LEIGH

Primary School

The Green, Leigh, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 8QP

Telephone/Fax: 01732 832660

Friday 29th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I'm extremely grateful to all of you who continue to assist us with online learning at home. It's been another busy week on Tapestry and Google Classrooms and it's been wonderful to see everything that the children have been up to. If you or your child are struggling with online learning at home then please do contact your child's class teacher for support and if you do not have the appropriate computer equipment, please do contact us at school and we will assist you.

This week attendance at school has stabilised at around 24% so thank you to all of you who are continuing to support us with keeping this within our operational boundaries. I'm sure you may have seen the announcement this week of the Government's intention to try and get schools open again on Monday 8th March and I'm sure this will have brought much relief as well as giving us all a sense that some semblance of normality is hopefully not too far away. As and when there are updates on this I will of course let you know.

On Wednesday 10th February we are intending to have an 'Off Screen Day'. The idea is to get children away from the online learning so that they can focus on topics such as: Nature, Life Skills, Physical Activity, Being Creative, Helping the Community and Investigating the World. The staff have put together a document which I have attached to this Newsletter so that you can have a look through and see what you would like the children to do on this day as a form of Digital Detox. A copy of the letter can also be found by clicking on the following link: https://www.leighprimaryschool.com/docs/Digital_Detox_Day_Ideas.pdf It's important to emphasise that our intention is simply to move the learning away from the screen and any of these events can be adapted to suit each family's particular circumstances. No one activity is more valid than another and we hope that everyone finds something that interests them. Please note that work will not be set on Tapestry or the Google Classrooms on this day and if you wish to share photos of the children's activities then please do this on Thursday 11th February. My particular thanks to Mrs Pearson and Mrs Halfhide for pulling this together for us and to all the staff for all their ideas.

If your child qualifies for Free School Meals then vouchers have been sent directly to you this week to cover until Friday 12th February. If you have any problems accessing these vouchers then please do contact us and we will assist you. If you would like to see if you might qualify for Free School Meals for your child then you can do this online at this address. https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/kent/

Next week is children's mental health week. Mrs Pearson, our wonderful Pupil Welfare Leader, will be posting some Wellbeing Work based around the theme of 'Express Yourself'. Please do encourage the children to take part in these really important activities in what we all know is such an important topic at the moment. Further information can also be found by clicking on the following link: https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/

Yesterday further details were sent out about the PTA's 'Fit In February' idea. This is a wonderful way of getting active as well as hopefully raising some money for the school. They are asking what daily activity can you do that will challenge you in February? Perhaps you could walk, run, cycle or scoot 28 km over 28 days. Or you could do some Yoga, PE, dance or football practice every single day for 28 minutes. Ask your family and friends to sponsor you to complete your Fit in Feb challenge. Further information can be found by clicking on the following link: https://www.leighprimaryschool.com/docs/Fit_in_Feb_poster_copy.pdf

Each week the classes are gathering together for an online event. Please note that you must give consent before we allow your child to be involved in any online events and this can be given via Arbor in the Parent Consent section.

Attached to this Newsletter is the annual Governor Newsletter. The Governing Body are an incredible set of people who work so very hard behind the scenes to ensure that everything continues to run smoothly at school. As always my thanks go to each of them for all the time they give the school and for all their challenge and support. One of the important tasks they currently have is to appoint a new Headteacher and if you have any views about the type of person you would like as the next Headteacher, please feel free to email Nicki Butler at NButler@leigh.kent.sch.uk and she will collate all the responses. The advert for the position is going live on Monday 15th February with interviews likely to be held at the end of March. The Governing Body will be in touch when there is further information regarding this appointment. A copy of the Newsletter can be found by clicking on the following link: https://www.leighprimaryschool.com/docs/Governor_Newsletter_2020_2021.pdf

I've been made aware that the NHS are offering online therapy for those adults or families who may need more professional support throughout this really difficult time. CBT is proven to be effective at treating anxiety, stress and depression and many more mental health issues. If you are interested in receiving support the further information and details can be found by clicking on the following link: https://www.iesohealth.com/en-gb

Given the importance of Online Learning at the moment we are again sending out reminders about the importance of keeping children safe online. A copy of the poster from KCC regarding keeping children safe online can be found here: https://www.leighprimaryschool.com/docs/E-Safety_Leaflet.pdf and further information, including the January 2021 Online Safety Newsletter from the Think U Know programme which we use in school can be found by clicking here: https://www.leighprimaryschool.com/Learning/E-Safety/ Further information about the Think U Know programme can be found here https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/ and if you require any further advice about Online Safety then please do contact Mrs Short or myself and we will be happy to assist you.

Fireside Tales – Short story competition! Calling all budding story writers between the ages of 7 and 16!
Leigh Performing Arts wants your stories! There are three age groups: Ages 7-9; Ages 10-12 Age 13-16.
The 3 winning stories from each category will be read live on Zoom in front of an on-line audience and will be awarded a fantastic prize! Submit your entries to Chloë Bates at leighperformingarts@gmail.com closing date is Friday 12th March 2021. You can choose what to write about, but if you need inspiration, try looking at the photo on our website, and write what you imagine is the story behind it. Stories should be no more than 700 words. Judges will be looking for creativity, ingenuity and structure, so let your imagination run wild! Please see the Leigh Performing Arts website for full details, and tips on story-writing: https://sites.google.com/view/leighperformingarts

If you and your children are missing singing in a choir at the moment then you might want to give the Young Self-Isolation Choir a try. Some of our children here at Leigh have already joined and are thoroughly enjoying being part of a larger group who are making music together. Further information about the Young Self-Isolation Choir can be found at: https://www.theselfisolationchoir.com/

Please don't forget that we are happy to swap over reading books. We have cleared the Lost Property Container and ask that you drop your child's reading books off in a plastic bag or wallet along with their reading record if they have one.

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 end 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.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend break.

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	sarah.pearson@leigh.kent.sch.uk
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