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'Partnership in Learning'

## COVID-19 Closure Weekly Bulletin 9

Dear Parents,

Another very eventful week in the life of LJS..! It has been great to see the school building begin to come back to life again, albeit still in a very unusual way. The sound of so much laughter on the playground, particularly, has been greatly missed! We continue to look forward to the day when all of our children can return.

Thank you to everyone for following the measures put in place to minimise contact and maintain social distancing in all areas of the school site this week. These will, of course, need to continue until officially removed by the Government.

I'm pleased and proud to say that the school staff have once again done an amazing job in successfully implementing our plans for wider re-opening of the school, in a way that has ensured that the wellbeing – emotional as well as physical – of the children has been the number one priority. They have my deepest gratitude.

### Year 6 Non-key Worker Children

I'm pleased to say that all Year 6 families who completed our earlier questionnaires to indicate an interest in sending their children back to school have now been contacted and informed of a place for their child from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2020. School will start for these children at **9:30am** and end at **4:00pm**.

### Current Capacity Reached

All children now allocated to a bubble either as the children of key workers this week, or the additional Year 6 children mentioned above, have a space in the school's provision. We are very pleased to have been able to accommodate all of you.

This does mean, however, that the school's socially distanced capacity has been reached. In other words, regrettably, we are now **full** under the current criteria. As a result, please do not bring your child in to school unless your place has been confirmed in advance.

### Waiting List

Should the current restrictions on school be relaxed prior to the end of this academic year as hoped, we will respond accordingly and release more places. In the meantime, if you would like to add your child to our waiting list for a place, please email the school office ([adminoffice@lymington-jun.hants.sch.uk](mailto:adminoffice@lymington-jun.hants.sch.uk)).

Places on the waiting list are now open to all children and in the event of places becoming available will be allocated in the following order:

- Children of key workers
- Year 6 children (non-key workers)
- Length of time on the list

### Children Remaining at Home

We are very conscious of the fact that as long as the Government restrictions remain in place we are going to have a significant proportion of our children at home for the foreseeable future. Rest assured that at no point has this been forgotten about and the children continue to be greatly missed. A reminder that the following is in place to support them:

- Google Classroom account
- Year group email addresses
- Additional contact with/from school (e.g. phone calls) as required

As outlined in previous updates, the school will be closed to children on Fridays. Staff will be on site utilising this time to ensure that the building is prepared for the following week but also that the link between them and the children at home remains as strong as possible.

If you feel that you or your child would benefit from a Friday phone call from a member of the year team, please let them know via the year group email addresses.

### **Staggered Entry Times**

As previously explained, we are having to stagger our entry/exit times (in collaboration with the Infant School) in order to minimise the number of people on the site at any one time. This has initially been done by year group. Once the final bubbles are allocated next week, we will review this process to ensure that it is the most efficient way to proceed.

### **Year 6 Leavers' Events**

The only traditional leavers' event that we know we will definitely not be able to do this year is the year 6 production. This is obviously due to the fact that, even if Social Distancing measures were to be completely removed in July for example, we will not have enough time with all the children together in order to rehearse/perform.

The other main events (party/assembly), however, require a relatively short lead in time to organise. As such, we are still hoping that these may be able to go ahead in some format before the end of this academic year. If this is not possible though, we will invite the children back for a 'celebration evening' as soon as possible after the summer holiday.

We are continuing to liaise virtually with relevant staff from our feeder secondary schools regarding transition information and opportunities. Once their plans become more established, we will pass on the relevant information.

### **Google Classroom**

The teachers have been pleased to see so many people logging in to their Google classroom accounts. Don't forget that year teams can still be contacted using the gmail accounts set up before half term.

A few FAQs about Google Classroom:

1) Why can't I login...?

Login problems have usually been as a result of one or two things. (i) Letters/numbers in passwords have been confused - the easiest way around this is to 'copy and paste' the password sent or (ii) In the event of multiple users using the same machine, ensure that other computer users are fully signed out of their gmail accounts. Because Google Classroom is a subscription service paid for by the school for the children to use - whereas 'gmail' (for example) is a free to use service – if a non-subscription account is also logged in it will prevent access via the paid for account.

2) Why can't materials be uploaded in standard 'Office' files (Word/Powerpoint)...?

Essentially because this a Google product Microsoft software is not easily supported meaning that the staff have to upload files in PDF format or as 'Google Slides'.

3) In light of the above how can I upload my child's work...?

Return work in whichever way is easiest for your child - example solutions so far include: a photograph/scanned image of the completed worksheet; answers on a separate Word document - the

teachers will work it out. Alternatively, you can continue to email work in to the relevant year group gmail accounts.

4) Is the work compulsory...?

Short answer: No. Longer answer: These are the materials that the children on the school site will be working through. If your child doesn't complete them, they will not have done them while others will have. This is ultimately your choice as their parent.

5) Will my child 'fall behind'...?

While this is obviously a possibility (and links to question number 4), rest assured that the school staff will do everything possible when all children finally return to school to fill as many 'gaps' as possible.

### **Planned Residential Trips**

It is with sadness that the decision has been taken to cancel the planned Residential trips for September 2020 (current Year 4 and 5 children). This decision has had to be taken in light of the fact that: (a) It seems unlikely at this stage that it will be deemed safe for children from schools up and down the Country to congregate in residential centres with shared facilities in only 3 months' time; (b) it is unclear whether enough families would choose to send their children even if it was deemed safe in order to make the trip viable overall and (c) the timescales needed for payment in such uncertain times may be problematic for some families. We will contact everyone separately regarding arranging refunds for monies paid so far.

We will run a 'trips week' for these year groups during the Summer of 2021 instead with input from the children as to the types of places they would like us to take them to. We will explore options to book alternative full Residential for next summer but unfortunately the popular centres are usually booked up years in advance.

### **Final Reflection**

As the Country takes the first few tentative steps back to 'normality', I hope we remember to feel happy when we get there...

With best wishes,

Dan Twyman  
Headteacher