



Leechpool Link

Academic Year 2020 –2021

Contact us at:
reception@leechpool.w-sussex.sch.uk

General updates

Dear Parents, Carers and Families

Although it was good to have some time off, it certainly wasn't the Christmas we had planned. Like most people, it was difficult not to see our families in person. Zoom and FaceTime have been a fairly standard form of communication in our house – I imagine the same is true with lots of households up and down the country.

We have to say that we understand and appreciate families are not looking forward to the prospect of home-schooling again but we have done it once and I am sure working together we can do it again successfully.

Remember you are not teachers and we are not expecting you to do our jobs. This week we sent home the Curriculum Newsletter to help you, and during the school day we will be on hand to help all families. Families who need support should contact the school office by telephone or email.

It appears that there is some light at the end of the tunnel. Let's hope the new restrictions and the vaccine roll out means that we can return to some level of normality after half term.



This Issue: 5

- General Updates
- School contact details
- National Lockdown
- School Places
- Remote Learning
- Mental Well-being
- Good News— Welcoming of the School Dog

School Contact

The school office will be open from 8.30 a.m.—3.30 p.m. Monday—Friday. For all queries, Office staff will be sharing messages with all teachers and ensuring that everyone is accessing the learning on line.

An answer service is also available outside of school hours where messages can be left and a member of the school staff will get back to you as soon as possible but within 24 hours.

What we have been doing this week since the Government announcement on Monday evening?

Following the announcement of the Government to close primary schools on Monday night, the staff of the school have worked tirelessly to get all systems up and running. This has been a huge job but over the last few months we have been establishing and developing our systems for this eventuality.

This has involved prioritising Critical Workers and ensuring our vulnerable children are in school. On Wednesday we opened the school to over 50 children across the school. All children working at home were provided with home learning which included videos from their teachers for mathematics and English. This was an incredible achievement by all staff and a big thank you to all families for your support and patience as we move to the new systems.

- Special Dates of Interest:**
- 4—15 Jan
International Fortnight
 - 15-19 Feb
Half term Break
 - 22 Feb Inset Day
(Staff I.T. training)
To be confirmed
 - 1 April
End of term
- All events and clubs have been cancelled until further notice**

Over the coming weeks we will be developing our remote learning provision to ensure it meets the needs of all the children. During this lockdown there will be 4 prepared lessons which will aim to provide between 3—4 hours of work each day. Remember, as parents if things are not going to plan, stop the session and do them later when your child is ready for learning and you are more relaxed.

In the recent Curriculum newsletter which you can view [here](#) we outlined our remote learning policy. All schools nationally are developing remote provision and this will look different in every school. We would appreciate it if you could try not to compare the different provisions being provided locally as this is both unhelpful and unfair. All schools have different circumstances and are in different positions according to their unique circumstances.

To ensure the provision offered by Leechpool is of high quality, we have set up a [page](#) on google surveys where we would encourage you to share any suggestions or questions regarding our provision offer. This will be helpful in shaping the activities and work that we are providing the children. If you do experience any problems with the remote learning provided, before sharing this on social media or reporting the school to Ofsted could we please ask that you contact the school so that your questions or concerns can be addressed privately. Sadly in some schools negative reviews about remote learning is being shared and this is unhelpful to both staff and children.

Frequently asked questions

Will Leechpool be providing live lessons for the children?

This will not be happening as in the classrooms we do not stand and talk at the children for one hour at a time. The learning at our school is very interactive therefore we have decided to organise 4 pre recorded videos per day for your children to view. We also feel that live lessons would add more pressure to families.

How many hours of work should my child do each day?

Primary children should complete about three hours of work a day and this should include time to practise their reading. Work should be completed throughout the day and in short bursts. If a child is not ready to learn then they should not be forced to do this. Encouragement and support is the best way to get the children involved with the work. By posting completed work on Seesaw, this will enable the class teachers to support the children.

If I have any questions about my child's home learning what should I do?

Please telephone or email the school office and someone will get back to you on the same day. If you do not get a response, please re contact the school office. Remember the volume of emails and telephone calls is currently high –but we will get back to you with help and support.



Mental health and wellbeing of everyone

Remember it is important to ensure everyone is healthy and has an opportunity to talk through any anxieties. Class teachers and Miss Payne will be contacting all families who have not been heard from on a regular basis to ensure all is well. We know a number of you have shared regular updates where needed. Please check Miss Payne's eschools Group page for different strategies and ideas to support well being at home—both for children and for parents and carers.

If you have any questions or need support please remember to contact the school office on reception@leechpool.w-sussex.sch.uk. We will then arrange for a member of staff to contact you.



Good News!

We are pleased to let you know that a new member of staff will be joining the Leechpool Team from Monday.

This team member will be our very own school dog! She is a Chocolate Labrador puppy and will belong to Miss Payne. She will come to school with Miss Payne everyday.

Initially, she will be spending her time in Miss Payne's office and getting to know her new surroundings and not spending time with the pupils. When she

is bigger and knows our school, she will be able to meet the pupils.

This was shared with all pupils in assembly on Monday and we have asked them to think of names and submit these via eschools. We will share her chosen name next week!



Thank you everyone for your on-going support. Remember we are all here working hard to support the children and are all looking forward to the time we can be together again as a happy and thriving school.

Take care and be safe.

With best wishes

Nicola Davenport and the Leechpool School Team

Disclaimer

The Governing Body and WSCC do not support or recommend the advice, products or services offered within this newsletter nor the organisations offering them. Individuals should satisfy themselves on the suitability of any of the advice, products or services and on the nature and standing of these organisations.