LEIGH

Primary School

The Green, Leigh, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 8QP

Telephone/Fax: 01732 832660

Friday 5th February 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 been around 23% so thank you to all of you who are continuing to support us with keeping this within our operational boundaries.

Mrs Brown has sent through some really useful documents to support children at home. Attached are some links to Speech and Language Resources, Guidance to Practical Tools to support children whose mental health is suffering due to the COVID pandemic and information on Sensory Circuits which can support children to settle into the day. Although these resources are often used for children with specific needs, they can also be used generally at home and in school to support all children.

A message from Susan Day, Festival Secretary of the Sevenoaks Three Arts Festival:
I am pleased to announce that the Syllabus for the June 2021 Video Festival is now available on our website. www.sevenoaksthreeartsfestival.co.uk Classes will be held in Speech & Drama, Piano, Singing, Woodwind & Brass, Strings and Accordion. Entries for solo and duet items will open on 28 February and entries for groups will open if and when it is considered feasible for groups to rehearse and record safely. A decision in this regard will be made by 30 April at the latest. This year all entrants will receive by email a certificate, a mark and an adjudication report by a British and International Federation of Festivals adjudicator. Although no Awards will be made, as last year the names of those achieving Distinction or better will, with permission be published on our website. We are also including an additional feature to improve the experience for our competitors. Entrants and their teachers will be able to view their entry and the other entries in their class for a limited period following adjudication. Consent can be withheld without affecting the status of your entry, but you will not be able to participate in the reciprocal viewing of other entrants in your class. All entries will again be made using the Play&Perform online entry system that will be added to our website from 28 February. Entries close on 20 May and video performances should be submitted by 31 May 2021. Performances can be captured on any digital medium such as a smart phone and there is extensive guidance on our website about making and entering your video. We want to return to a live festival in 2022, but in the meantime hope that these opportunities will encourage and inspire everyone to keep practicing and performing.

We have now set the dates for this term's Parent Consultation Meetings. These are really important meetings between parents and class teacher and I would urge you strongly to ensure you sign up for a session. The meetings will be held on Tuesday 2nd March, Wednesday 3rd March and Thursday 4th March and sign up times will be released on Arbor from Monday 8th February at 9am. As in previous 'lockdown' times, the consultations will take place via the telephone and due to the nature of how we are operating at the moment, there will not be written reports to accompany these consultations on this occasion.

Sevenoaks School have recently launched a Virtual Lego Club which may be of interest to some children. There is a new theme set each month and parents and carers will be given access to resources to support their learning. There is a registration form which needs to be completed which can be accessed via the following link and you will then automatically be sent the details of the webpage where the challenges can be accessed. https://outreach.sevenoaksschool.org/index.php?id=2368

On Wednesday 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 you can access by clicking on the link below 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. 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. **Please note that if your child is in school next Wednesday they will need their wellington boots and waterproof clothing for a nature walk in the afternoon.** 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 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/

Good luck if you are completing the PTA's 'Fit In February' challenge. This is a wonderful way of getting active as well as hopefully raising some money for the school. The PTA 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.

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

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Mrs Prockter	Class Teacher	Tracey.Prockter@leigh.kent.sch.uk
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Mrs Halfhide	Class Teacher, Deputy Headteacher	Jenna.Halfhide@leigh.kent.sch.uk
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