LEIGH

Primary School

The Green, Leigh, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 8QP

Telephone/Fax: 01732 832660

Thursday 7th 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.

Tomorrow is the 75th anniversary of VE Day. Earlier this week we sent home some ideas from the PTA to celebrate this event as our village celebrations have inevitably been cancelled. If you are having any celebrations with the children at home, please do feel free to post some photographs on the children's Google Classrooms or Tapestry; it will be lovely for us to be able to share in these together.

This week the staff have been continuing to phone home if we didn't make contact with you last week. Please do remember that although we are encouraging the children to complete as much of the work set as possible, you shouldn't feel unduly pressured as a parent to ensure they complete everything that is set. We are trying to strike the right balance between keeping the curriculum going as much as is practically possible with an inevitable change in delivery and circumstance. We realise that this causes challenges for you at home as well as for us and so please do not feel that every piece of work must be completed on the day that it is set. If you have any specific questions regarding the work or any other matter concerning your child, please do make contact with your child's class teacher.

The counselling service we use at school, Fegans, have also 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 your child. Further information can be found here: https://stories.audible.com/start-listen

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

Attached to this letter is a separate letter to parents and carers of children in Year 6 regarding the Year 6 Residential. Please could I ask that all responses are made before Monday 18th May so that I can make the necessary arrangements. We are also in the process of moving the Year 5 Residential to the end of September or beginning of October when the children will be in Year 6. When I have further information about this and all the other usual summer term activities, I will of course let you know.

On Sunday the Government have stated that they will announce guidance regarding the easing of the lockdown and what impact this will have on schools. Once this information is made public I will be writing next week with detailed information about what steps we will be taking at Leigh Primary School to ensure we meet the conditions of this easing as well as guaranteeing the continued safety of all pupils and staff.

Very best wishes,

Daniel Eaton

Headteacher Leigh Primary School

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