

Lionwood Infant and Nursery School
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Lionwood Infant and Nursery School Newsletter



Saturday 2nd January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Happy New Year to you all! I know this holiday will have been a quiet and different one for us all but I do hope everyone was able to have some happy moments despite the restrictions. I know that the festive season

will have been particularly hard for people who have been poorly or those who have lost loved ones this year and my thoughts have been with you all.

At the time of writing, I am expecting to open the gates to all children on Monday 4th January, although this could change at the last minute. We are becoming used to last minute changes, which I know can be very stressful for children, parents and staff, so always I will try and keep everyone up to date with information as it arrives. Schools always hear the information first via the media briefings, and this is followed by guidance from the Local Authority and the Department for Education as quickly as they can put something together.

I will continue to communicate with you via email, text and Class Dojo. I know there are some attempts in the press to apportion blame—but I am confident that every adult involved in the school has the same thing in the forefront of their mind—the safety and welfare of all children. Many of our staff are parents themselves and understand first hand how the school situation affects parents and families. We are completely committed to working closely with all parents to support them in what they believe is best for their children, within the regulations and restrictions, and providing the best education we can. While the staff have COVID 19 on their minds, everyone is determined not to lose sight of the 'normal' running and development of the school. We are working hard to continue to provide a high quality education to all the pupils and to ensure our school remains a happy and safe place to be.

I think many of us were happy to see the end of 2020, but I know that this term will bring many challenges. In the forefront of my mind is the anxiety of children, parents and staff. The whole team are working incredibly hard to support children in school and where services are open, seek external help. I thank you all for your ongoing support and look forward to continuing to serve our community this year.

Here's to a brighter 2021!

Keep safe and well

Hannah Kingsley and the Lionwood Team



Possible Full Closure of School

If we are instructed by the government to close the school due to rising COVID rates (this could be at very short notice), we will transfer to home learning and remain open for vulnerable children and the children of keyworkers. You will be contacted by email and text as soon as we know.

This means that we will provide the online work on Class Dojo and Zoom Calls—outlined in previous newsletters as well as paper work for those with no online access. Under current guidelines, due to having to provide some learning in school, **some staff will have to remain on site** to teach and run the school.

Thus the children will not always be in contact with their class teacher full-time.

However, **we will ensure that children are able to see their class teacher every day** and have the remaining learning provided by staff in their year group. More details will be given if this situation arises.

The phone line and email will be manned throughout any closure.

On Monday we will be meeting with staff to devise a plan for managing the teaching of vulnerable and keyworker children in the event of full closure alongside commitments to home learning.

Personal possessions in school

Please do not send children in with extra resources/toys. These are an extra risk for infection and can easily be lost or damaged.

In line with school policy, children should not wear jewellery, other than watches and stud earrings. This is to prevent injury as well as loss of expensive items.

Water Bottles

Please can children bring in a water bottles into school every day. This ensure they keep hydrated and avoids the use of cups that are hard to keep clean.

School Uniform

Please ensure that your child comes to school in School Uniform. It is essential that children come in coats and stout shoes as the weather can quickly become cold and wet.

Snow

If the school needs to close due to heavy snow, parents will be contacted as early as possible. In the event of closure, teachers will provide home learning on Class Dojo and via Zoom.

Extra Resources for Home Learning

We are not permitted to provide home learning for those children being kept off school who are not ill or self-isolating. However, we know that many parents wish to support their children by engaging in home learning whether their children attend school or not. We only list websites with free access.

The government commissioned Oak National Academy over the summer to provide online lessons for children across the UK. This service is free was designed to support schools in providing home learning for children throughout the remainder of the pandemic.

Go to: <https://www.thenational.academy/>

In addition these website are useful:

<https://toppsta.com/> This is a reading website with book recommendations by age and a chance to win free books to review.

Library If you have a library card, you can borrow a vast range of children's and young adult ebooks and audiobooks from your local library to read or listen to on a tablet or phone using apps like Libby, Borrowbox, PressReader and rbdigital. Visit your library's website to find out which app it uses.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize> The BBC site that has activities, lessons and quizzes.

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/> Maths website full of activities and practice tasks.

PE days

The introduction of children coming to school in PE kit has been extremely successful, in cutting down extra chance of infection and also lost learning time. Please ensure that on PE days children are sent in kit that is warm enough, including sweatshirts/jumpers/coats and tracksuit bottoms or leggings and trainers. Please avoid very expensive trainers in case of damage.

Please ensure that earrings are removed before school on PE days.