



Leamore Primary School

An aspiring journey to a bright future

Spring 2 Newsletter 2020 - 2021

RETURN TO SCHOOL

Monday 19th April 2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

At the end of a half-term where normality has started to return, we wanted to say how proud we are of our children for settling back into school life so quickly. Having had conversations with many of you, we understand that the return of routine has been welcomed by many families.

We are sure that the change in lockdown conditions will also be welcomed by many of our families who will be looking forward to being able to socialise with family and friends they have missed for so long. Although now allowed, we hope families will adhere to the new guidelines in place so that we can return to school on 19th April 2021 and continue helping your children make all the progress they possibly can.

Although restrictions have limited the amount of events we could hold in school and has changed the way we may have approached some events, we wanted to share the following with you as part of our Leamore Community...

HMI / Ofsted Visits

Although Ofsted, or Her Majesty's Inspectors (HMI), have not been allowed to physically visit schools during the lockdown arrangements, they have been conducting additional remote visits to assess school arrangements in the current situation. Leamore Primary School received such an inspection on 25/03/21. At this time, a summary letter has not been made publicly available but will be on Ofsted's (and subsequently school's) website as soon as this is available.



Up-coming Events



KS1 pupils have an exciting opportunity to work with a fantastic workshop who bring the magic of dinosaurs and dragons to life.

The workshop is designed to provide a stimulus for writing and we look forward to seeing the amazing tales our children write.



Living Streets, a charity promoting everyday walking, have created the greatest national Walk to School celebration.

Pupils and grown-ups around the UK unite for one week of walking to school from 17th - 21st May, raising awareness and celebrating walking for all. Last year, almost 800 schools joined in, and, this year, Leamore will too!



International Dance Day

Since its creation in 1982, International Dance Day each year acts as a celebration for those who can see the value and importance of the art form of "dance".

This year, on 29th of April, Leamore pupils will have the opportunity to work with an amazing dance teacher from Premier Dance Company to choreograph a special celebratory routine. Keep an eye on Twitter for the brilliant performances.



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Swimming Resumes



The change to lockdown guidelines means that, thankfully, swimming is able to resume in the summer term.

Swimming allows our pupils to have fun, take part in excellent physical exercise and learn an essential, lifesaving-skill simultaneously.

Year 2 will be swimming on Mondays & Reception will be swimming on Wednesdays.



Mental Health First Aid

Mental Health and Well-being are at the heart of the work we do here at Leamore. We recognise that everyone has times in their lives where things aren't going exactly the way we had planned and that this can impact mental health and well-being.

For some, this can be a very isolating time and no one should feel that they have no one to turn to. For this reason, for our staff and pupils, our senior leaders have undertaken Mental Health First Aid training to allow them to recognise issues as soon as possible, allow them to offer support and to arrange the appropriate contacts to ensure everyone has access to the services they need.

Parents' Evening



Parents' evenings have taken place virtually this term and have allowed staff to feedback on the progress your children are making even though guidelines have stopped on-site meetings. It has also allowed parents to share the feelings, thoughts and emotions they, and their children, have had through lockdown and since returning on 08/03/21.

Parents and children have commented, *"The virtual meetings have made it easier for me to be able to attend parent's evening"*

Mother's Day 2021



Throughout school, classes took part in activities to show their appreciation for the hard work and commitment of our Mums. Cards, crafts and even a heart-felt video from our Early Years pupils were appreciated by those at home. Comments such as:

"Loved my mothers day gifts and cards from all my kids thankyou ☐"

& "Amazing Mother's Day gift 📺"

Thank you 😊"

You are very welcome and we hope you felt appreciated.



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as I could log on from work, on my break or as I'm on my way home - not having to physically get to school helped."
& *"I know it's different but, it's also not too different, Mom and Dad can still see you face-to-face. So, it's just as good, really."*

SATs 2021

For the 2020/2021 academic year, The national curriculum assessments due to be held in summer 2021 for Key stage 1 and key stage 2, including tests, teacher assessments and the phonics screening check, have been cancelled. However, pupils may still be asked to take part in the optional multiplication tables check within the 3-week period from Monday 7 June. Further guidance will be published on the DfE (gov.uk) website in April 2021.

Comic Relief (Red Nose Day)



Community and the wider contribution is important at Leamore and even more so in these times. Comic Relief was celebrated in school to provide a little light relief and raise funds for a great charity. We wore red and took part in a whole-school dance project to mark the occasion and together we raised £114, Well Done! (Look out for the video on Class Dojo soon!)

World Book Day

Our school has always promoted a love of reading and World Book Day gave us an extra opportunity to share this love across school. This year classes celebrated in different ways:

Our youngest readers in Early Years shared their favorite stories with friends, Older readers chose to have a quiet reading session to enjoy a chapter of their favourite text and some classes even shared a class-voted story with their friends inside and outside of school through Google Meet.

However it was celebrated, the love for reading was clear.



Increase To Lunches

Committed to getting the best for your children, our school meals will now be being prepared by the Sneyd Hub. All orders will continue to be placed through Parent Pay however the cost of a school meal is increasing by 10p, meaning it will now cost £2.05 for a school dinner.



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Remote Learners

We were so proud of our remote learners who managed to continue learning even though they were not in school. Although many of our children completed many of the tasks - a certain few went above and beyond to ensure they completed every single piece of work set.

We know that, without the support of the people at home, the learning of these children would have been seriously impacted, so, school wanted to show its appreciation to those children and their families. Well Done!



Race For Life

Leamore loves to do its bit for charity and is intending to take part in Race for Life again this year, should guidelines allow for this. Details will be shared once confirmed.

Messages

A message from Miss Cox

After starting 2021 without many of our pupils in school it was a great feeling to welcome them all back on the 8th March. All children have settled back into school and I am incredibly proud with how they have adapted back into their daily routines. It is amazing to walk around school and hear the buzz coming from classrooms.

I have worked at Leamore Primary School now for 4 years and after a successful interview this half term, I am now a permanent member of the leadership team, in the role of Assistant Headteacher.

I am so proud to be part of the Leamore Family and I know our school will go from strength to strength.



A message from Miss Francis

Welcome to our Easter newsletter. We have had a short burst, with the whole school back in school since 8th March, which has been so positive - but what a year this has been! As you will see, despite the challenges presented by COVID-19, this half term has been full of exciting events, activities and achievements. Staff and pupils have continued to participate wholeheartedly (often remotely) in national events to contribute to the wider community such as Safer Internet Day, Children's Mental Health Week, World Book Day, Autism Awareness and Red Nose Day. Well done to all of you for your efforts and support.

I hope you enjoyed hearing about your children and their progress and successes since returning as part of the virtual parents' evenings. For anyone who hasn't yet spoken to their child's teacher, make sure to drop them a dojo on 19th April to arrange this.

Of course, COVID-19 has had an enormous impact on our lives this year but I am immensely proud of the way that everyone in our Leamore family has risen



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to the numerous challenges we have faced.

As mentioned earlier in the newsletter, Ofsted performed a remote inspection this half term and I want to take the opportunity thank all staff, pupils, families, and governors for the way in which they have worked together to ensure that pupils' learning and the safety and wellbeing of our community have remained priorities throughout this challenging time. For me, this overriding feeling of support and collaboration across our school remains a positive and lasting legacy from a year that has seen such disruption, anxiety and grief.

I am so proud of all Leamore has achieved in recent years and the hard work and dedication of our leadership team has been a big part of this and I am delighted that, after years of temporary positions, we now have a fully-permanent leadership in place to continue our journey. I hope you have all had a safe and relaxing Easter break and look forward to seeing you on Monday 19th April.

A message from the Chair of Governors

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Miss Cox on her successful appointment as Assistant Headteacher at Leamore. I am confident that Leamore now has in place a permanent, strong, effective and dedicated leadership team that work tirelessly to ensure each and every child achieves their full potential.

During the last lockdown all of our staff have made sure we maintained a broad and balanced curriculum so not just focussing on core subjects such as English and Maths, but also on music for example. It is credit to the Leamore team that they have done this as I know not all schools have!

It has been great that all children returned safely to the classroom on 8th March and we look forward to an exciting summer term ahead. Thank you all for supporting our Leamore community. Happy Easter!



Dates for Diaries

19/04/21	Summer Term Starts
31/05/21 - 04/06/21	Summer Half Term Break
19/07/21	Last Day for Pupils
20/07/21 21/07/21	Teacher Training Days