

Dear Mums, Dads and Carers,

What a term!

Staffing Changes

We've had to make some internal staffing changes for the new term and I have emailed individual classes who have been affected. We have tried to minimise disruption for the children and I thank you for your support in these challenging times. We have an additional part-time teacher joining us to alleviate some of our staffing dilemmas. Mrs Buhagiar will be covering PPA (teachers' statutory planning time) in Octopus Class, Puzzle Class and Acorn Class. Sadly, Miss Hayday, one of our Learning Support Assistants, will not be returning from maternity leave and is going to spend more precious time with her family. Mrs Hakner has finished teaching Rocket Class but is still working for two weeks after the Easter Break and so we will say a proper farewell when she leaves.

Social Distancing and Keeping Safe

Some of you will have noticed the enormous screen outside of school showing messages about social distancing and keeping safe. The council have provided this for us **free of charge** along with marshalls, who you may have seen in high-vis vests.

COVID Reporting

If your child has been in school this week and is tested positive for Covid over the spring break (up to and including Monday 29 March), please report this to Jo (sbm@leavesden.education) together with your contact number so she can contact you to complete a form that needs to be sent to contact tracing. If the diagnosis is **after** Monday 29 March you do not need to make contact as it will be over 48 hours since your child has been in school.

Hertfordshire County Council has asked us to share this important update with you ahead of the Easter holidays:

As we go into the Easter holidays, and some Government guidance changes around socialising outside and outdoor sport, it's so important that we don't let our guard down and increase the risk of Covid-19 outbreaks when schools return.

From **Monday 29th March**, you can;

- Meet up outside (including in private gardens) with six other people, or as two households
- Take part in formally organised outdoor sports with any number of people (outdoor sports venues and facilities will be able to reopen)
- Childcare and supervised activities will be allowed outdoors for all children

You and your family can continue to keep yourselves and others safe by:

- Washing your hands regularly, for at least 20 seconds with soap and warm water or using an antibacterial hand sanitiser if soap and water isn't available
- Keeping socially distanced, staying at least 2 metres away from those not in your immediate household
- Wearing a face-covering where required and when it is difficult to socially distance
- Self-isolating and getting tested if you develop symptoms or receive a positive lateral flow test (LFT) result
- Not socialising indoors with anyone who isn't in your immediate household. You're not allowed to have sleepovers or playdates, even if your child is in a school bubble
- Not sending children back to school ill or with symptoms of Covid-19 after the Easter break – if your child is sick, please keep them at home

Red Nose Day

Thank you so much for your generous donations on Red Nose Day. We collected £498.25.

Learning in the Nursery *by Mrs Berry, Explorer Class Teacher*

On our Welly Walk we were looking for signs of Spring, we found blossom and buds on the trees. The children predicted that when we next go on our Welly Walk, after the holiday, the buds will have opened and changed into flowers and leaves.

We have also been looking at Easter traditions and have made our own Easter Tree for the classroom. The children painted the twigs and during busy fingers used their wonderful mark making skills to design symmetrical butterflies which they then used to decorate the tree.

In Maths the children have been exploring counting Easter eggs, sorting Easter eggs by pattern/colour and then comparing how many eggs were in each basket using the words; most and fewer.



Hopeful Poetry

This remarkable poem was written by one of our Year 2 children and it brought a tear to my eye.

Silent City by Amelie, aged 6

As a silent city stands this pandemic has changed our lives

Silent schools and home schools are built

No people in the office

Home is the new city

No top golf, no score boards being turned to a high score

Just a silent city, only food shops and more are open

It's changed from a happy life to a sad one but it's getting better day after day

The final few words is full of hope. Why not try to write a hopeful poem at home this Easter and send into school!

Have a wonderful, safe and hopeful Easter!

From Mrs Lyon and the Leavesden Team