

Friday 12th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is an absolute joy to write to you about all the children being in school this week. The staff have been amazed at how well the children have returned to school and come back with a great attitude to learning, enjoyed reconnecting with their peers and had great smiles on their faces. This morning, I made a video message which the children watched in classes congratulating them on being so brilliant this week. Thank you to all of you for supporting your children’s return to school and helping us with the positive language and narrative framing I mentioned last week. Thank you also for all the positive emails on this topic.

Thank you for wearing facemasks and to those sticking to the staggered start and finish times. My observations this week are that we do seem to have a lot more families entering the school at 8:50 than at 9am. Please check the table below and come at the correct time so we have the balanced staggered start we have designed, thank you. As mentioned in the previous two newsletters, the back gate is now open at the end of the day for pick up.

**Teaching, Assessment and Parents’ Evenings**

As well as receiving, reconnecting, and reengaging the children this week, supporting their wellbeing and settling them back into routines, we have been discussing and considering the children’s learning at great length. As mentioned last week, we are moving forward with curriculum coverage, whilst assessing and supporting areas where children need some extra learning. This process will continue over the next few weeks before we complete more structured assessments for the end of the term. We have detailed plans for assessing in Reading, Writing and Maths in a way which allows us to find out where the children are academically, compared to National Curriculum expectations, but perhaps more importantly, exactly which concepts they are confident in and those in which they aren’t. Teachers will then use these structured assessments to plan accordingly for the Summer Term for each child.

We will then hold Parent Consultation meetings (parents’ evenings) in the second week back after Easter (week beginning 26th April) via telephone call. These will cover how children have come back after Easter, but will focus on detailed discussions about the children’s learning and specific key targets for the Summer Term at school and for you to support at home. More information about these Parent Consultations will follow nearer the end of term. I know lots of you will want to know as quickly as possible about where your child’s learning is currently, but we feel this is the best way to do this properly and thoroughly to mostly benefit the children and inform parents. As ever, please don’t hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions head@littletown.devon.sch.uk

Hopefully you will find we are handing children back to you who are very happy after a week back at school, if a little tired! I have told them all to be extra kind to their mums on Sunday!

Yours faithfully,

David Perkins 

Principal

**Please check you are coming to school at the correct time**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Class** | **Start Time** | **Drop off Point** | **Finish Time** | **Collection Point** |
| Nursery | **9.00am** | In Front of the Nursery building | **3.00pm** | As drop off |
| Reception - Mrs Katene/Mrs Hawkins | **8.50am** | Front Playground (class lining up) | **3.05pm** | Slope on Front Playground |
| Reception - Miss Croft | **9.00am** | Front Playground (class lining up) | **3.15pm** | Slope on Front Playground |
| Year 1 - Mrs Veevers | **8.50am** | Front Playground (class lining up) | **3.05pm** | Slope on Front Playground |
| Year 1 - Mrs Lambert/Miss Meecham | **9.00am** | Front Playground (class lining up) | **3.15pm** | Slope on Front Playground |
| Year 2 - Mrs Bentham/Mrs Rossiter | **8.50am** | Front Playground (class lining up) | **3.05pm** | Scooter rack on Front Playground |
| Year 2 - Mr Luxton | **9.00am** | Front Playground (class lining up) | **3.15pm** | Scooter rack on Front Playground |
| Year 3 - Mrs Searle/Mrs Davis | **8.50am** | Classroom Door | **3.05pm** | Top Back Playground (from class line) |
| Year 3 - Miss Bodgin/Mrs Hugerre | **9.00am** | Classroom Door | **3.15pm** | Top Back Playground (from class line) |
| Year 4 - Mrs Wright/Mrs Arni-Tossell | **8.50am** | Year 3/4 Door | **3.05pm** | Top Back Playground (from class line) |
| Year 4 - Mr Driscoll | **9.00am** | Year 4 Music Room Door | **3.15pm** | Top Back Playground (from class line) |
| Year 5 - Mrs Binmore | **8.50am** | Classroom Door | **3.05pm** | Lower Back Playground (from class line unless walking home alone) |
| Year 5 - Miss Urry | **9.00am** | Classroom Door | **3.15pm** | Lower Back Playground (from class line unless walking home alone) |
| Year 6 - Mrs Fallon | **8.50am** | Classroom Door | **3.05pm** | Lower Back Playground (from class line unless walking home alone) |
| Year 6 - Mr Priddle | **9.00am** | Classroom Door | **3.15pm** | Lower Back Playground (from class line unless walking home alone) |

**Mental wellbeing**

This week the children have been learning about the importance of 10 a day, these include, eating well, keeping hydrated and doing something you enjoy. These can be used to help balance our physical and mental health. Each week one of these 10 a day will be included in the newsletter so that you can chat about it with your child/children. If you would like more information please visit <https://normalmagic.co.uk/>.



**Lateral Flow Tests for Primary school pupils**

A reminder that the Department of Health and Social Care announced that from Monday 1st March, households with primary school, secondary school and college age children, including child care and support bubbles, can test themselves twice every week at home as schools return from Monday 8 March. The twice weekly test kits can be accessed:

- at a local test site

- by collecting a home test kit from a test site

- by ordering a home test kit online

Please find here a link which provides further information on how to obtain the tests which is quick and easy to use. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff?utm_source=1%20March%202021%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19>

As Public Health England states: Around 1 in 3 people with coronavirus (COVID-19) do not have symptoms but can still pass it on to others. Regular testing of people without symptoms (asymptomatic testing) is important to help stop the virus spreading.

**Red Nose Day/Comic relief**

On Friday 19th March, we will be celebrating Red Nose Day at school. On this day, all children are invited to come to school dressed as a superhero for a 50p (£1 per family) voluntary donation to the charity. There is no expectation for parents to buy costumes. Alternatively, children can wear non-school uniform. On the day, the children will be taking part in a variety of activities, planned to bring some laughter and cheer.

A limited number of Red Noses are available for the children to purchase. Noses cost £1.50 and are only available from your child’s classroom. If you would like your child to purchase a red nose, then they will need to bring the exact money into school as we will not be able to give change. Noses purchased are then to be kept at home until the 19th March when they will be able to wear them into school.

**Community updates and messages**

**Honiton neighbourhood Police newsletter for March** can be found attached to this newsletter.

**East Devon Citizens’ Advice on Electricity Bills**

Paul Taylor, of East Devon Citizens' Advice wanted to share this message for parents:

Money for electricity bills is available direct from Citizens' Advice to families who are:

* On Universal Credit
* Entitled to Free School Meals
* Receive Disability Living Allowance
* Facing lost income due to Covid
* Needing to use a Food Bank
* On a pre-payment meter

This is not an exhaustive list, so if in doubt, families are asked to contact Citizens' Advice in confidence on: 01395 265077, by April 2nd, to avoid missing out.