



Leckhamptonbulletin

C of E Primary School

Week ending
18th September
2020

Dear Parents

As we begin our third week in school, the children are really settling into their new classrooms and enjoying being with their classmates and teachers. As part of our recovery curriculum, teachers have been carefully assessing the children's work and identifying where there are specific gaps in learning and developing clear actions to address those gaps through focussed teaching sessions. Class catch up sessions take place in the afternoons to ensure the children have time to practice key skills and this is done in an interactive and fun way. We have recently appointed Mrs Helen Maurice as our Learning Mentor Teaching Partner and Mrs Rachel Linton as our Well Being Teaching Partner, who work closely with teachers and our Inclusion Lead, to provide targeted support for specific groups of pupils. Parents have the opportunity to book a five minute virtual "Catch Up Conversation" slot with class teachers, using our usual Parents Evening Online booking system. This will provide parents with the opportunity to hear how their child has settled back into school over the past few weeks and any specific catch up work being done to support their child.

As we are quarantining reading books over the weekend, parents of children in Years 1 - 3 will be able to access the Big Cat Reading scheme online during this time. Children are asked to practice the guided reading book they have read in class during the week and teachers will provide information on how parents can access this resource and which book has been identified. Please could we also ask that parents look out for our reading scheme books which might have found their way onto shelves or may be hidden in bedrooms! We are missing a number of texts from our new reading scheme and desperately need them back for classroom use – thank you.

COVID -19

I must express my sincere thanks to parents for their prompt response when we have contacted them to inform them that their child is unwell in school. For those who are not displaying any of the symptoms of COVID-19, the process is relatively easy. Once a child is well enough, they are able to return to school. The challenge schools and parents are facing at the moment is when a child is displaying one of the three main COVID -19 symptoms. Even though we may suspect that one of those symptoms is linked to another illness, for example an ear infection, we must follow the guidance outlined. I understand that this is causing huge frustration, upset and disruption for families, especially as many children have only just returned to school and the ability to find a test is proving impossible. The situation is deeply frustrating for us as a school also. When we make the phone call to parents, we are acutely aware of the impact that the call will have. Any changes to the system would need to be made by Government and in the meantime, schools have a responsibility to follow the current guidance. Thank you to those families who have shared their stories about the testing system and the challenges you have faced. As a school we will continue to raise our concerns regarding the availability of testing with the relevant agencies, and hope that improvements are made so that children and members of staff can return to school as quickly as possible.

Due to the unprecedented number of calls to 111, schools in the County have been asked to share the following information with families;

- *Parents are advised not to contact NHS 111 for queries about testing and general queries about COVID-19.*
- *If your child has symptoms of COVID-19 e.g. a high temperature or a new, continuous cough, they worsen during self-isolation at home and they need urgent medical advice, parents are advised to visit the NHS 111 website. If you cannot access this online, you should call NHS 111.*
- *For other health matters e.g. illnesses that won't go away, parents should call or contact their GP surgery on-line or via the NHS App.*

Remote Learning

We are in the process of finalising our Remote Learning Offer in the event of a class or year group needing to self-isolate or a local lockdown requiring pupils to stay at home. In order to offer live streamed lessons, we will be using Microsoft Teams and as a school this has required investment in the technology available to teachers. At present Ms Merrett, our IT technician, is imaging new teacher laptops in readiness for use as well as setting up individual pupil log in accounts. We will be organising staff training to ensure that all staff are confident with the new system and that it is ready to go live at the end of September if needed. In the interim, should the "closure" of a class or year group need to take place, we would utilise our current system of Google Drive for uploading work, supported by live sessions streamed by the teacher using Zoom. As parents would expect, a timetable would need to be drawn up to ensure that teachers and children are not on devices all day, and in the event of a local lockdown, year group sessions do not clash, enabling access to all pupils at different times during the day. We also hope that this limits the necessity for multiple devices in the home.

For information, I should like to outline the school's position on work available for pupils at home;

When parents are awaiting the results of a COVID – 19 test or in the event of needing to self-isolate for 14 days, parents should access resources available on the Oak National Academy - <https://classroom.thenational.academy/subjects-by-key-stage> The Oak National Academy is a website which includes nearly 10,000 free video lessons, resources and activities, covering most subjects for all year groups. The academy has been funded by central government to assist parents with learning from home.

If children are away from school due to illness, we would not expect them to complete school work. Teachers work with children on their return to assist them in catching up with sessions missed.

Snacks in school

We are pleased to announce that the NHS school fruit and vegetable scheme is back up and running. This means that each child in Reception and Key Stage 1 receives a free piece of fruit or vegetable each day.

Please could we remind parents that as a healthy school, this is only snack which should be brought into school. Thank you.

FOLPS (Friends of Leckhampton Primary School)

At the moment our school shop is closed. We will contact parents once we are able to safely reopen. School ties continue to be available from the school office.

Given the current situation with COVID – 19 and ongoing restrictions in place, it is highly unlikely that we will be able to host our annual Christmas Fair this year. This will come as a huge disappointment to

everyone, but especially pupils past and present. FOLPS are thinking of creative ways to raise much needed funds for the school and will be in touch with families at a later stage with ideas.

Kind regards
Sam Porter

Childhood Nasal Flu Programme

The NHS Flu Immunisation Team will be in school on 16th, 17th and 18th November 2020 to offer the Childhood Nasal Flu Programme to all children in Reception to Year 6. Further information will be sent out next week to all families.