

Friday 18th September 2020

<http://www.lvps.co.uk>

Volume 15: Edition 2

Dear Parents, carers and pupils,

Wow, can you believe that another week has passed? They seem to be flying by! It has been so lovely this week to have the sun shining again as this has meant that we can really make the most of our wonderful grounds here at Lipson Vale.

The teachers met this week to think about our shared vision for Lipson for the next 3 years. These are very strange times for us all at the moment, and education is no different, but thinking ahead to the future gave us the opportunity to look beyond Covid-19 and think about our longer term ambition for our pupils and our community. What came across so strongly from this activity was the real drive and passion amongst the teaching staff to serve our community by ensuring ambition within our pupils; a curriculum that reflects the needs in our community; and recognising the challenges faced outside of the school building. These will all form part of our plan for the school as it moves into this new and exciting phase. We will, over the next few weeks, be also seeking your opinions on how the school can better serve its community. Exciting times indeed!

We have started the year thinking about community as a school through our assemblies. Pupils have been asked to think about what makes a community special and ways that we can all help out to make our communities a place that others will want to share in. This week we have been thinking about signs in our community of people behaving in a way that helps everyone enjoy the place that we live. Some great suggestions were offered, including litter picking, rules that keep us safe and even the way that the circus (currently at Central Park) is working hard to protect us from becoming poorly.

Teachers have been busily preparing an information letter and video for our families that will be shared through Google Classroom in the next few school days. We will also be sending your child home with their log-in details for Google Classroom so that you can access this information. From this, you will get a flavour of life in your child's new year group and get an understanding of what to expect as we move through the year. If you know that you will have difficulty accessing Google Classroom, please get in contact and we will do all we can to help you.

Winter colds seem to have set in and we are seeing more and more children off school with cold symptoms. Thank you to those parents that have been calling in to school in the morning to check whether your child is able to come in. We are more than happy to talk through the symptoms with you and discuss the guidance with you so that a decision can be made. We know that getting hold of tests is really tricky at the moment. Judith Harwood wrote to you all earlier in the week to share how frustrating this can be but also to remind you that you should only be getting a test if you have symptoms yourself—and that tests need to be booked at a centre rather than from A&E or your GP. Thank you for your continued understanding with this and for showing great determination and perseverance.

It is tricky at the moment to pass messages onto your child's teacher, with the current restrictions in place. However, we are, as always, here to help. Please drop us an email or phone into the school office and your messages will be passed on so that they can be dealt with. As I said last week, our focus at the moment is to have happy children in school and we will do everything we can to make sure that every pupil is coming into school happy and ready for the day ahead.

Keep smiling.

Take care.

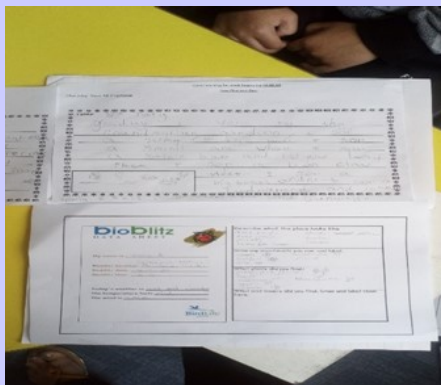
Peter Lewis-Cole (Headteacher)

Something to celebrate

During the Spring and Summer of 2020, the Foundation and Key Stage One children who attended EduCare worked towards RSPB awards. The awards encourage schools to develop an environment which birds and other animals can thrive in. At the end of the term the children achieved the gold award. Overall, they completed eighteen different challenges. Here are details of the last six they completed to achieve gold.

BioBlitz

The children identified as many living things as they could in a small area of the school grounds. Without this knowledge it is hard to know which species are rare and which might need our help.



Habitat heaps

A pile of logs, branches and stones can give shelter to all sorts of animals, including frogs and newts.



Setting up a compost heap

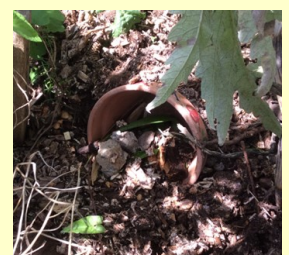
We built our own compost bin. This helps reduce the amount of rubbish we put in



the bin, as well as providing a good habitat for animals.

Homes for amphibians











In many places there are not enough natural places for toads, frogs and amphibians to hibernate over the winter months. We built a safe space for them.



Minibeast Safari

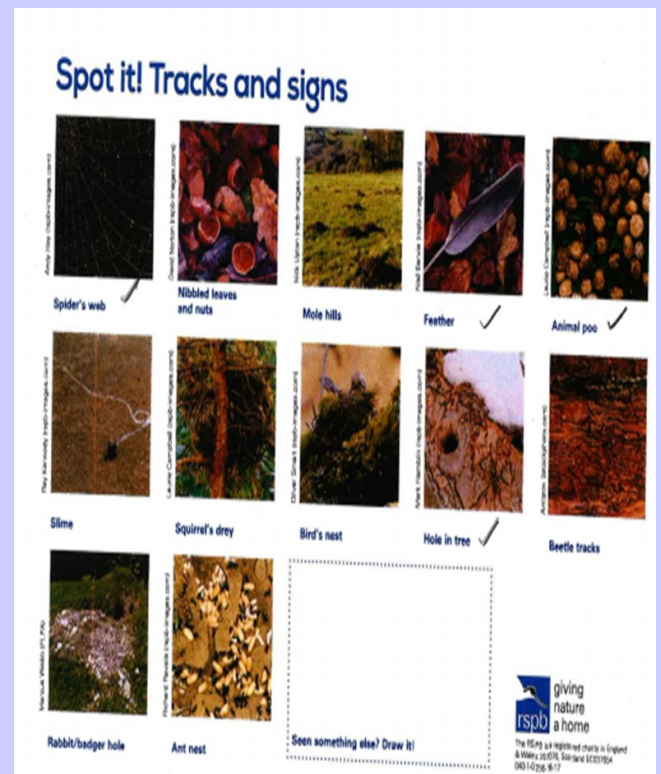
We learnt to identify and count different minibeast in the school grounds.

My Minibeast Tally Chart

 Earwig		 Aphid	
 Ladybird		 Earthworm	
 Caterpillar		 Slug	
 Spider		 centipede	
 Butterfly		 beetle	

Wildlife detecting

We looked for animal homes in our school grounds



Well done to you all.
This is an amazing achievement.

Things coming up this term...

Whilst we don't have the dates for these yet, we just wanted to let you know that we are currently working out how we will still be able to hold a Harvest celebration and Parent's Evenings this term.

As with all things at the moment, the planning is slightly more complicated than normal and we will need to make changes to make sure these takes place but in a safe and secure way. Dates and details to follow.

Attendance

We know that we are all having to be a little more cautious at the moment; however, for those pupils well enough, we still have high expectations for daily attendance.

KS1		KS2	
FJW	n/a	3F	98.3
FW	n/a	3L	95.4
1BH	98.9	4KW	98.7
1K	93.3	4P	77.7
2M	99.3	5P	95.6
2BR	98.1	5S	87.0
		6AW	97.7
		6W	98.6

Percentage attendance figures w/c 07/09/20

Well Done to **2M (KS1)**

And **4KW (KS2)**

for achieving the highest attendance last week.



Music News

This week our Year 6 music bubble orchestra met for the first time. It was very different without all of the musicians together, but the children had a great time making music and being part of an ensemble. They revisited some of the spring concert pieces and also started to learn a new piece for Harvest. Well done for your enthusiasm Year 6 musicians! It was also our first Year 5 choir bubbles session yesterday. Wow, you were so enthusiastic, what a great, positive start to the day! Recordings will be added soon to our website.

Next week it will be the children from the Year 5 bubble who will meet for orchestra at 08.30 and Year 4 for choir at 08.40. Don't forget, both events will take place in the hall.

Music lessons will begin next week: guitar, flute, cornet and clarinet are on Monday and Tuesday. Piano and keyboard are Monday. Drum lessons are on Thursday and Violin lessons are on Friday.

