



'Partnership in Learning'

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COVID-19 Weekly Update

Dear Parents,

I write this following the first Google Meet sessions. It has been great for the staff to 'see' so many of the children. This has proven to be a huge morale boost for the staff; who are already really looking forward to next week!

Unfortunately, there were one or two teething problems for some people trying to join the meetings. These tended to be caused either by (i) more than one Google account being open on the machine used at the same time or (ii) the differing functionality when accessing via Apple devices.

If you experienced any unresolved difficulties logging in this week, apologies for the frustration caused, please email your child's year group Gmail account as soon as possible for advice on how to solve them ready for next week's session.

Government Announcement on Schools

We are anticipating an announcement by the Education Secretary, Gavin Williamson, this evening. As usual, we will be finding out the content at the same time you do. In the event that any of what is said impacts on current or future provision, please bear with us as we plan accordingly. Next Friday's bulletin will contain information about any related next steps. We know that there are still many unanswered questions about what is to come and are hoping that today's message from the Government will enable us to answer as many of these as possible.

Classes Next Year

We are continuing to plan for September. We hope to be in a position to outline what this will look like this side of the summer holiday to provide time for families to plan accordingly but have to wait for guidance from central Government first.

One thing we have decided, is to keep the children within their existing class groupings. The thinking behind this is (i) the 'mixes' of children were working well up until the start of the closure period and, most importantly, (ii) in these uncertain times it gives the children some familiarity when school eventually returns to normal – essentially it's the one thing we can keep consistent for them so we have.

Transition Opportunities (Current Years 3, 4 and 5)

We are exploring ways of providing some form of 'face to face' time between the children in year groups outside of Year 6 and their next teachers. Given the complexities involved, this is still very much a 'watch this space' situation at this time but rest assured that this is on our radar and we will do what we can to support the children through this process.

Food Parcels

A reminder that eligible families whose children are not on site can still collect their weekly food parcels between **12:30pm and 13:00** each Monday.

If you are eligible and would like to start collecting food parcels, or should your circumstances change and you become eligible for this provision, please contact the school office (adminoffice@lymington-jun.hants.sch.uk) so that we can ensure one is made up for you.

Alternatively, if you require additional support in this area, the **Lymington and Pennington Food Bank** are open and may be in a position to help. Contact the school as above in the first instance and we can look in to the referral process for you.

Transition between Schools (*Reminder*)

Year 6 to 7

We continue to liaise with Priestlands regarding the children who will be starting there in September. Rest assured that there are mechanisms in place for us to handover key information regarding the children's attainment (this will generally be as of March 2020); information regarding friendships etc as usual. More information, including virtual tours, is available on the Priestlands' website at: <http://www.priestlands.hants.sch.uk/Year-6-transition>. These virtual materials will be shared with the children on site over the next few weeks.

Year 2 to 3

If you have a child joining us in year 3 at the start of the next academic year, you will have received an initial pack from us. Thank you to everyone who has completed and return the relevant information already. There will be more information following shortly regarding our 'virtual' transition offer which will be as close to the 'actual' offer activities as we can possibly manage (including a virtual welcome evening for parents via Google Meet). We continue to liaise closely with the Infant School staff in order to gather as much information from them as possible.

End of Year Reports (*Reminder*)

We will be sending out reports during the week beginning Monday 13th July 2020 as usual. These will provide key information regarding the children's attainment; effort in lessons and personal/social development in school up to March 2020. It will also, in many ways most importantly, provide the targets that the children's next year team will be working with them on initially upon their return. More information will be provided nearer the time.

Final Reflection

I have found myself listening to a lot of early era Bruce Springsteen music (the Nebraska album in particular for any other fans of 'the Boss' out there) and last night I realised what it is about the songs that have kept drawing me back recently: the tales of people overcoming the struggles of life.

Wherever they are found, whatever they are; they're always better faced alongside people you love.

Best wishes and be safe everyone.

Dan Twyman
Headteacher