

Leamore Primary School

Wednesday 24th February



We are glad to finally say, "Welcome back" following the positive message from the Prime Minister on Monday when he announced that all children will return to school on Monday 8th March 2021.

The Department for Education have stated,

"School attendance will be mandatory for all pupils from 8 March. The usual rules on school attendance apply, including parents' duty to secure their child's regular attendance at school and the ability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct"

The government have also made it clear that remote education should still be provided to pupils that are self-isolating after this time and the expectation for them to complete the work is ever present.

You may have many questions on the return of pupils and how this will look in school. We wanted to reassure that we have updated our risk assessments in line with the expectations that schools should be updating their risk assessments and making sure they are following their systems of control to minimise the risk of infection. This also includes asymptomatic testing and having contingency plans in place for outbreaks in school and is updated whenever there are changes in restrictions. In this knowledge, we will be continuing to adhere to our robust, proven risk assessment throughout the roadmap out of lockdown in order to ensure everyone's safety and give families, the community and the NHS chance to ensure further lockdowns are avoided. We recommend you visit the school's website to refamiliarise yourselves with the risk assessment before Monday 8th March so that you too can help us, 'get back to normal'.

It has been stated that children in primary school do not need to wear a face covering. Whilst this is the case, we would not challenge pupils on wearing face coverings in school unless we feel they are being used inappropriately or incorrectly which could lead to the disruption of learning or further incidences of cross-contamination.

As it has been a significant amount of time since some pupils have been in school, we will be having a more informal first morning back on Monday 8th March where pupils will take part in activities to reintegrate them with their peers who have been attending school in this period. We hope that this will improve the well-being of the pupils by lowering their anxieties on returning.

As a starting point for this, school will be introducing a live daily register for both those pupils at home and those in school. The register will be taken at 09:00 each day and all pupils are expected to be awake and ready to be online for the register. We hope that this will support families in preparing their children for the return to routine in a fortnight's time.

Times for arrival and dismissal are recorded in our risk assessment and will remain staggered in order to avoid those collecting children from congregating at the gates. Although there is an end in sight, many local people have unfortunately received fines for failing to adhere to the rules over recent weeks. We hope to avoid any such instances and feel we all MUST stick to the social distancing guidelines of wearing face coverings whilst in public and keeping at least 2m apart if we want the Prime Minister's road map to be successful.

We look forward to seeing all of you very soon!

Breakfast Club

From the 8th March, breakfast club will commence again for years 1-6. Please contact Miss Francis via dojo before Monday 1st March if you require a breakfast club place. It is essential you reply by this date as staffing arrangements will be made according to the numbers given.

Pastoral Support Hardship

It is so tough for so many of our families. The pandemic has had an impact on family household incomes and has been too much to bear for many of you. In our safe and well calls and the calls linked to barriers to learning, we get your view on the barriers you face.

Our pastoral team have worked harder than ever with helping families with food parcels, funding streams and applications linked to replacing essential household devices. The FSM voucher scheme runs so efficiently and has been handled so well by Mrs Moore.

Sports' Premium Grant

Daily Mile Track - request from pupils

EYFS playground renovation.

Further enhancements on KS1 & KS2 playground.

Headteacher Award Certificate

We have been blown away by some of the work pupils have completed during lock down and, to celebrate, we now have two remote learning awards per week.

The first is a class teacher's certificate for children that have completed a full week's work at home. The second is a head teacher's award phone call for children who have made an exceptional effort with their remote learning.

Comic Relief

On Friday the 19th of March, children will be allowed to come to school in something red, alongside sports joggers and trainers to support Comic Relief. Children will be doing a dance-a-thon inside their classrooms. Parents will be able to make a small donation via ParentPay.

World Book Day

We will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 4th March. Children who are in school are invited to wear their pyjamas and will be taking part in a reading sleepover in their classroom.

Children will be taking part in reading activities. Children who are remote learning are also invited to wear their pyjamas at home on Thursday 4th March in order to celebrate World Book Day and you can create a reading sleepover at home. You might want to create a reading cosy corner with sleeping bags or a tent.

Teachers will read the children's favourite bedtime story via a google hangout. The story will be decided from a vote on google classroom.

Term dates

Spring Term 2021

Term ends: Thursday 1st April

Summer Term 2021

Term starts Monday 19th April 2021

Half Term holiday Monday: 31st May 2021 to Friday 4th June 2021

Term ends Wednesday 21 July 2021

Dates for your diary

World Book Day - 4th March 2021
Parents Evening - week commencing 22nd March 2021 - More details to follow.
EYFS Mothers Day -More details to follow.
British Science Week 15th -18th March
Comic Relief - 9th March
Autism Awareness Day - 1st April

Parent Governor Vacancy

We currently have a Parent Governor vacancy on our school Governing Body.

This provides an exciting opportunity for a Parent to become fully engaged and involved in the Governance of school; which is at the heart of providing a quality and successful educational environment for all our pupils. Membership of the Governing Body provides the opportunity for involvement in the most essential areas of school life, which include:

- Curriculum
- Staffing and Finance
- Health and Safety
- Supporting the strategic direction of the school.

Governors play a crucial part in developing the school. With all the challenges in school currently with COVID-19 and financial pressure, more than anytime Leamore Primary School needs governors who want to help and support our school. Don't be daunted by applying, as the Governing Body ideally should be fully representative of our school community. If you are thinking about it but are a little bit hesitant then talk to the office to make an appointment with me and I will tell you more about the role. Being a Governor and contributing to school life looks great on your CV and you can access some key Governor training. More important than that is you make a difference to pupils' lives and future. If you are a parent and you think another parent would make a good Governor then persuade them to apply.

If you feel that this valuable opportunity is something that you would like to pursue, we look forward to receiving your declaration of interest. Please contact Mrs Joy Barker 01922 710514 in order to express your interest.