LEIGH

Primary School

The Green, Leigh, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 8QP

Telephone/Fax: 01732 832660

Friday 1st May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Despite the school continuing to be closed, it has been lovely to see what the children have been up to on Tapestry and their Google Classrooms. The interaction on these sites continues to impress me and my sincerest thanks to all of you who are supporting us as we try to navigate our way through this.

Despite the school being closed we have been busy ensuring the school site is ready for whenever the children can return. Over the past couple of weeks the school has had a thorough Deep Clean both from our resident cleaners and from a professional cleaning company. Also the toilet in Jessica's Hall has been completely renovated and various other larger maintenance jobs have been completed. The school is looking absolutely fantastic and my sincerest thanks to all involved in these endeavours.

This week the staff have been phoning home to see how you and your families are getting on. The intention of this call was simply to keep the channels of communication open and I hope that it was useful for you and your child. The staff are always available via email so, if you have a problem, please do make contact with them and they will respond as soon as possible. If we didn't manage to make contact with you this week then we will try again next week. The counselling service we use at school, Fegans, have also just released a free resource for parents who are supporting children who might be struggling at this time. For those of you interested, this can be found by clicking on the following link: https://www.fegans.org.uk/parenting-in-a-pandemic/

You might also be interested to hear that audible are allowing free access to all their books online so that children can instantly stream an incredible collection of stories. As we are not able to open the school library at the moment, this is a wonderful, free resource that will provide the children with a huge range of books to listen to online. Please do take a look at it to see if there are any books that might interest you child. Further information can be found here: https://stories.audible.com/start-listen

Next Friday is the 75th anniversary of VE Day. If you are having any family celebrations at home, please feel free to share these with your child's class on their Google Classrooms or on Tapestry. Please note that, as this is a Bank Holiday, the school will be closed and work will not be set on the children's Google Classrooms. However I have asked the staff to ensure they set some activities related to VE Day next week and I hope, when the time comes, we can celebrate this wonderful occasion as a community.

The Parish Council would like me to make you aware of a wonderful scheme they are operating throughout the village during this difficult time. They are delivering bread, free of charge, as well as other essential items that might be needed. They are also offering a shopping service, prescription collection or other errands which those self-isolating are unable to undertake. If you or someone you know would benefit from this service then their contact number is 07388 620150 and their email address is parishcouncil@leighkent.org.uk In addition you might also find it useful to have the details for Sevenoaks District Council and their number is 01732 227000 or email www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/requesthelp Councillor James Osborne-Jackson, the Sevenoaks District Council Member for Leigh, has also indicated that if families are experiencing difficulties they can contact him and he will advocate on their behalf with the Council. His phone number is 07592 472008.

We have been distributing Free School Meal vouchers for those that qualify for them through Edenred and this equates to £3 a day per pupil. Vouchers can only be distributed to those of you who have registered your child for Free School Meals. If you believe you might qualify and haven't yet registered then I would urge you to do this as soon as possible and the best way of doing this is online via this link: https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/free-school-meals
We will continue to be in touch directly with those families who qualify for Free School Meals to distribute these vouchers.

There are obviously many changes that will have to be made to the diary in the coming weeks and months. All school activities and trips are suspended until further notice although we are working hard to ensure that any experiences are postponed rather than cancelled. I am still hoping to run a Parent Meeting on Wednesday 3rd June for all Parents and Carers of children in Year 5 to go through the Procedure for Entry to Secondary Education (PESE) but it will almost certainly have to take a different format than in previous years. When I have further information about events, meetings and trips in the summer term, I will of course let you know.

Very best wishes,

Daniel Eaton
Headteacher Leigh Primary School

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