



St Leonard's CE Primary Academy
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September 2020

Dear Parent/ Carer

As we reach the middle of our first term, I would like to thank you for adhering to the measures put in place at school, in order to keep our community safe.

As the period of colder weather begins and we head into winter, it is essential that we continue with our staggered drop off and pick up times, our one-way systems and social distancing, in order to keep our school and individual bubbles open, as well as all the other measures that are put in place throughout the school day.

Parents Evening

Under current guidelines it will be difficult to hold Parents Evening in the usual way but we recognise how important these initial discussions between parents and school are. Before the end of Term 2, we will hold these discussions via a telephone call. The majority of the phone calls will be held on the following dates:

Monday 5th October - Year 2/ Year 6 / Year 4
Tuesday 6th October - Year 2/ Year 6 / Year 4
Monday 12th October - Year 1 / Year 3 / Year 5
Wednesday 14th October - Year 1 / Year 3 / Year 5
Thursday 15th October - Reception
Monday 19th October - Reception

By the end of this week you will receive a slip to inform you of the time and date of the phone call. We will have to keep to a time slot of 10 minutes, maximum, for each phone call, in the same way we would need to on a usual parent evening slot.

Home work

As we begin to complete our stage of Recovery and enter into the usual routines of every day school life, we will look to reinstate Homework, in Term 2.

Through the remainder of this term, each class from Year 2 - Year 6 will be trialing the setting up of homework through Microsoft Teams, so that it is ready for Term 2 and ready if at any stage we need to provide Remote Learning. Your child will be given their email address and temporary password. The emails can be accessed through Microsoft Office 365. If you change the password, please keep this in a safe place. If a child's email needs resetting, I will need to contact our IT Support for this. There response is often within the same school day but this is not always possible

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and will slow down the access to Teams for your child, whilst waiting for it to be reset. If you have any difficulty in accessing Microsoft Teams, please let the school know.

Reception and Year 1 will use **Tapestry** for setting homework and this will be used for Remote Learning if the need should arise.

Year 1 parents will already have a login for this from your child's time in Reception. Please email the school if you need this reset in any way to access it.

If your child is new to our Year 1 class or has recently joined us in the Reception class, I will be shortly sending a notification email in order for you to set up your account.

The Homework Policy:

Spellings - A list will be sent home once a week, for the children to learn for the following week's test. Children will need to demonstrate that they can apply the spellings they learn to their daily writing. If they spell them incorrectly in their book and do not self-correct them when editing your child may receive spelling words in their lists that they have already taken home or words from previous years.

In reception, children will learn the sounds associated with the graphemes, following the sequence in the Read, Write, Inc scheme

English and Maths will be set on alternate weeks. This homework will consolidate the learning that has taken place in the week.

English - This will include writing practice regarding the text type/genre that the children have been learning about in class or it may include practicing grammar and punctuation skills that can be applied to the text type they have been learning about.

Maths - Four maths challenges will be provided, based on the learning that is taking place in class. These will ascend in order of difficulty (1-4)

The child can choose the level of difficulty that is most appropriate to support their progress with their learning. Each child can (i) choose to move from 1-4 or (ii) consolidate their learning by repeating attempts at the level most appropriate for them or (iii) challenge their learning further by choosing the higher levels. Homework may also be set that involves TT Rock Stars or My Maths.

Cross-curricular

We recognise how important a broad and balanced curriculum is. By the beginning of Term 2 the curriculum overviews will be available on the website for the year, so that you can see the topics that will be covered the following term and the Knowledge Organiser for the term. Knowledge Organisers are something new that we have been working on, in order to ensure that our curriculum provision is planned and sequenced effectively. This is also shared with the children in class and has the key information and vocabulary for that topic. Your child can decide to complete a project on this theme, that will be shared in class, with the rest of the class at the end of term.

Year 1

Homework as laid out in the policy will be gradually introduced, as and when it is deemed appropriate regarding the development of the children. They will continue to embed their phonics knowledge and reading skills until this time.

Reading Books - KS1

These will be sent home every Friday and need to be returned by Tuesday of the following week, in order for them to quarantine before changing them and sending home again on the following Friday

Nut Free

A polite reminder that we are a nut free school. Please do not include nuts of any kind in your child's packed lunch.

Moving out of Recovery

As we move in to Term 2, I am looking into reinstating after school care. This will be in a limited way initially. I will inform parents about how this will look towards the end of Term 1, when plans have been finalised. I am also looking into the possibility of a return to hot dinners. I will send more details for this also, when the plans have been finalised.

Messages to Teachers

I understand that at times you may want to discuss something with your child's class teacher. Please send your enquiry to the admin email address and we will ensure it is passed to the relevant member of staff.

Remembrance

The school would like to create a display of poppies outside the front of the building in the month of November. Please could you provide your child with the bottom of a plastic bottle (already cut and washed) by the end of this term.

Introduction of the Learning Pit

We aim to develop a Growth Mindset in all children and ensure that learning is set at an appropriate level of challenge. We encourage learners to go beyond their current level and extend them further.

Implementation

The image that we use to discuss this with the children is shown in diagram 1. All children and staff will discuss learning in this way, so that there is a shared and consistent language regarding learning.

Diagram 1



We understand that different learners need to be catered for in different ways. It is essential that a strong community is built in each of our classrooms and across the school where children support each other to do well, accept each other's differences and all want to beat their personal bests, are resilient and ready for a challenge.

We all get 'stuck' some times and it is important to recognise that this part of the natural process when learning something new and that there are many strategies we can use to help us become 'unstuck' and experience success.

Yours Sincerely
Mrs Warburton