

Lydbrook Primary School - Newsletter – 13th November 2020

Welcome to the November newsletter. I do hope your families were able to enjoy some form of Bonfire night and Halloween. These are events that both children and their family look forward to each year and I know things have been very different this year and big events like these have been badly affected.

The children have returned to school this term in good spirits and have again settled well to their learning. Attendance has remained very good in these exceptional times and I would like to thank you for your support. With the new lockdown measures, an increase in cases nationally and increasingly closer to home, it is important we all remain vigilant and safe. I would like to thank the parents of Early Years in their support during our trial period of opening the top gate. This is to ensure that as few adults as possible enter the school premises. All new things are there to try and challenge us and it is important that we receive feedback if we have to change things around.

It is important that all illnesses are treated with extra caution and any symptoms of the Coronavirus are checked out quickly and for families to get a test. It is important that the children stay at home until the test result is known and if it is a negative result, parents must supply a confirmation of this result before the child returns to school. If the test proves positive then it is important you let us know and the family must self-isolate for 14 days. Home learning tasks will be available through your child's class website page. I cannot stress enough the importance of keeping the "basic" skills going during any absence. On-line learning will be set for your child to keep basic maths and reading skills ongoing. Your child's teacher will also set some learning activities linked with the themes the class are covering so that your child feels part of the learning.

Reading

A main priority outlined in our School Development Plan is to continue to improve our approaches to reading in school and we are focusing our time on the development of a reading culture and to improve accuracy and fluency. Shortly, we will be sharing with you some ways that you can further help your child at home. As we cannot offer an information session at school we will be placing this information on the school website and a text will be sent out when this is available.

Baseline reports

Since September, we have been gathering information on every child about where they are currently with their learning. Because of the lockdown measures introduced there has been quite a disruption to children's learning across the country and before we can move your child on, it is important that we have an accurate picture. The teachers have written a summary report based on the assessments they have made and because we can't run the usual parent meetings this term to discuss how your child has settled into the new school year, these reports will be sent out to you next week. We would like these to be sent out electronically if we have your e-mail address. If we do not have a current e-mail address we will contact you to update our records or send out a hard copy if you prefer.

Community

We were delighted to be able to link with Remembrance Sunday again this year but due to the current situation we were unable to take part in the ceremony held in the village. Our Year 6 pupils, once again, wrote the names of the fallen soldiers on the wooden crosses. Usually, our school council represent the school and place the crosses whilst the names are called out. Hopefully this is something that we can be part of again next year. The school took part in a 2 minutes silence in their class bubbles on Wednesday at 11.00 a.m.

Today we have taken part in the Children in Need appeal and I would like to thank you for your donations. The children very much enjoyed the "Duck Race" which had to be shown in each classroom this year rather than altogether in the hall. Congratulations to all the children who had chosen Quackman and Bobbin! It again proved great fun!

We were all sad to hear of the recent death of Jenny Davies. She had been such a popular member of the community and faced so much tragedy in her life. She gave up so much time to support the children in school both as a parent and a grandparent and we will miss her. Some of the staff represented the school for a drive-by on Thursday at 10.00 a.m. and, from a request by a current Year 5 pupil, the school held a 1 minute silence at the same time, as a mark of respect. Jenny came to me a few years ago to present a teddy bear that she had made for her daughter Louise from Louise's school sweatshirt and I have kept it in my office since then. We have made the decision for this teddy bear to become the school mascot in remembrance both of Jenny and her family.

I hope everyone remains fit and well over the coming weeks and please take care and look after yourselves.

Diary Dates

Wednesday 16 th December	Christmas Dinner
Friday 18 th December	End of Term 2
Monday 4 th January	School closed for INSET
Tuesday 5 th January	Start of Term 3

Best wishes

Simon Lusted