LEIGH

Primary School

The Green, Leigh, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 8QP

Telephone/Fax: 01732 832660

Thursday 31st December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As promised I am writing with further updates regarding the Government's announcement yesterday afternoon that Primary Schools within certain areas in Tier 4 will not be fully reopening on Monday 4th January 2021.

Although the school will not fully open on Monday 4th January, we will be open to those children who are classed as Vulnerable or those who are the children of Critical Workers. The definitions of these groups are detailed below. Those defined as Vulnerable are expected to attend full-time as usual. Those of you who are defined as Critical Workers should notify me via email on headteacher@leigh.kent.sch.uk by TOMORROW at 12pm if you need your children to be educated at school at any time throughout this period. Please note that when possible you should keep your children at home if you are a Critical Worker to ensure we can cater effectively for all those families who will rely on this service.

At Leigh Primary School we have opted to use Google Classrooms (Years 1-6) and Tapestry (Reception) as our methods of online learning for children. You child's class teacher will be in touch with you if your child does not currently have access to their Google Classroom. However if you are unsure about how to access this please do email them and they will be very happy to assist you.

These classrooms will be functioning by Monday morning and class teachers will be setting work at 9am each morning although where possible the class teachers will be setting work the previous evening so that you can access this if you so wish. Teachers will also be logging in again at 1.30pm to check on the children's progress and to answer any questions they might have. It is not our intention for children to be sitting in front of a computer screen all day and the work set will include online work, book-based learning, reading and physical exercise. Work for Squirrels Class will be set by Mrs Prockter and Mrs Cheshire and will be posted on Tapestry. Please do check Tapestry on a regular basis for updates with activities that they will be setting for the children in Squirrel Class.

If you find yourself in a position where you do not have appropriate equipment at home to allow the children to access their virtual classroom then we are happy to loan out school Chromebooks for the duration of the time the school is closed. The school will be open on Friday 1st January between 1pm-3pm for you to collect devices and also from 8.30am on Monday 4th January. However please do let us know that you are coming to collect a unit so that we are prepared for you. You can do this by emailing Mrs Burbridge on office@leigh.kent.sch.uk These will need to be signed out of the school office and returned when the school re-opens. Could we ask that if you are borrowing a Chromebook from school that this unit is looked after; we had a number of severely damaged units returned after the last lockdown and these will now unfortunately need to be replaced.

If you have something confidential you wish to discuss with your child's class teacher then please do feel free to email them and their email addresses can be found at the bottom of this letter. In addition to this we have two members of staff who have particular responsibilities for specific groups of children. Mrs Brown (SENCO) and Mrs Pearson (Pupil Welfare Leader) work with individual children for a wide range of reasons and, if your child works with either of these members of staff, please do feel free to contact them should you need guidance or advice.

For those children attending school on Monday then please note the following:

- School will open as normal from 8.30am-3.15pm. Please come to the front door rather than the village Green where you will be greeted by the member of staff on duty;
- The school is being staffed each day by qualified members of teaching staff, midday supervisors, Mrs Burbridge and myself. To maintain the integrity of the original class bubbles the children will be socially distanced in at least two classrooms so that the classes can come back together once we are allowed to fully reopen. The exact configuration of this will depend on the numbers of Vulnerable and Critical Worker children we have in school;
- We are expecting the children to be dressed in school uniform;
- At the moment, PE lessons with Mr Thacker are carrying on as normal on Tuesday morning so please do ensure the children have a PE kit with them on this day;
- At the moment we are hoping to carry on with Forest School sessions on a Friday afternoon for those children attending school. Further details will be sent out regarding this next week;

- A hot meal will **not** be provided by Principals at this time so please do send your child in with a packed lunch. If you qualify for Free School Meals, vouchers will be made available to you for you to spend at local supermarkets;
- The children will be working on the same work as those children who are not in school via their Google Classrooms or Tapestry. If you have borrowed a Chromebook and your child is not attending school 5 days a week, please ensure that Chromebook comes in with them on the days they are attending;
- No clubs or school trips will be running until further notice;
- Your child will be brought to the front door at 3.15pm where they will need to be collected;
- Even if your child is coming into school, you must continue to follow Government advice that if any one person in any household has a persistent cough or fever, everyone living there must stay at home for 10 days. If your child develops symptoms then you can book a test by clicking on the following link https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test Your child can return to school if there are no positive cases of COVID-19 in the household.

Please note that these arrangements will stay in place until further notice and as soon as there are any changes to the above then I will of course let you know. The Government have promised that there will be a full review by 18th January 2021.

Although this next step presents us with some operational challenges, I am very grateful to you all for your continued support. I understand that this recent announcement will have been met with various responses depending on your personal views on home schooling and the benefits and risks associated with children attending school throughout this pandemic. My utmost priority has always been that the children's education and emotional and mental wellbeing remains as unaffected as possible and I truly hope that the school will be fully open again before too long.

Very best wishes,

Daniel Eaton
Headteacher Leigh Primary School

Mr Eaton	Headteacher	headteacher@leigh.kent.sch.uk
Mrs Burbridge	Office Manager	office@leigh.kent.sch.uk
Mrs Andrews	School Bursar	anel.andrews@leigh.kent.sch.uk
Mrs Brown	SENCO	sally.brown@leigh.kent.sch.uk
Mrs Pearson	Pupil Welfare Leader	sazza34@gmail.com
Squirrel Class		
Mrs Prockter	Class Teacher	Tracey.Prockter@leigh.kent.sch.uk
Mrs Cheshire	Class Teacher	helen.cheshire@leigh.kent.sch.uk
Mrs Marsh	Teaching Assistant	Paula.Marsh@leigh.kent.sch.uk
Mrs Phillips	Teaching Assistant	Kirsty.phillips@leigh.kent.sch.uk
Robins Class		
Mrs Akers	Class Teacher	Emma.Akers@leigh.kent.sch.uk
Mrs White	Teaching Assistant	Sophie.White@leigh.kent.sch.uk
Fox Class		
Miss Jowett	Class Teacher	Charlotte.Jowett@leigh.kent.sch.uk
Mrs Grant	Teaching Assistant	Lucy.Grant@leigh.kent.sch.uk
Mrs Korvin	Teaching Assistant	Karen.Korvin@leigh.kent.sch.uk
Hedgehog Class		
Ms Bettridge	Class Teacher	Joanna.Bettridge@leigh.kent.sch.uk
Mrs Leeson	Teaching Assistant	Fiona.Leeson@leigh.kent.sch.uk
Hawks Class		
Mrs Halfhide	Class Teacher, Deputy Headteacher	Jenna.Halfhide@leigh.kent.sch.uk
Miss Simpson	Class Teacher	Jenny.simpson@leigh.kent.sch.uk
Mrs Tallent	Teaching Assistant	Jo.Tallent@leigh.kent.sch.uk
Wolves Class		
Mrs Short	Class Teacher, Lead Teacher	Victoria.Short@leigh.kent.sch.uk
Mrs Bone	Teaching Assistant	katie.bone@leigh.kent.sch.uk
Mrs King	Teaching Assistant	Jill.Mander@leigh.kent.sch.uk
Mrs Kirby	Teaching Assistant	Fiona.Kirby@leigh.kent.sch.uk

Critical workers

Parents whose work is critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined in the following sections.

Health and social care
This includes, but is not limited to, doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, and other frontline health and social care staff including volunteers; the support and specialist staff required to maintain the UK's health and social care sector; those working as part of the health and social care supply chain, including producers and distributors of medicines and medical and personal protective equipment.

Education and childcare
This includes:

- childcare
- support and teaching staff
- social workers
- specialist education professionals who must remain active during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response to deliver this approach

Key public services
This includes:

- those essential to the running of the justice system
- religious staff
- charities and workers delivering key frontline services
- those responsible for the management of the deceased
- journalists and broadcasters who are providing public service broadcasting

Local and national government
This only includes:
those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of the coronavirus (COVID-19) response
or delivering essential public services, such as the payment of benefits, including in government agencies and arms length bodies

Food and other necessary goods
This includes those involved in food:

- production
- processing
- distribution
- sale and delivery
- as well as those essential to the provision of other key goods (for example hygienic and veterinary medicines)

Public safety and national security
This includes:

- police and support staff
- Ministry of Defence civilians
- contractor and armed forces personnel (those critical to the delivery of key defence and national security outputs and essential to the response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak)
- fire and rescue service employees (including support staff)

National Crime Agency staff
those maintaining border security, prison and probation staff and other national security roles, including those overseas

Transport
This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass.

Utilities, communication and financial services
This includes:

- staff needed for essential financial services provision (including but not limited to workers in banks, building societies and financial market infrastructure)
- the oil, gas, electricity and water sectors (including sewerage)
- information technology and data infrastructure sector and primary industry supplies to continue during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response
- key staff working in the civil nuclear, chemicals, telecommunications (including but not limited to network operations, field engineering, call centre staff, IT and data infrastructure, 999 and 111 critical services)
- postal services and delivery
- payments providers
- waste disposal sectors

Vulnerable children and young people

Vulnerable children and young people include those who:

- are assessed as being in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, including children and young people who have a child in need plan, a child protection plan or who are a looked-after child
- have an education, health and care (EHC) plan
- have been identified as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers or local authorities (including children's social care services), and who could therefore benefit from continued full-time attendance, this might include:
- children and young people on the edge of receiving support from children's social care services
- adopted children, those at risk of becoming NEET ('not in employment, education or training')
- those living in temporary accommodation, those who are young carers
- those who may have difficulty engaging with remote education at home (for example due to a lack of devices or quiet space to study)
- others at the provider and local authority's discretion