



# Leavesden Green JMI School & Nursery

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Dear Mums, Dads and Carers,

## High Alert

An increasing number of schools are reporting full closures or bubble closures due to positive cases of COVID in the community. Thankfully, we have not been put in this position as of yet due to your determination to follow the Government rules and the risk assessment we have in place in school. Please stay on high alert to minimise the risk of COVID coming into our school community. Thank you for your continued support.

## Mrs Blythe

Wonderful Mrs Blythe is only with us for two more weeks and then she sets off into a luxurious world of relaxation in retirement. If you would like to send your best wishes or personal thanks, please email [cbleaving@leavesden.education](mailto:cbleaving@leavesden.education). All emailed messages will be included in her 'This is your life' book.

## Other Staffing News

Miss Geraghty, who has been working in Diamond Class, Lego Class and Otter Class, will be leaving us today. We wish her all the very best in the future. Mrs Turner, our new part-time teacher for Puzzle Class, will be officially joining us on Wednesday to start getting to know the children before the new year.

## Food Parcels

Next week, staff will be on the gates at the start of every dry\* day to collect dried foods to create food parcels for any of our school community who may be experiencing financial difficulties. If you find yourself in need or are worrying about money over Christmas, please contact Miss Rogers who can help you complete a form requesting the things you need (either call the school office or email [sbm@leavesden.education](mailto:sbm@leavesden.education).) You can also request support by contacting Mrs Debono [vicky@leavesden.education](mailto:vicky@leavesden.education). All requests will be kept confidential and we can deliver parcels straight to your door to avoid you having to come to school to collect. Food parcels will be available from w/c 14 December. All excess food will be taken to our local food banks so please give generously.

*\*Please do not bring donations on wet days as packaging could damage in the rain.*

## School Priorities Update

This week and next, all children are being assessed in their learning. On Wednesday, staff from Reception to Y6 joined (safely) to moderate their assessment judgements in Reading and Writing – this is how we check and agree with the judgements we are making. Next steps for children have been identified to ensure that we focus our teaching on the right aspects of learning.

Joanna Di Bella, our Hertfordshire Improvement Partner, visited school on Thursday and spent the day interviewing senior leaders about our developments in Reading, Writing, provision for children

with SEND, our pupil premium grant spending and our Early Years Foundation Stage, ahead of a Spring Visit to see these developments in action. The visit went very well and Mrs Di Bella is 'impressed' with the strategic plan and rigorous monitoring systems that have been put in place since our last inspection.

### **Art by Rachel Shahar, Art Leader and Octopus Teacher**

At Leavesden we want children to have the opportunity to express themselves freely and creatively, exploring their ideas and applying techniques for a purpose. Children should be able to experiment with art in all forms, to learn and draw upon a wide range of techniques and styles. When we expose children to a variety of art, we give them opportunities to become immersed in culture, providing a deeper understanding of themselves and of the wider world. We want our children to have opportunities to explore, create and experiment without fear of making mistakes. These experiences enable children to build resilience, work through their feelings and express themselves fully.

Art is an important part of our curriculum. We began this year with the recovery curriculum. Throughout this, we planned opportunities for artistic expression and used art as a medium for talking about our experiences. At Leavesden, we teach Art through a skills focus, enabling the children to experience and become proficient at using many different artistic techniques and tools. We give them room to experiment and allow children to express themselves with the skills they learn. We build in knowledge of key and influential artists from around the world as well as developing an understanding of artistic movements and historical contexts.

### **Staggered finish time for the end of term**

We have an early finish at the end of term and this year we need to stagger the times.

Explorer Class	Normal collection time
River Class	1pm
Mountain Class	12.50pm
Lego Class	1.10pm
Diamond Class	1.20pm
Adventure Class	1pm
Discovery Class	1.20pm
Rainbow Class	1.05pm
Otter Class	1.25pm
Acorn Class	1.15pm
Rocket Class	1.25pm
Puzzle Class	1.05pm
Bear Class	1.25pm
Octopus Class	1.15pm

If you are normally invited to leave your children in class as you have a much later collected sibling, you are still able to do this. Please collect your children from their normal exit. Y6 children will **not** be allowed to walk home alone on this day and must be collected by an adult.

### **Christmas Gifts for Staff**

Some parents have asked about giving presents to staff this year. Please do not feel obliged to buy any gifts for our staff – the gift we get is the pleasure of our jobs. Instead, a kind email or thoughtful words in a Christmas card will be gratefully received. Or perhaps instead buying a gift for staff, you could consider contributing more donations for our food parcels for the families in need in our

community. However, if you feel you *must* give something, please do give **small** presents only which can be easily stored in quarantine for 72hrs.

**Any gifts must be given on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December or Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December and will not be accepted after this inline with our COVID Risk Assessment.**

### **Toilets**

There have been some issues with the toilets spanning from the younger children all the way up to Y6 with regards to the toilets being kept clean. Please could you have a conversation with your child / teach your child to wipe the toilet seat after they have used the toilet if they have splashed or dribbled.

### **Don't forget... Christmas cards**

Your children only have one more day to bring Christmas Cards into school for their friends on **Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December**. If your child brings them in after this date they will not be distributed.

### **Don't forget... Reading Events Now Open for Booking**

Phonics Explained - 40 mins - Tuesday 8 December 10am and 6pm

- offer an overview of our phonics approach
- introducing key language
- advice for supporting the teaching of phonics at home

Early Reading - 40 mins - Thursday 10 December 10am and 6pm

- what comes before phonics
- how can you develop good reading behaviours
- advice for supporting reading at home

Supporting your child as a Reader - 40 mins – Tuesday 15 December 10am and 6pm

- developing confidence towards reading
- building good reading habits
- advice for supporting your child's reading at home

Have a lovely weekend everyone!

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