading their stories aloud online for children, which are broken down into age phases. All you need to do is scan the QR code on your phones/iPads and it will take you to a link, usually Youtube, of the author reading their story. There are some amazing titles on there - enjoy! <https://www.booksfortopics.com/storytime-online>

Loose's Lockdown Bake Off

Here are just a selection of the 300+ entries we had for the Loose Lockdown Bake Off!! I have recruited some children who have helped me pick the winners and these will be announced in an assembly next week. I want to say a huge, huge well done to everyone who took part and I can promise you it truly was one of the hardest decisions I've had to make. Every single one of you who entered deserved to be the winner because you all clearly put so much effort in to the competition. I showed off some of your entries to your class teachers and they couldn't believe your baking skills. Please do watch the assembly to find out who the winners were for each year group.

Alongside the children's competition, we also ran a staff version and we had 13 entries to this from across the school. We had many chocolate inspired cakes which were beautifully decorated. A few carrot cake variations which looked amazing and I have been told tasted pretty good as well. However, we do have a winner! After adding the many votes together the winner of the Staff Loose Lockdown Bake Off is Mrs Coomansing (her cake is the Cookie Monster one!) Mr Johnson



POTENTIAL IS LIMITLESS