



# Lethbridge Primary School Newsletter

September 2020



## Welcome to our latest newsletter

Dear All

I just wanted to send you an update on how things are going in school now we open fully to all children and with our new Reception starters making their first visits to the school. The school is buzzing with the sound of the children and the very vast majority have settled in well to their new classes. The week spent with their old class before moving to the new one appears to have been very successful and has alleviated a great deal of anxiety for the children about returning to school after such a long break.

Our new routines for start and end of day, lunchtimes and hand washing and other measures are all becoming embedded and I'd like to thank you all for your support in this too. There have been a few teething problems, as might be expected, but we are improving things all the time. I know there has been some concern from parents about the narrow alleyway running between Quarry Road and Lethbridge Road which unfortunately gives us our only access to the Key Stage Two playground. We have opened up the gates that lead to the Quarry Road Rec so there is another point of access there but unfortunately this involves you needing to cross a muddy field. I am in contact with the Borough Council about the possibility of installing a pathway to this gate. I will keep you informed of any progress made and ask for your help in promoting this if needed.

I know that the playgrounds can be crowded at the start and end of the day. All I can do is ask you all to take personal responsibility during this time. Given the new announcement about no more than 6 people gathering (although schools are exempt from this) can I just ask you to be mindful that some people may be feeling very uncomfortable during this time. I cannot ask you to wear a face covering and am not in a position to try and enforce any sort of rules that are not part of government guidance but if you

feel more comfortable wearing a mask then of course you should. Some of you may wish to wear one out of courtesy to others. Again, I am not enforcing matters here or making up rules that go against guidelines, I am just saying that as a community we need to work together to look after each other. With this in mind, can I please ask you to keep your distance when speaking to school staff.

If you have encountered any issues for you or your children with our new routines please contact us through email or phone call. We will do our very best to resolve difficulties and improve things where we can.

All in all things are going really well with lots of happy children and a welcome feeling of normality for us all. Over last week and this we have been working with the children on a transition back to school project using stories across the school while beginning alongside this our assessment of children's current learning and high quality English and maths teaching. We are working in two ways to ensure children are not left behind in their learning. Firstly by ensuring the teaching your child receives is of the highest quality and closely matched to ensure it picks up where children have left off (we know this through our assessment of them) and is differentiated to ensure it meets their needs. We ensure they cover what may have been missed (if needed) while moving sequentially on to the next step for their learning progress. Whenever teachers plan they look carefully at how each child has taken on the objectives taught and work flexibly to ensure the teaching time is well-focussed where it is needed. Secondly, it is clear that some children will also need individual and small group catch-up sessions to cover gaps in their learning so they can keep up with what is being taught in class. We have three main priorities for catch-up; mental health and wellbeing, phonics and reading (likely to be a Key Stage One priority) and maths (likely to be a Key Stage Two priority). Phonics and maths are very content driven subjects so missed school time means

some children will just not have had the teaching required to learn the new concepts. We already have systems in place to run small group and individual intervention sessions as we have always used this system to ensure children get the extra support and adult time needed to make progress. Your child's class teacher will talk to you about whether your child will be taking part in any additional intervention as the year progresses. It's important that we spend this additional funding carefully to get the very best outcomes from it so need to be sure we target the right children with the right teaching at the right time in school year.

Our other main priority at the moment is getting systems in place for Remote Learning in the event of your child needing to self-isolate at home or in the event of a school bubble needing close. Our enhanced plan for Remote Learning is outlined below:

### **Remote Learning Lethbridge Primary School**

In response to Government guidelines that schools must have a contingency plan in place for remote education provision, should a class, group or small number of pupils need to self-isolate, or there is a local lockdown requiring pupils to remain at home, commencing 1<sup>st</sup> October Lethbridge's enhanced remote learning provision is as follows:

1. If a child is quarantining because of a holiday taken abroad, we deem it the parents' responsibility to have anticipated the possibility of a child having to miss school and to have therefore made suitable arrangements. Any trip abroad is likely to necessitate an absence of at least 10 days, during the Covid-19 period, therefore holiday requests cannot be granted and work will not be provided by the school.
2. If a child is absent from school due to illness, then the usual procedures apply whereby a child at home feeling ill, would not be expected to complete school work.
3. If a child has to self-isolate because they have symptoms, someone in their household has symptoms or NHS Test and Trace have contacted the family, we will provide daily Remote Education covering: English, including phonics or spellings; Maths including mental maths, and a Foundation subject. Children would be expected to complete daily reading.

***We will set work that follows the Lethbridge curriculum via Purple Mash. This will include instructions, links to teaching videos as well as tasks specifically planned by our teachers. Purple Mash is a cloud-based learning platform for primary-aged children. All Purple Mash users have an individual account, which they log-in to, to access the tools and resources. Teachers can view their classes, which contain the work folders of all their pupils. They can also set 'to dos' for pupils which pop-up on screen when a pupil logs in, so it is clear what their work task is. The teacher will check completed tasks. Feedback on work can be provided: Purple Mash provides the facility for voice- note feedback, messages and virtual stickers. Alternative provision for uploading some work to Microsoft Teams will also be provided.***

***We have chosen Purple Mash because is used regularly within school, so children are familiar with how it works. Parents will be issued with a User Guide and an additional Parent Code to access their child's account.***

4. In the event of a class, year group or bubble needing to close, Lethbridge will provide daily Remote Education covering English, including phonics or spellings, Maths including mental maths, and a Foundation subject. Children are expected to complete daily reading.  
***In addition, a teacher will offer a daily introduction to the learning for that day, via Microsoft Teams.***
5. Our SENCO will contact all children with an EHCP to discuss access to learning and form an individualised plan if needed.

Finally, class teachers are looking forward to meeting with each of you via Teams for our Parents Evenings next week. Although the class teacher may not yet know your child really well, we hope this will give you a chance to talk about any worries you may have about the upcoming school year. This is another first for us but things should work well. You will receive your email invite in plenty of time but please be aware that some of these may only come through the morning of your afternoon meeting. Thank you for getting to the end of a very long newsletter! You may also want to check out our new and improved website; there is lots of information on there including about how the skills needed for each subject are taught progressively through the school.

Kind regards

Lisa Mayes

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