



'Partnership in Learning'

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Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2021

### Lockdown 3.0 Weekly Bulletin 6

Dear Parents,

As we reach the end of another half term in Lockdown, I would like to say a HUGE 'well done' and 'thank you' to all the children of LJS for their hard work over the past 6 weeks. Whether in school or working remotely, they have done an amazing job. The staff and I are immensely proud of each and every one of them!

I am sure you will join me in extending an equally big 'thank you' to the staff for their amazing efforts this half term. Although their working days have been different to usual, their commitment to the children of our school has been as Outstanding as ever. It has been humbling to watch their adaptability; commitment; resilience and professionalism during what has been another very unusual and challenging time.

Finally, I would like to congratulate all of you at home for the efforts put in to supporting your children's learning remotely. This is no easy task and one which you have adapted to admirably. Well done one and all!

I hope that the whole school community is able to have a restful week next week and can enjoy some time away from these commitments as much as circumstances will allow.

The staff and I are looking forward to welcoming you all back as soon after half term as we possibly can...!

#### **Reporting COVID Cases during Half Term**

##### *Site Users*

If your child has been accessing the onsite provision and tests positive on or before Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> February, please notify us using the COVID phone line (07871619484) as, due to the 48 hour contact rule, this is highly likely to mean that the rest of their bubble will have to isolate for 10 days too.

If your child has been accessing the onsite provision and tests positive on or after Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February, again due to the 48 hour contact rule, this will have no impact on any other site users. As such, please notify us on the usual school absence line (01590 674383).

If your child hasn't been accessing the onsite provision, please continue to follow the steps outlined below.

##### Important reminders (from previous bulletins):

#### **Planning for Full Return**

The Government have indicated that they will make a decision regarding full return to school during half term week (beginning Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February) and that the earliest potential return date is

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. We hope to be able to bring you definitive news of this either way on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February.

We are anticipating that any return will be in a similar format to that in place when schools closed again on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January and will keep as many of the arrangements (staggered start times etc) as possible as they were to ease the return process.

Needless to say, as soon as we are allowed to welcome everyone back we will and are very much looking forward to doing so.

### **INSET Day Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February**

A reminder that Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February is a pre-planned INSET day so the school will be closed to all children and there will be no home learning on that day. Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February is the final day of this half term. School will continue in the current format on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February.

### **Assessment of the Children's Learning**

As you will have noticed, over the course of the past couple of weeks your child's year groups have begun to post end of unit assessments on to Google Classroom. These are generally in the form of 'quizzes' to help assess how well the children have embedded the learning covered within the unit.

They will be in place for all subjects covered during the recorded lessons, including those in the afternoon and Guided Reading, when all of the lessons in the unit have been covered.

Please ensure that your child completes these assessments as and when they are set as it will help the staff review the impact of the learning to this point and inform their planning for the rest of the academic year during the INSET day on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February.

### **Up to Date Contact Details**

If you change your contact details (mobile number/email/address), can you please remember to update the school office. This is always important but even more so at the current time.

### **Weekly COVID Testing for Staff**

As outlined in last week's bulletin, the staff in school have now begun twice weekly Lateral Flow Testing. As any of you that have taken part in COVID testing will know, this is far from a fun process. That aside, the first round of testing has gone smoothly which is great news for all involved.

### *Potential Impact on Bubbles*

As we have continued to remind families throughout the Lockdown period so far, on-site bubbles are still required to close in the event of positive on-site cases. This continues to be a possibility at any time and families are advised to have a short notice 'plan b' in place for childcare should this happen.

With staff now involved in twice weekly testing, the number of tests taking place will increase significantly. As such, likelihood of a positive test being recorded will also increase and, therefore, the chances of a bubble(s) having to close at short notice.

To keep things as consistent as possible for our families, staff at both the Junior School and the Infant School will test on **Sundays** and **Wednesdays**.

### *Bubble Closing Procedure*

As soon as we are made aware of the need to close a Bubble due to a confirmed case on site (staff member or child), we will notify the families affected by text message as soon as possible.

**Please be prepared that this may unavoidably be close to the start of the school day.** An email with more information will be sent to families following the notification of closure text message (see below).

### *Length of Bubble Closure*

This is where it gets complicated. There are two types of COVID tests now available. The PCR test (which is processed in a laboratory) and the Lateral Flow Tests (which the staff will be taking twice a week). The duration of bubble closure is potentially different for each test.

- **PCR Test.** Should we be informed of a PCR test result for a site user (these are the tests that everyone other than frontline workers take) the bubble will be closed for 10 days from the date of the test.

- **Lateral Flow Test.** Should we have to close a bubble due to a staff positive from a lateral flow test, the bubble will be closed until the result is confirmed by a follow up PCR Test which the staff member will have to take immediately. If the PCR result comes back negative, the bubble will re-open as soon as possible. If the PCR Test comes back positive, the bubble continues to isolate as above.

Whichever situation we are in, our priority will be to notify you of bubble closure by text message as soon as possible. The duration of the closure will be communicated within the follow up emails as outlined above.

Off-site families will also be notified as the need for staff to arrange and take a follow up PCR test may affect their ability to host that day's live workshops.

We appreciate your understanding that this is an incredibly complex situation involving an ever-increasing number of inter-connected parts.

Apologies in advance for any short notice disruption that may occur to the routines we have established as a result.

### *COVID Notification Process*

**Reminder:** For track and trace purposes, we only have to be notified of a positive case involving those people who have attended the school site in the lead up to their positive test. Please remember that this can be done in the following ways:

- 1) During school hours:  
Telephone – 01590 674383  
Email – [adminoffice@lymington-jun.hants.sch.uk](mailto:adminoffice@lymington-jun.hants.sch.uk)
- 2) Outside school hours:  
COVID phone: 07871619484

**Important note (as mentioned earlier):** It is essential for all critical workers to remember that in the event of a confirmed case on site, the affected bubble is highly likely to close completely. We would advise you to have a 'plan b' in place for childcare for this eventuality.

All 'off site' families, if you experience a positive case; please let the school know via your child's year group email address. Whilst this will not result in an in-school bubble closure, the staff will be keen to know in order to provide as much support as they can.

## **Remote Learning**

### *General*

Thank you once again for everyone's engagement with learning tasks; live workshops; story time etc etc which continues to be excellent. Please keep going: you're really are doing a great job!

Should any of you be interested, Ofsted have recently published some information regarding "what's working well in remote education". The "some common myths about remote education" section is particularly interesting.

### *Access to Devices*

We have now begun the task of supplying devices to those families most in need. If you haven't yet made your need known to the school, you can still email [adminoffice@lymington-jun.hants.sch.uk](mailto:adminoffice@lymington-jun.hants.sch.uk) or notify your child's class teachers via google Classroom/Year Group email accounts and a member of staff will be in touch to discuss options.

### *Internet Access*

Reminder: The Government are aiming to provide additional mobile data to those families accessing learning materials on a mobile phone via a 4G network. This is the latest advice as to who is eligible: *Schools, trusts and local authorities can request mobile data increases for children and young people who {list A}:*

- *do not have fixed broadband at home*
- *cannot afford additional data for their devices*
- *are experiencing disruption to their face-to-face education*

*Children with access to a mobile phone on one of the following networks might be able to benefit {list B}:*

- *Three*
- *Smarty*
- *Virgin Mobile*
- *EE*
- *Tesco Mobile*
- *Sky Mobile*
- *O2*

*Other providers may join the scheme at a later stage.*

If your circumstances mean that you meet the criteria above, please let us know as soon as possible (via the Year Group email address or the school office) and we can help to make an application on your behalf.

Please note: that eligibility is based on all three of the bullet points from 'list A'; one of the bullet points from 'list B' and that the Government are likely to require proof.

## **Final Reflection**

It has been another challenging half term for everyone within the community. I continue to be so proud of the resilience; flexibility and enthusiasm shown by the children, whether within school or at

home. As teachers, we try our best to inspire the children to success as much as we possibly can. Every day I appreciate the inspiration the children give me, just by being themselves.

I hope you all have a restful and happy half term.

With very best wishes as always,

Dan Twyman  
Headteacher

**Year Group Email Addresses:**

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