

Lydbrook Primary School - Newsletter – 23rd April 2021

A warm welcome to Term 5! I very much hope you enjoyed the Easter break and found some nice family time together. The children have come back enthusiastically and have shown great learning attitudes during the first few days. Long may it last! The weather this week has been glorious and the children have enjoyed some of their playtimes on the school field. For the older children, in particular, the field provides so much more space for them to enjoy themselves and allows them to be a lot more active. Looking back to April last year, we were at the start of the first lockdown and preparing for home learning. Let us hope that this will never have to happen again.

Head Teacher Certificates

It was lovely today to give out so many Head Teacher certificates to celebrate the great attitude to learning and school life that so many show on a very consistent basis. I withheld the certificates that were to be given out in January on the return after Christmas, as not all the children had returned. Those pupils who did not receive one today should not despair but to continue to give as much as they can and learn from the advice given by the adults they work with. I explain many times that we all make mistakes, no one is perfect but we can all listen to advice, act on it and turn things around. The Head Teacher certificates are given to those who try their best and make good choices. They are closely connected to our Dojo system and this is an area I want to open up to parents, in the near future, in order to keep you informed on a more regular basis of the areas that your child has gained a Dojo for.

Parent plans/themes

We have some very exciting learning themes planned for the summer terms. The details of which will be placed on your child's class website to allow you to follow along with what your child is learning. Now that we are back in school consistently together, we will be putting together a celebration of the learning for each theme towards the end of Term 6. If we are still unable to invite parents in to these class presentations, we will again film them and place on each class page on the school website.

Five Ways to Well-being

As a school we are always very keen to support your child with the Five Ways to Well-being. These are healthy eating (e.g. at least 5 bits of fruit/vegetables a day), eating breakfast, drinking regularly, being active and ensuring we get a good night's sleep. Research over time shows that children learn better and enjoy life so much more when the 5 ways to well-being are being followed. Please help your child fulfil their life to the full by showing them the importance of these 5 key areas.

It is important to keep an eye on the types of snacks that you provide for your child in school and to make sure that snacks with high sugar or salt content are kept to a minimum and are enjoyed only as a treat. We encourage water to be sipped throughout the day and will allow squash/fruit juice at lunchtime that are not high in sugar. In this weather and throughout the summer, it is important that children drink enough.

Reading

The main priority in our homework policy is for the children to practise their reading regularly at home and to an audience. Practising allows us to become more fluent and confident at anything we do and reading is no exception. 3 reads a week in Owls, Woodpeckers and

Magpies and 4 reads in Jays and Hawks is the minimum requirement. It only takes about 10 minutes and has such a positive effect on your child's reading. By allowing your child to read aloud it helps develop fluency, accuracy and rate. Your child's book will be changed once they have shown a greater fluency and can answer questions about the book they have read.

It is also important to enjoy a book together and read aloud to your child as this engages them in stories and allows them to become absorbed in a book without the worry of always reading aloud to you. You, as the adult, becomes the reader and models the reading which also has huge benefits for your child.

Homework at primary school is important to prepare your child for independence when they get to secondary school. The children see that there is a purpose and that learning can be done at home, as well as in school.

Uniform/Earrings

Now that we are back in school full-time, it is important that all children are coming appropriately dressed for school and linked closely with our dress code. It is important to look smart as this helps with the learning. It is also important to remember the PE day for your child's class and your child should come dressed in appropriate PE kits on the day. As parents, you also have to be mindful of jewellery including earrings. Your child needs to be independent with them and able to take them out for PE. If you are thinking about having your child's ears pierced, it would be better to do it at the beginning of the summer holidays as earrings need to be kept in for a few weeks after piercing. We will not accept plasters to cover the earrings – they have to be removed. If your child is not able to remove them independently, the earrings should be removed before coming to school and put back in when they return.

Parent meetings

We will be running a parents' meeting to bring you up to date with your child's progress and learning attitude. These will be organised during the week of the 10th May. We will not be able to offer a time to meet your child's teacher face to face in school but we will set up a Teams meeting for you to attend. More details will be sent out shortly.

On-line issues

We are always available to talk to the children about social difficulties they may be having with other children and it is important that your child knows that the best course of action is to talk to an adult if something is making them feel sad. We all have to be mindful that many children are going on-line to talk to their friends using social media and this may end up in some things being said that can be hurtful to others. As parents, it is important that you are aware of this and monitor if necessary because it is about keeping children safe. We will always bring it to your attention if we hear in school that something is going on outside of the school day so that we can act together to help the children with it.

Red path

As the weather is so glorious at the moment, it has been pleasing to see so many families walking together to school and using the designated red path. It is important that we continue to respect those that are walking and for drivers to take care and to be aware of the importance of the red path for walking. Thank you for your help in this matter and please

inform me or the office staff of any anti-social behaviour witnessed by people driving dangerously. Thank you

Well-being garden

On a final positive note, it is wonderful to see our well-being garden project nearing conclusion. Jays class have had some fantastic responses of donations following their letters out to various local companies. They are busy planting up the garden, which will be full of the colours the children have chosen. A big thank you to Mrs. Jenny Hodgson for all her hard graft this week getting the garden ready for the planting and working with the children to plant the garden up. We very much hope that we will be able to organise a community event this summer to officially open the garden and to thank everyone for their volunteer time and kind donations and to see the children using it consistently. A wonderful project with community and Royal approval!

Have a good weekend.

S.T. Lusted

Headteacher