



Parent Newsletter
Friday 5th March 2021

Dear Mums, Dads and Carers,

Our long awaited return is now here! Staff have been training and preparing for the children to be back in school and we are very positive about a safe return for everyone. Our risk assessment has been thoroughly reviewed and updated to incorporate new measures including Lateral Flow Tests and a new style of face coverings for some staff. The vast majority of our pre-existing measures remain in place and hopefully school will not feel too different from before the Christmas break.

Back to school – Safety

All of the guidance sent out to parents this week about the safe reopening of school is now available on the website. Here you will also find the updated risk assessment, PE days, starting and finishing times and absence guidance.

[Letters Home – Leavesden Green JMI School & Nursery](#)

The staff in our school have done and will continue to do everything possible to minimise the risk of COVID in our school. Please understand that one of our measures in school is to prevent the spread of COVID should we have a positive case reported in school. If this is the case, we will be required to close the bubble of children and adults in close contact with the positive case and this will be done immediately. Please be prepared that should this be the case (hopefully not at all), this will all happen at very short notice. Your child will be provided with online learning as they have received through lockdown with Google Meets, prerecorded videos and assignments. If you have more than one child and only one is required to isolate due to bubble closure, your second child is expected to attend school. Your isolating child **must not** leave the household. If you do not have another adult in the household or support bubble who can bring your child to school, it is recommended that you form an informal childcare bubble and ask another parent to collect and bring your child to school. This bubble cannot be used for anything other than informal childcare and cannot be used for socialising. Each household can form an informal childcare bubble with only one other household. Please contact the school if you are ever in this situation and you are struggling to get your other child into school.

Drop-offs and Collections

Under the current guidelines, one household can form an informal childcare bubble with another household. In the case where there is only one adult in the household, they can also form a support bubble.

Therefore, if you live in a single adult household, you can have two named people on the collection list (one from your informal childcare bubble and one from your support bubble).

If you live in a multiple-adult household, you can have only one named person on the collection list (from your informal childcare bubble).

You cannot form a childcare bubble with more than one household. For example, Family A cannot look after a child from Family B and a child from Family C.

Government guidance currently states that you may not swap your bubbles.

Year 5 & 6

When children in Bear, Puzzle and Octopus arrive in the morning, they must line up on the crosses on the path. A member of the Leadership Team will be on the playground in the morning to remind the children of this new routine.

Year 4

When the children are dropped off at the main school gate, they will need to stand and wait on a cross in front of the main school office. A member of the Leadership Team will be on the gate to explain this on Monday morning.

Staffing

We are under incredible pressure at the moment, as are other local schools. We now have four extremely critically vulnerable staff shielding in addition to three other members of staff signed off with non-COVID related illnesses. As you can imagine, this presents the day-to-day running of the school with huge challenges. We have a strategic plan in place to ease the pressures over the next three weeks, however, please do be patient as we try to keep you informed of any staff changes when possible.

Back to School – Learning

In school, we will be focusing on our seven areas to support the children in settling back into school life. Our curriculum will not be paused to learn about these aspects of life, rather we will learn about them *through* the normal curriculum. Our seven foci of learning are:

1. Relationships
2. Managing change
3. Emotional wellbeing
4. Focus and concentration
5. Community
6. School life
7. Curriculum

Coming back to school can cause anxiety for some children (and parents). It is normal that with any change we (or our Chimps) can feel anxious. When this happens it is important to acknowledge and accept our feelings. As a school, we will be supporting all children with any worries they might have. If you would like to support your children further at home, you may find the following link helpful:

<https://youngminds.org.uk/blog/supporting-a-child-returning-to-school-after-lockdown/>

You may also find it of interest to read this article on Government commitment to children's mental health: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/79-million-to-boost-mental-health-support-for-children-and-young-people>

Home Learning

Google Classroom has been a powerful way of communicating learning with children and parents at home and we are going to continue to use this as a platform for sharing home learning when we reopen on Monday 8th March. From this date onwards, we are amending our home learning policy and the following will be in place for you to continue to support your child with regular learning at home. Keep an eye out for an email addressed to your year group for more details.

Umbrella Words

When we come back to school, each class will be focusing on one of our umbrella words (words that represent characteristics of effective learners). These will be skills that will help the children settle back into school life. Talk to your child about their class word and how they have shown it each day.

Explorer Class Brave	Mountain Class Independent	River Class Independent	Lego Class Independent
	Diamond Class Responsible	Discovery Class Resilient	Adventure Class Adaptable
Otter Class Brave	Rainbow Class Independent	Acorn Class Bravery	Rocket Class Resilient
	Puzzle Class Resilient	Bear Class Resilient	Octopus Class Proud

Friends of Leavesden

We have a small group of parents working tirelessly to raise extra funds for our school. Without the Friends of Leavesden, we wouldn't have an outdoor classroom, magnificent library or events such as the Virtual Magic Show. Despite this small group's determination and enthusiasm, the friends are at risk of disbanding as they desperately need some help in order to be sustained. **Please, please please...** if you are able to commit time to meetings and have any skills to help organise events, email the Friends of Leavesden to find out more information: friends@leavesden.education



An enormous **THANK YOU** to Mrs Malone and all of our teachers for creating a unique story for World Book Day. I hope you enjoyed your Character Visit this week – a big apology to Rocket Class for whom Matilda was unable to access the Google Meet (grrr to technology). She's looking forward to seeing you on Monday.

Home Testing

Just a reminder that you can collect home testing kits or order home testing kits online if you would like to take part in asymptomatic testing.

We cannot wait to see you all on Monday. Please ensure you have read **all** of the guidelines before bringing your child to school so that we can ensure we keep our community as safe as possible.

Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs Lyon and the Leavesden Team