

Leadgate Primary School – Friday Newsletter

Caring, Sharing, Learning Together

Friday 7th October 2022

On this day in history:

1949 German Democratic Republic proclaimed. A constitution went into effect in the Soviet occupation zone of Germany that formed the country of East Germany, which existed alongside West Germany until 1990, when the two Germanys reunited.

1962: US spaceman orbits Earth
John Glenn, the first American to orbit the Earth, lands safely in the Atlantic Ocean.



**Whole School Attendance
Weekly Attendance figures**

Reception = 85 %

Year 1 = 94.23 %

★ Year 2 = 96.35 % ★

★ Year 3 = 95.83 % ★

Year 4 = 92.92 %

Year 5 = 92.86 %

Year 6 = 91.25 %



Congratulations

Well Done Year 2 for the best attendance in Keystage 1 and Year 3 for the best attendance in Upper School across the whole year.

Mental Health Awareness Week – Monday 9 May to Sunday 15 May 2022

Next week is Mental Health Awareness Week. It will run from Monday, 9 May to Sunday, 15 May 2022. The week will explore the experience of loneliness, its effect on our mental health and how we can all play a part in reducing loneliness in our communities.

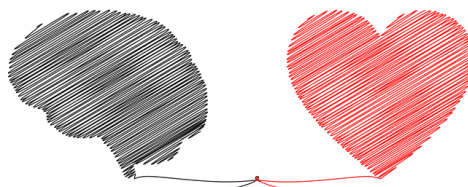
Loneliness affects millions of people in the UK every year and is a significant factor of poor mental health. Loneliness has been an important factor contributing to higher levels of distress, resulting from people's sense of isolation and reduced ability to connect with others.

The week will raise awareness of the effect of loneliness on our mental well-being and the practical steps we can take to address it. Reducing loneliness is a major step towards a mentally healthy society. Each class will spend time working on and discussing our mental health and its importance as well as a focus on Mental Health in assemblies.

Be kind to your mind

There are small things we can all do to help be kind to your mind, and these can make a big difference to how we feel – if you feel you need support or further advice why not check out:

<https://www.nhs.uk/every-mind-matters/>



School Dates

**Date for the
Diary
School
photographs
this year will
take place on
Friday 25th**

Reception Early Years Stay and Play Session

We are delighted to invite you back into school for another Stay and Play session. On Thursday 13th October we would like to invite parents/carers into class at 9am. The first part of the session will be an opportunity to play with the children, see how well they have settled in and see some of the things they have been learning about.

The second part of the session will be a phonics and maths workshop where you will be able to see how phonics and maths are taught in Reception.

School Holiday Dates

Half Term school closes Friday 21st October and reopens Monday 31st October
School Closes for Christmas on 16th December

School dates confirmed so far :

- 26th Sept – Year 1 and 2 after school dance club begins 3pm – 3.45pm
- 29th Sept – Library Visit Year 2
- 29th Oct – 3.20pm Residential Parents meeting
- 3rd Oct – Year 3 Hindu Temple Visit
- 4th Oct – Year 1 Church Visit
- 5th Oct – Year 5 Beamish Museum Visit
- 7th Oct – Year 4 Online Anglo Saxon Workshop
- 7th Oct – Richard Holden MP visits school with Q and A session with Year 5 and 6
- 13th Oct – Reception Class Stay and Play for Parents/Carers
- 17th Oct – Non Curriculum Day Upper School
- 18th Oct – Non Curriculum Day Lower School
- 18th Oct - Nasal Flu vaccinations (provisional date)
- 19th – 21st Oct – Year 6 Residential Visit
- 19th Oct – Lower School Police Visit and Talk**
- 21st Oct - Consett Fire Station Bonfire Talk – Year 1 and 2
- 4th Nov – Reception Class - National Measurement Programme
- 7th Nov – Parents Evening – all Years except Year 3 (details to follow)
- 8th Nov - Parents Evening – all Years (details to follow)
- 9th Nov - Parents Evening – Year 3 (details to follow)
- 15th Nov – SEND Coffee Morning with Miss Weaver 8.45 Lower School
- 25th Nov – school Photographs
- 6th Dec – Pantomime on site for Upper School
- 8th Dec – SAVE THE CHILDREN Christmas Jumper Day
- 7th Dec - Panto at Empire Theatre for Year 1 and 2
- PROVISIONAL DATE 12th Dec – Christmas Performance Years 1 to 6 to be held at Our Lady and St Josephs Church next to Brooms School
- PROVISIONAL DATE 13th Dec – Christmas Dinner day on both sites
- 13th Dec – Early Years Christmas Performance 2.15pm
- 16th Dec – School Closes for Christmas Holiday

Additional Dates will be added once bookings are confirmed

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Goodbye Mrs Bowe

As many parents will already know Mrs Bowe has been working part time in the school since successfully being appointed to early Years Leader at the The Grove Primary. Mrs Bowe has continued her post here to help successfully transition children from early years into Year 1 – her previous teaching post up to the last summer term. However, at the end of this week Mrs Bowe will fully transfer to her new post and continue to make an impact on the lives of even more children as she leads staffing across the Grove's early years classes and staff development.

It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to Mrs Bowe and thank her for all her hard work, commitment and dedication to our school and all its families.

I hope you'll join me in wishing her every success and happiness in her new post and the best of wishes in all her future endeavours.

The fondest of thanks and farewells

Thank you Mrs Bowe!



Leadgate Primary School
Parent and Toddler Playgroup

STARTING AFTER HALF TERM ON
FRIDAY 4th NOVEMBER

Caring

Sharing

Learning together

Lot of games, toys, stories, music,
soft play, activities and fun!
Come for a play and a chat!

West Street, Leadgate, DH8 7PN

Every Friday (term time only)

1.30pm – 2.30pm

(to vacate by 2.45pm ready for school pick ups)

Tea & coffee available
£1 admission

After School Dance Club

The lessons will start straight after school at 3pm and finish at 3.45pm. The dates are every Monday on the :

10th October
17th October and the final session on the
31st October.



If you would like to book a place for your child to attend please message me directly on Class Dojo to have their names added to the list. **We currently still have places available for the last 3 sessions.**

There will not be a charge for this club. Children will need to be collected from the main reception door at the end of the session. If you are not successful in getting a place another 5 sessions will run for years 1 and 2 in February and March.

NEW READING AND SPELLING APP - REMINDER

In order to support each child's reading and spelling I have purchase access for each child in Years 3 to 6 to an online App which they will use in school called Nessy Learning. As this is an opt in learning programme you will have received an email from Nessy Learning earlier this evening, to your registered primary email address, to give consent for your child to use during school hours. Please follow the link in the email to grant consent and allow your child to start using. If you have any issues with the link please message me directly to say that you give consent and I can authorise on your behalf.

There is a store feature on this programme *however* there is **NO** need to use this at all.
Many thanks for your support with this.



E-Safety Update / Information

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many apps which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about **BEREAL**

BeReal is the latest trending social media app. The concept is that people see others in their authentic day-to-day lives, sharing candid photos without editing or applying filters. Each day at a random time, users are simultaneously notified to take a picture of what they're doing at that exact moment. The two-minute window to submit an image means there's no time to select a particularly glamorous or exciting activity. BeReal shares two pictures: a selfie, and an image of the immediate surroundings. Users can only view and react to their friends' photos once they upload their own.

AGE RATING
13+
from the
App Store &
Google Play

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

CONTINUOUS NOTIFICATIONS

Like any social media app, BeReal's developers want users to be on it regularly and scrolling for long periods. BeReal only sends one notification to post a picture each day, but there are other alerts for events such as mentions, comments, friend requests and reactions to your photo. This can cause young users to feel pressure to open the app and respond, distracting them from other activities.

CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

When someone signs up to BeReal, it highlights anyone in their phone's contacts list who already has the app – so users can connect with friends, or invite others from their contacts. The 'Discovery' feed, meanwhile, shows posts from strangers and gives users the option to add them as friends, too. This means your child could potentially connect with – and communicate with – a stranger.

PUBLIC SHARING

As well as sharing posts with friends in the moment, the app also allows posts to be shared publicly and public content to be viewed. Before a user can see this public content, they must post their own photo first. Unfortunately, there currently seems to be a lack of moderation on the content that's being uploaded, so a young user could be exposed to posts which aren't suitable for their age.

EASY LOCATION

BeReal's default setting is to share the exact location of where a post was sent from. Given that images are usually shared within the two-minute window, anyone your child is friends with on the app will know exactly where they are (or at least, where they were two minutes earlier). As we've noted, this could include strangers who are intending to use this geographical information for malicious purposes.

VISIBLE PERSONAL DATA

As with any other form of social media, it's important that your child doesn't share too much personal information on their profile. BeReal allows for a photo, full name, approximate location and a short bio. It's safest to make sure that your child's profile doesn't display anything which could identify where they go to school or exactly where they live.

REPUTATIONAL DAMAGE

What your child says and does online – their digital footprint – shapes the way that other people see them. It's essential that young people understand that when they post something online, they are giving the app in question the right to do whatever they wish with that image or content, including sharing it elsewhere. This form of permission is explicitly referenced in BeReal's terms of use.

Advice for Parents & Carers

LIMIT NOTIFICATIONS

BeReal offers the option to turn off individual types of notification. Doing this will significantly reduce the number of times your child is tempted to open the app by incoming comments, uploads, friend requests and so on. Ironically, it will allow them to actually 'be real' by being present in the moment and their current environment as opposed to being engrossed on social media.

STOP AND THINK

BeReal's goal is for users to be authentic with friends, removing the pressure of that flawless photo or perfectly worded post. It's still vital, though, that children stop and think rather than uploading something risky just to meet the two-minute deadline. Point out to them what kind of information strangers could extract from an image: school crests, street names or local landmarks, for example.

KEEP IT AMONG FRIENDS

Remind your child why adding strangers to their contacts isn't a good idea, and advise them to decline any friend requests from people they don't know in real life. If something your child sees on BeReal makes them feel uncomfortable, they can report it by clicking on the three dots in the top right. The reporting tool allows them to state the reason that they're flagging up the post.

CREATE A SAFE PROFILE

Remind your child to use an avatar as their profile pic (as opposed to a photo of themselves) and use a nickname or just their first name, not their full name. Any information they add to their bio (which is optional) should be kept vague, and personal details should remain private. It's also worth turning off the geolocation feature either through the device's settings or in BeReal itself.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



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