



Leavesden Green JMI School & Nursery

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Dear Mums, Dads and Carers,

This certainly isn't the start to the New Year that we had all been hoping for but we find ourselves amidst another school closure. We can use the lessons from Lockdown One to help us navigate through this second closure. Keeping on top of learning and maintaining our physical health are priorities, but so too is keeping mentally healthy, which under these conditions, is easier said than done.

Mental Health

Children can be very resilient and can often appear to be unaffected by challenging situations. That said, even the happiest and settled of children can sometimes feel overwhelmed. The best way to support children is to open up channels of communication so that if they ever feel as if their emotions are unmanageable, they have the language and confidence to talk about it.

If you are concerned about your child's wellbeing or just want some tips on keeping their wellbeing healthy, please use the link below to access support and guidance:

<https://www.healthyyoungmindsinherts.org.uk/parents-and-carers>

Distance Learning

Many thanks to those of you who have contacted us to give your feedback on the provision of Distance Learning (or Remote Learning as it is referred to in the media). Back in the Autumn term, senior leaders reviewed the Summer lockdown provision and devised a plan to improve our provision in the event of another school closure. In all honesty, I hadn't expected that we would be closed again but here we are! Thankfully we have an amazing team of committed teachers and leaders and as soon as we heard the news of school closure, we organised an online meeting (on New Year's Eve!!) to start putting our plans in motion. Our teachers work incredibly hard and we always strive to do our best, so to hear directly from you on how it is going at home is wonderful.

Hopefully you are finding the regular live Google Meets helpful. We have opted for only three a week per class with the addition of two pre-recorded learning videos per day. This decision was made with working parents in mind who may not be able to commit to supporting their children at regular set times of the day and allows you the flexibility to watch the videos at your own times. Our provision has also tried to ensure that families with multiple siblings and single devices are still able to access learning effectively.

Critical Workers

Please remember, the Government Guidance is currently that if your child can stay at home, they should. Being in school should only be a last resort and if you have an adult at home, your children should stay at home with them.

COVID Data

All the data for Hertfordshire cases can be found via the following link:

<https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/cases>

Click on United Kingdom and enter the local authority you want data on regarding cases.

Hertfordshire specific information can also be found at:

https://hcc-phei.shinyapps.io/covid19_public_dashboard/

Other ideas for home...

Set up a tuck shop. Give your child/children a set daily amount to spend and make healthy items cheap and sugary snacks more pricey. Hopefully, they will learn to manage their expenditure.

Factor in two quiet periods of listening to audio books into your daily plan. There are plenty of free audio books to choose from on Audible <https://stories.audible.com/start-listen>.

If you have any other top tips to share with parents, please email them through for us to share!

Have a lovely day!

Mrs Lyon and the Leavesden Team