



Lessness Heath Primary School

Erith Road, Belvedere, Kent. DA17 6HB

Telephone 01322 433290

Head Teacher – Miss A Bolton

#LessnessCAN

31st December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas, whatever that may have looked like for you and your families. Lola and I had a lovely time, although like everyone else I really struggled with not seeing my family over the festive period.

I am writing to you today following last night's government announcement that as of Monday 4th January we will begin remote learning until further notice.

Since our initial closure in March last year, we have had to continuously develop our home learning offer, and I am confident that the system we now have in place will benefit all children, no matter the stage of their education.

Each parent and child now have a login for Class DoJo which has been used to deliver learning during our recent bubble closures, and for homework across the whole school. Rather than the previous daily PowerPoints that were sent home, each child will now have access to a variety of personalised videos direct from their class teacher. Each teacher will be modelling key skills with follow up tasks for Phonics / SPAG, English, Maths and an afternoon lesson on a daily basis. With children able to physically see and hear their class teacher each day, we are confident that this personalised approach will both engage our children and allow them to reach their full potential while working from home. We will continue to use Oxford Owls to support children who are learning to read, and Mr James will be sending out further guidance to parents as to how they can access this amazing resource and explore its full potential. Children who are already independent readers will be set additional reading tasks by their class teacher.

Class teachers will be available between the hours of 9am and 3pm each day via messaging on Class DoJo. Remember they are there to support you and will happily view any work that is uploaded, provide feedback and offer additional support with learning if you need it. Class teachers will be monitoring if work is accessed via Class DoJo and we will be in touch to offer support if work is not being completed at home.

A reminder that any queries not related to learning must be sent via the school admin email, not via DoJo to class teachers. admin@lessnesheath.bexley.sch.uk

Class teachers will also be running a zoom session once a week for 20 minutes to enable children in their class to interact with each other. During this call the teacher's camera will remain off in order for us to safeguard our staff. It is imperative that children are supervised at all times during the call. Further details will be sent out in due course.

REMOTE LEARNING WILL BEGIN VIA CLASS DOJO FOR ALL CHILDREN ON MONDAY 4TH JANUARY 2020.

Lessness Heath will remain open for the children of Critical Key Worker families - however as the guidance states that children are **safer at home**, please be aware of the following points as these may differ to our previous offer. We will only be offering a place in our hub to the children of critical workers where both parents / adults living in the home are employed in a critical worker role.

This school is committed to the safeguarding and protection of children



- There must be no one else at home able to look after your child (either a partner or another family member)
- We will need proof from your employer of the hours you work.
- School will be open from 8.50am until 3pm each day. The school gates will be open at these times only and no late drop offs, or early pickups will be permitted.
- **NO TEACHERS WILL BE ON SCHOOL SITE AT ALL DURING CLOSURE** - As the high-quality educational offer for children at home is to be based around visual models from teachers, they will all be off site recording lessons and communicating with their children via DoJo. Children who attend school will be accessing the same lessons via the DoJo app on an iPad. **NO IN-SCHOOL ADDITIONAL TEACHING WILL TAKE PLACE.**
- Children in school will be split into 4 classroom bubbles – EYFS, Years 1 and 2, Years 3 and 4 and Years 5 and 6. They will be supervised by an LPA to complete their tasks set via their class teacher on their iPad during the day. If we have a positive case of Covid-19 within a class, we will of course have to follow Public Health England guidance and shut the bubble.
- For the mean time the school kitchen will be closed so all children must bring in a packed lunch each day.

If you believe that you are a Key Worker who fits the current criteria, please email the school admin email address **by 11am on Monday 4th January 2021**. In the email, please include your child's name, class, occupation and a contact number. A member of SLT will then call you back to discuss whether you fit the criteria and can be offered a place in school. Please note that if you were deemed a key worker in the last lock down you must reapply as the criteria has altered. **THE SCHOOL WILL BE SHUT TO ALL PUPILS ON MONDAY 4TH JANUARY AND KEY WORKER CHILDREN WILL START AS OF TUESDAY 5TH.**

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that schools have been shut for a reason, because it is deemed unsafe at the moment. Please only contact us if you have no other support network to offer childcare - **The safest place for your child remains at home.**

We are currently awaiting communication around free school meal allocation and as soon as I am able, I will contact all families with an update. Our #LessnessCAN support will continue during school closure and a gentle reminder that if you are struggling please contact the school admin email and a member of my amazing Inclusion Team will be in touch.

Communication over the next few weeks is going to be key, so please keep an eye on Facebook for messages from me, but also to see the amazing work that is going on across the school community from home.

I know that the continuous adaptations we are having to make to our lives due to this awful pandemic are incredibly challenging for all of us, both in school and at home with loved ones. Looking back in years to come, no one will believe the constant battles and struggles that as a Lessness Heath community we have had to face during these unprecedented times. It is my job now to make sure that the learning on offer for your children is as engaging and informative as possible, while keeping our learners, their families and my staff as safe as I can.



Please look after yourself and each other,

Miss Bolton

Miss Bolton
Head Teacher