



Leechpool Link

Academic Year 2020–2021

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

General updates



This Issue:

Dear Everyone
This half term has been challenging for us all. To only have one day as a school together was very hard, but the current lockdown has seen the school work hard to develop our remote learning provision. We have worked with local schools to ensure that our offer is in line with other primary schools in the area.
The DfE also issued guidance for schools in the UK and we have worked hard to ensure that all statutory demands have been met. Over the last two weeks we have introduced live sessions from Monday–Thursday to support the wellbeing of the children and to ensure they are connected and encouraged by their teachers in a virtual setting. We know the children have enjoyed the sessions. We understand it is very difficult for families to manage the many demands of home learning and working from home. We think you have all done an amazing job everyday. Hopefully soon we will be bringing the children back to school where they belong and everyone can have a more connected and normal routine.

- General Updates
- Covid Updates
- Computer Provision Safer Internet Day/ Half Term Arrangements
- Parent Consultations 2–4 March 2021
- Reminders

- Special Dates of Interest:**
- ◆ 1–7 Feb Mental Health and Wellbeing Week
 - ◆ 9 Feb Safer Internet Day
 - ◆ 15–19 Feb Half term School is closed
 - ◆ 22 Feb Inset Day closed to all children
 - 1 April—End of term
- All events and clubs have been cancelled until further notice**

Covid updates
We are planning to bring the children back to school from Monday 8 March 2021. Information regarding this will be shared once received from the government.
The school received 22 Chromebooks from the DfE Computer Scheme for schools. These have been shared with families.
Children from years 3–6 will continue to use google classrooms to access remote learning.
Children from years R–2 continue to access their learning on Seesaw and have access Google classrooms for live Google meet sessions.
From 25.1.2021 all staff at the school have been taking a Covid test weekly as required by the Government.
Lateral Flow tests are being used for any children who are showing symptoms of Covid whilst in school.
Deep cleaning of the school environment is carried out daily with a fogging machine being used to disinfect the key areas of the school regularly.
Staff and any authorised visitors are all wearing masks/visors in school and children may choose to wear masks too.
A useful resource for supporting families can be found at [Learning Under Lockdown](#)



Donation of Chromebooks to support on-line learning
The school has also received a very generous donation of 21 chrome books from Turner Security Group to support on-line learning for the children of the school. These have been utilised to support children to access google classroom both at home and school. A big thank you to Alex Rogerson and his company for their support.
Safer Internet Day - 2 Weeks 1 -12 February—The children will be focusing on ensuring that all aspects of internet safety are being followed and carried out. This is especially important in the working environment we are operating.

Half Term Closure Dates and Inset Closure
The school will be closed over the half term holiday from 15-19 February 2021. During this time no remote learning will be provided and the school will be closed to all critical worker and identified vulnerable children currently in school.
Inset Day—Monday 22 February school closed to all children
The school will also be closed to all families on Monday 22 February due to scheduled staff training on computing. School will re-open on Tuesday 23 February for critical workers and identified children only. From Tuesday 23 February remote learning for all other children will re commence.

Virtual Parent Consultations—Google Meet

The next parent consultations will be:

Tues 2 March 3.30pm - 7.00pm

Thurs 4 March 3.30pm - 7.00pm

All children are invited to attend the consultations with their families. Families will be able to make an appointment for all year groups on eSchools using your eSchools login.

Sign up for the consultations will go live on Tuesday 23 February 2021. The appointments will be through Google Meet. Information will be sent separately on how to access this.

Sporting Events and Activities

The good news that despite COVID restrictions, we have continued to enjoy lots of sporting opportunities at Leechpool over the last term. PE lessons have all gone ahead as planned and we offered 10 extra-curricular clubs in the Autumn term. In total, last term, 143 children attended a sports club which is fantastic – that's 35% of our whole school.

We even managed to take part in two virtual competitions! 36 children from across KS2 took part in the Horsham District 'Invasion' and 'Striking and Fielding' competitions. All children had worked hard at clubs over the term to develop their skills in a variety of sports including cricket, football, rugby, netball and hockey. We scored extremely well in all of the activities but are yet to find out how we have done compared to other schools – we will let you know once we do!

We are also keeping up-to-date on the events and activities of Active Sussex.

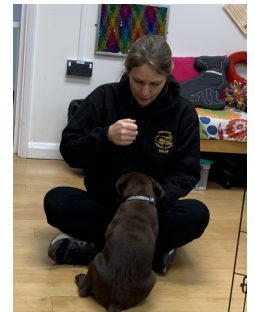
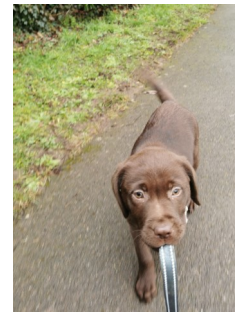
Healthy me,
inside and out!



Polling Day Thursday 6 May 2021—advance notice for all families

The school has been informed that there will be local elections on Thursday 6 May 2021. The school is used as a polling station on this day. This means that the school will be closed for two days in the week beginning 3 May as Monday 3 May is the spring bank holiday.

Update on Mabel Hope



Mabel Hope is settling really well at Leechpool and is enjoying getting to know all the staff and her new environment. She had her first training session last Friday up at Leechpool and Owlbeech woods and we met some children from school and now have homework to do for the next few weeks. We have to work on sit, stay, down and leave! The other thing we need to work on is not chewing her lead whenever she goes on a walk!

Miss Kemp has been training Mabel Hope to give her paw when asked and that is going well, thank you Miss Kemp. Mr Clancey took her for a walk around the school grounds last week and she enjoyed that.



Children's Mental Health and Wellbeing Week—1-7 February 2021

All classes are highlighting the importance of mental health and well being with all pupils, not just this week, but at all times. Our Google Meets are helping with this and allowing us to see each other virtually and share what makes us happy as well as any worries we may have. Some of your child's learning this week will be looking at different feelings and what makes us feel those feelings.

Have a look on Miss Payne's google classroom for some more ideas and activities.



If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the School Office.

Nicola Davenport

Headteacher

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