



Newsletter

22nd January 2020

Message from the Head of School

Yesterday when I was driving to an appointment during the day, I saw numerous children walking with parents and I was struck by how different their lives are at the moment. Although the school site is open for around a third of the usual pupils, things feel very “normal” and daily routines in my own household are very much like any week during the school term. I know that this isn’t the case for the majority of families. It can be hard to adjust to lockdown and, once the novelty of a situation wears off, other challenges can arise. Please remember that we remain The Lyndhurst Family, whether the children are on site or not, and do give the school a call or email if you need support.

Times Tables Rockstars

Well done to everyone who dressed up as rock star today to celebrate the launch of Times Tables Rockstars at Lyndhurst. I am really looking forward to seeing the photos of you all at home and school! We have challenged Northern Parade Junior School to a contest—so Lyndhurst pupils need to be ready! The News will be running a piece about the launch today so do look out for it.

Live Yoga Lessons

This week saw the start of our live yoga lessons for pupils learning at home. Megan was absolutely delighted to see the children and loved that the parents joined in as well.

Live 'check ins'

Teachers have said how wonderful it was to have the live 'check-in' session with the pupils this week but want the sessions to be longer. In order to try and ensure families with children in different year groups have access to these they will need to be every other day next week with a shorter session for all classes on Friday. Please do encourage your child to participate in these as it is a great way to help them feel more connected with us.

Google Classroom and other support for remote education

Thank you to all of the parents and carers who have helped us to gather feedback on our remote learning offer. We will be sending out a survey next week to all parents and carers. As a result of parent feedback, Year 4's Google Classroom layout will change next week to match that of the rest of the school. For Year 4 parents not familiar with this layout, your child's day will follow a timetable to support you in maintaining a routine should you want to. Please do remember, that if the timetable doesn't suit your household then pupils can do the work in any order and at any time—all live sessions are recorded.

Mrs Pycroft has written to you this week regarding the collection for the additional workbooks for Year 3-5 (we are looking at something different for Year 6). This is as a result of such positive feedback from you about the homework packs. Pupils can use the new English books for short, daily activities—we'd love to see what the pupils do so, if you can, send in pictures. We will, of course look at the books when all children return to school. Pupils in school will also use these books to ensure that all of our Lyndhurst children have, as far as possible, the same opportunities.

Ensuring every child across the city has access to a digital device for remote education

Working with Shaping Portsmouth, the Portsmouth business partnership, has launched the "Digital Enablement" scheme to encourage local businesses to donate devices for use by disadvantaged pupils to support their learning at home. Please do look at the detail, which can be found on the link, if you think you may work for a business that can help: https://shapingportsmouth.co.uk/education_programme/digital-enablement/

Remember if you need help with having access to a digital device for each of your children or internet connectivity— do get in touch. The best way for all pupils to receive feedback on their work, and to stay connected with staff and peers is through Google Classroom. We understand that paper packs and books suit some families better and your wellbeing is paramount. We do, however, now have around 80% of all pupils at home accessing learning via Google Classroom— so if your child isn't yet online, and you would like them to be, do call Ms Merel.

The weather forecast for Saturday is looking promising so I will be wrapping up warm and getting some much needed fresh air. I hope you are all safe and well.

With warmest regards

Ali Beechurst