



September Newsletter



Dear Parents and Carers

As we approach the end of our first month back at school I want to share with you how proud I am of your children and Team Lyndhurst. Whilst we are working to try and ensure that things are as normal as possible for the children, inevitably they are not. The children have adapted to our new classroom layouts and the differences at lunchtime for some year groups so well. They are focusing on their learning and are producing some wonderful work - our Magnificent Work Book is now getting very full!



Year 3 have continued to amaze us with how well they have settled and had a wonderful visit to Butser Ancient Farm last week - they were an absolute credit to the school. Year 4 has been busy learning all about life under the sea and I am delighted to now have some new Year 4 artwork on my office wall. Year 5 have been loving finding out about planets and all things space related - I have very much enjoyed hearing about the facts that they find most interesting! Our Year 6 pupils are really focused on their learning and it is lovely to see them doing so well.

Your children may have mentioned that we have introduced additional activities at lunchtimes to complement football coaching. We now have dance sessions and organised games to help make lunchtimes more fun. These activities are available for all the children and it is wonderful to see them having so much fun!

Thank you to those of you who have given feedback on drop off and pick up. As a result of this we have given parents more space on the playground during the pickup times and implemented the "drop and go" in the morning. I have received a number of concerns about the lack of social distancing outside the school when parents are queuing before the drop off or pick up times - please do try to ensure that you are following the two metre guidance that is still in place from the government. Please do remember that each year group has a ten minute window - you are not late if you arrive just before the end of your slot. Those parents who are arriving say at 9:03am for the 8:55-9:05 slot have said it is so much easier than arriving at the start of the time. All we would ask is that you ensure your child arrives *before* the end of their year group slot.

I know that some of you would prefer to be able to wait on the playground rather than the pavement if you arrive before your drop-off or pick-up time. In order to ensure that the bubbles are kept separate in the mornings it is important that parents adhere to the time slot they have been given and therefore there should be little need to wait. In the afternoon, the playgrounds are used as teaching spaces, indeed as I write this at five to three I can hear the children still working on their cricket skills, so it would not be possible to open the gates early. In addition, for safeguarding reasons the gates cannot be open at the end of the day until a member of staff is available to supervise and, unfortunately, we do not have anyone able to do this. Like you, I very much miss how things used to be but this is our "new normal" for a while so please do continue to work with us. Please do feel that you are able to wear a mask for drop-off and pick-up if you would like to.



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I have received some concerns from residents on Crofton and Lyndhurst Road about our parents leaning on their garden walls or allowing younger children to sit on their walls. I know it is difficult if you have children in different year groups, and you therefore have to wait, but please can I request that we all respect the property of our neighbours.

I have also received queries as to why College Park and Lyndhurst are interpreting the government guidance in different ways. Mrs Lathem and I have worked together to ensure that our children and staff are as safe as possible and essentially the differences arise from the fact that our buildings are very different. Unlike CPIS, Lyndhurst does not have any cloakrooms and everything the children bring into school has to be stored in classrooms. Pupils have already fed back to us that they are finding that the classrooms are feeling more cramped as resources that pupils use frequently need to be kept with them in a tray. The addition of PE kits, bags etc would exacerbate this.

Huge thanks to those of you who have completed the Kids Club questionnaire. This will help us with our planning on how to open our wraparound care for CPIS and LJS. Mrs Lathem and I are looking at how we can accommodate the level of need indicated whilst ensuring we maintain the integrity of the group bubbles within both schools. As I have already said, spaces will be more limited than previously but I am committed to trying to open this provision again for families.

Thank you for your continued support of our school. Please do remember that you too are part of our Lyndhurst Family and we are still here if you need us during these strange times!

With warm wishes for a relaxing weekend

Ms Beechurst