

Littledean Church of England Primary School

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Loving one another, building each other up

20th November 2020

Newsletter 11

Dear Parents,

Thank you for your kind donations for Children in Need, a total of £64.10 was raised. Also thank you for your donations for our Rags to Riches for School Clothing Collection, we have received 137kg of clothing raising £54.80 for the school.

Parental Consultations

Appointment letters were sent out earlier in the week, please let us know if you are not able to keep your appointment. Thank you.

Illness and Attendance at School

While we would like every child to attend school every day we know that it is sometimes not possible. Children are often unwell with general coughs, colds, sore throats, etc. and the best place for them is at home when they are unwell.

This year we also have Covid-19 to deal with. The symptoms of Covid-19 are:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

If your child or a member of your household suffer from these symptoms then we must follow the governments guidance. Currently this is to isolate for 14 days and to arrange a Covid-19 test. Further guidance can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>. Testing can be booked at www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test or call 119.

If your child is unwell before the start of the school day, please do not bring them into school. Please telephone the school office and let a member of staff know exactly what symptoms your child is exhibiting, even if you do not suspect Covid-19. If your child becomes ill during the school day, we ask that you come and pick them up as soon as possible. Please remember to use the rear entrance of the school at all times. Thank you.

NHS – Is my child too ill for school

Quite often parents have to make difficult decisions as to whether children should be in school or not, is it the usual cold, could this be coronavirus? The NHS have a website which can help parents decide if they should keep their child at home. <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Food and drinks in School

We have noticed that some children are bringing whole grapes into school for their snacks and packed lunches. Whilst we encourage children to eat a variety of fruit we ask that grapes be cut in half or quarters as they can cause a choking hazard, particularly in the infants and pre-school.

We encourage the children to hydrate frequently during the school day and ask that only water is sent in for their bottles which are kept on their desk. Squash and juice may be drunk with their school meal but this must be in a separate container. We do not allow fizzy drinks in school. Thank you.

Head Teacher: Mrs Hayley McGoldrick

Christmas Activities

Due to Covid we are unable to take part in the usual Christmas activities such as visits to the theatre to see a pantomime, school discos, Christmas Fair, etc. but we have been busy planning activities that the children can do within their 'bubbles'. We hope to be able to announce our plans next week.

Planning for Closure in the event of a positive case of Covid-19 in School

We are working hard to keep school as normal as possible for the children during these challenging times and we are currently managing to cover staff absence due to shielding and illness with existing staff members. However, we are predicting that it is going to become more difficult to secure cover for any more staff absences, so the following contingency plans are in place in case of staff shortages:

- In the event of multiple staff absences in a class bubble, a restricted curriculum would be offered or as a last resort a class bubble may need to close for the day.
- A restricted curriculum would be where the normally planned and differentiated full curriculum is not offered but children will attend and will carry out purposeful alternative activities under supervision.
- Closing class bubbles would be the last resort; only in the event of high staff absence and after all other options have been exhausted, would this be an option.

In the event of a positive case of Covid-19 within the school it is likely that, due to the open plan nature of the school and the necessity for children to share cloakrooms and toilets, we would need to close either the whole of the infants or the whole of the juniors in order to ensure the safety of all staff and children. The pre-school remains a bubble on its own.

Emergency Closure Procedures

Just in case we need to close the school, here is a reminder of our procedures. Please ensure that we have up to date contact details for you.

If we need to close the school we will:

- Send you a text message / email
- Announce the closure on Radio Gloucestershire – 104.7 fm
- Post the closure on <https://closures.gloucestershire.gov.uk/> (please note new address)
- Post the closure on our school website www.littledeanprimary.co.uk
- Post the closure on our twitter feed - @littledeansch
- If possible a member of staff will be on site to advise of the closure.

Contact Details

As the vast majority of our communications will now be through email or postings on the website or twitter it is even more important that we have up to date contact details for you. If you or your emergency contacts have changed telephone numbers, email addresses or have moved house please let us know as soon as possible. If you have not received an email from us in the last week we do not have your up to date details.

Term Dates

Term 2	Monday 2 nd November 2020 – Friday 18 th December 2020
Term 3	Monday 4 th January 2021 – Friday 12 th February 2021
Term 4	Tuesday 23 rd February 2021 – Wednesday 31 st March 2021
Term 5	Monday 19 th April 2021 – Friday 28 th May 2021
Term 6	Tuesday 8 th June 2021 – Wednesday 21 st July 2021

Bank Holiday Monday 3rd May 2021

Inset day 3	Monday 22 nd February 2021	Staff only to attend
Inset day 4	Thursday 1 st April 2021	Staff only to attend
Inset day 5	Monday 7 th June 2021	Staff only to attend