

Leadgate Primary School – Friday Newsletter

Caring, Sharing, Learning Together

Friday, 25th June 2021

This day in history

1891 The first episode of an Arthur Conan Doyle novel involving the fictional detective Sherlock Holmes was printed in the Strand Magazine in London

1967 First global satellite television programme "Our World" broadcast featuring 19 acts representing 19 nations including The Beatles singing "All You Need is Love".



Date Changes

Due to all agreed training days being cancelled this term to ensure the school has remained open for full weeks since returning in March the school will now close on **Thursday the 15th of July** and not the Friday the 16th as originally planned for the Summer Holiday.

Current COVID conditions

Dear Parents / Carers,

Over the last week we have seen the number of pupils and staff going into isolation and bubbles / classes closing in multiple schools in and around our area increasing rapidly. I am aware that a few schools in Durham are already closed completely due to new outbreaks. Therefore, can I ask and remind all families to continue to be extra vigilant in following current guidelines, keep children off if they are showing any signs or symptoms of COVID 19 including headaches which seems to be an increasing prevalent symptom in the new Delta Variant, and report any positive cases as quickly as possible by contacting the school or messaging on class dojo.

Our aim is to keep as much of the school open for as long as possible up to the Summer Holiday and whilst we are aiming to complete all normal end of year traditions like leavers parties, superstars and sports days etc we will keep the school as closed a community as possible and will not be inviting parents and families to attend these events. This is not a decision that has been taken lightly but necessary to ensure we have as little mixing and contact as possible in order to keep the school open whilst the children do not miss out.

Whole School Attendance

Year 1 = 90.8%

Year 2 = 92.6%

Year 3 = 87.3%

Year 4 = 96.8%

Year 5 = 96.8%

Year 6 = 89.6%

Congratulations

Well Done Year 1 for the best attendance in Lower School and Year 3 for the best attendance in Upper School.

Our school target is 97%.

DFE Tablets

Can I ask all families who received a DfE loaned Laptop or Tablet to please make arrangements to return them to school as soon as possible. The machines will no longer be supported by the Department for Education from September and as such we will need our school technician to set them up ready for use in case of any further closures of COVID impact. The machines can be dropped off at each school office or sent in when your child comes to school.

School Uniform

From September we will be reinstating school uniform and as such I realise that many children may have outgrown previous uniforms – If your child has a uniform that no longer fits their needs can I ask that you consider bagging it up and sending it into school so that we can set up a uniform swapshop free of charge at the end of the year.

Uniforms can be ordered from :

www.totstoteams.com

A link can be found on the school website.

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Pets as Therapy

We are delighted to introduce you to Janet and Brodie who will both become part of our team on lower site in September. Brodie is a Pets as Therapy dog who is a beautiful Australian Labradoodle, a breed well known for their temperament, friendly and easy going nature. Brodie is 5 years old and has been comprehensively trained and assessed to meet the requirements of Pets as Therapy. Brodie visited school this week to find out where she will be working in the library and was impeccably well behaved. Brodie will be directly supervised on lead by Janet at all times with a member of staff also present. We are thrilled and very lucky that Janet and Brodie have volunteered to give up a full morning every week to work directly with our children.

Pets As Therapy is a national charity that enhances the health and wellbeing in the community through visits of trusted volunteers with their behaviourally assessed animals. They provide a visiting service in hospitals, hospices, nursing and care homes, primary/secondary and special needs schools and a variety of other venues all across the UK. There are many proven benefits of therapeutic visits: improving lives of those with mental health conditions, special needs, providing companionship to combat loneliness and improving literacy in children by developing confidence, interest and enjoyment in reading.



Reports

REPORTS

Our end of year reports will be coming home next Friday - the format will follow the same format as last year and as all national testing has been cancelled again, reports will not include end of year tests e.g. Phonics and SATs. Similarly, they will not include any attendance data. Judgements on achievements will be based on in class assessments and will be compared to normal end of year expectations. We are all absolutely aware that all children across this academic year and last, have missed a great deal of school and lesson time so please remember that not all children would have achieved the results they would have normally achieved at this point despite catch up interventions and all the hard work and effort that parents and carers have already put in throughout the lock downs. We all have everything crossed for a smoother more normal year starting in September.

Parent's Evening

Parents Evenings

We will continue at the end of this term with remote parents evenings conducted via telephone. Information will be coming out next week to book appointments if you require them after receiving reports.

The dates are :

Monday 12th 1pm to 6pm and Wednesday 14th 3.30 – 6pm for Reception, Year 3, 6 and 1 (Mrs Bowe, Mrs Hannon, Miss Scarr and Mr Suddick)

Monday 12th 3.30 pm to 6pm and Wednesday 14th 1pm – 6pm for Nursery Year 2, 4 and 5 (Mrs Pedro, Miss Weaver, Mrs Reed and Miss Edwards)

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Short Breaks Solutions

Short Breaks Solutions aim to Support families to make their own choice about accessing a community activity for children and young people with SEND. They also allow parents/carers a short break from their caring role. Their vision is that all children and young people with SEND in County Durham are an important part of their local communities and that these are inclusive.

How having a short break can help a family?

It allows a short and natural break for a parent/ carer to catch up with everyday activities

A parent/carers can attend a physical and psychological wellbeing activity and maintain and develop social networks.

A child / young person can benefit from development of new interests, keeping fit, social networks with peers and taking part in hobbies.

The frequency and duration of short breaks can vary, such as;

- A virtual activity
- Fun activity pack
- Attending a leisure facility for a few hours per week
- Attending after school clubs

Inclusive community short breaks

Virtual activities - There is a range of online activities including gaming communities, cookery, fitness, bingo, discos and pamper parties. Some these activities can be done online individually and others as part of an online group.

This is our provider for the central Durham and Chester le Street areas. Although during Covid they are offering their virtual activities to families across the whole County.

Keeping Families Connected - One of our providers provides regular activity packs to families, these packs are delivered every few weeks with a different theme. Their current theme is Mini Beasts, packs can be linked to online activities or do on your own. They also host a family book club, online youth club and arts & crafts club. Once restrictions are lifted, they are planning on phased return of their face to face activities such as 'Picnic in the park'. They are hoping to start their weekly clubs up again in September.

Physical Activity Group Programmes - this is where your child or young person can attend an activity group every Saturday for 5 weeks, at a cost of £5 per session. Then they will have another 5 weeks of virtual, online activity groups. The sessions are morning 10am to 12.30 and afternoon 1.30pm to 4pm. They are being held at Seaham, Wolsingham, Shotley Bridge and Spennymoor.

Specialist Youth Groups – We in the process of setting up specialist youth groups across County Durham for children who are unable to access any mainstream youth groups/ activities in their area. These will hopefully be up and running in the next few weeks.

Community Enabler – Community Enabler can provide a 5-week programme of 1:1 support. It is only available to extremely anxious children and young people who cannot manage in a group situation or get out of their home without 1:1 support. This is followed by 5 weeks online activities.

For further Information and support please contact the Short Break Solutions team:

Telephone: 03000 260 270

Email: shortbreakssolutions@durham.gov.uk