



Headteacher's newsletter #5

Spring 1

12.01.21

Back to school with a bang!

Well that was a different start to the term than we had originally planned for! I would like to say a public thank you to my Senior Leadership Team for giving up some of their holiday to help plan the return to school. I would also like to thank the middle leaders who helped plan the first morning's work during their holiday. The whole staff team have worked extremely hard in the last week trying new things and adapting the planning we had to fit remote learning. Thank you for all the kind messages you have sent us in the last week. They are really appreciated.

We are working hard to try and adapt how we teach the children remotely this time. The live lessons in year 6 have been a success and I know all the staff enjoy seeing the children in the daily zoom meetings. We will be rolling out live lessons in other year groups and posting pre-recorded lessons during the next few weeks. Please be patient with these as they take quite a bit of work to set up and staff are learning a new skill to be able to provide this.

We are trying to please the majority of parents and what we publish is never going to work for everyone. By law, we have to provide 4 hours of online work or live sessions each day. If you are finding it challenging to get through all of the work set, then please focus on maths, reading and writing or, if your child is struggling, the areas they enjoy. As many of us are parents, we understand the pressure of trying to work and home school your child simultaneously. Please just do your best and what you know is right for your family.

Rebekah Green



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Additional mobile data

The government have released a scheme to help families without fixed Broadband who are struggling to access remote learning due to data issues. We

The scheme is available to customers of the following networks:

- Three
- SMARTY
- Virgin Mobile
- EE
- Tesco Mobile
- Sky Mobile
- O2

As each provider is offering a different deal, and there are of course criteria you have to meet we will be sending more information out on a ParentMail by the end of this week.

CBBC bitesize timetable

CBBC have published the following timetable to support remote learning. I would suggest recording these and using them during down time, if the padlet page doesn't load like on Monday morning, or if you just need a 20 minute break in peace and quiet! We are promoting these to enhance the learning and not to replace it.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zvryp4j>

A big thank you!

I would like to say a huge thank you to the four ladies who have driven our PTSA for the last two years. Sadly, our PTSA has had to collapse at the current time and all four committee members stepped down at the AGM.

Elise Carron, Alison Farrar-Wood, Nicola Haughian and Emma Allen raised a significant amount of money for the school over this time – over £12,000. They came with fresh ideas and were 100% dedicated to raising as much money as we could for the children who attend our school.

I know the children in school really enjoyed the coin challenge that was set up. Each class enjoyed spending their money and this also supported the learning of our 'Managing Money' PSHE lessons as well. The summer festival was a huge success with different bands playing and the children performing dances and songs they had learnt in school. Another success was the newly introduced Christmas shop which we replicated again this year via a padlet page! The children enjoyed choosing presents on both occasions for their family and friends.

I would also like to say thank you to their family members who helped at events the many other people who stepped in to help run events. This was greatly appreciated.

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 and the first lockdown they could not run our first 'Loughtonfest' which was intended to run alongside Glastonbury festival. The PTSA have donated the money raised over this time to the school and it will be used to complete the Sensory Garden and refurbish the library to make it a more inviting space for the children to read in.

I will certainly miss working alongside them.

Who to contact in school?

I would just like to remind you of who you should be contacting for different things during this lockdown.

If you need home learning packs (please note that these are reserved for those with no internet access or device at home) then contact Nana Brago or Ellie Frost on the following email addresses:

bragon@loughton.school
froste@loughton.school

If you have missed last night's deadline for key worker spaces or think your child fits one of the categories in the vulnerable list and need a place in school, please contact Rebekah Green on the following email. To be able to maintain 2m distance in the classroom and keep everyone safe, these spaces are limited. If you can keep your child safely at home then please do. We are always happy to support you as needed.

greenr@loughton.school

For any other queries about your child's learning, please contact your child's class teacher. If they feel that someone else needs to help you with your request they will pass it on to the right person in school, who will then contact you.

Please do not go straight to year leaders or the senior leadership team without going to your class teacher first. It is also not appropriate to separately email multiple members of staff either when you haven't been given the response you were looking for.

Behaviour management at home

We have had a few parents email us and let us know that they are finding getting a routine up and running difficult or getting the children to engage and work difficult. I have included some of the relevant sections of our behaviour policy below to try and support you.

It may be useful to set up family rules around remote learning and working, so everyone has an investment in it. The children could also be involved in making a reward chart where they get to earn something if they work hard during the day or week depending on what suits your child best. Rewards don't have to cost a lot of money either. Our children love the 'Feel good Friday's' we have in school with a mug of hot chocolate watching a film.

Rules and Procedures

Rules and procedures should be designed to make clear to the children how they can achieve acceptable standards of behaviour.

Rules and procedures should:

- be kept to a necessary minimum;
- be positively stated, telling the children what to do rather than what not to do;
- actively encourage everyone involved to take part in their development;
- have a clear rationale, made explicit to all;
- be consistently applied and enforced;
- promote the idea that every member of the school has responsibilities towards the whole.

Rewards

Our emphasis is on rewards to reinforce good behaviour, rather than on failures. We believe that rewards have a motivational role, helping children to see that good behaviour is valued. The commonest reward is praise, informal and formal, public and private, to individuals and groups. It is earned by the maintenance of good standards as well as by particularly noteworthy achievements. This is as true for adults as for children. Rates of praise for behaviour should be as high as for work.

Rewards can be non-verbal, verbal or in the form of notes, stickers or certificates.

We are more than happy to have conversations with children if you need us to or set up reward systems to motivate them with us in school. Please just let us know how we can help you and we will try our best to do so.

