

Dear Parents, carers and pupils,

Well, here we are at the end of the first week of the new school year. I can honestly say that I am one very proud headteacher! Not only have I received the warmest of welcomes from the staff and our families but it has also been a really successful week with us all adapting to new routines in and around school. I cannot thank my staff enough for adapting to the new routines with such positivity and for giving all of our pupils a happy and calm start back. However, a huge thanks also goes to you, our families, who have showed great patience and understanding of the new routines and why we need to have them at these times.



We have welcomed lots of new pupils into school this week—those starting school for the first time and those who have moved to join our wonderful school family. The whole school extends a very warm welcome to you all. As you get settled in, please do let us know if there is anything that we can help with to make your start with us as smooth and stress free as possible.

Between seeing in the new children joining us, I have loved popping into all classrooms across the week. You will all be so amazed at how brilliantly the children have come back into school and the focus that they are already showing in their reconnection with school. As a staff team we have been doing a lot of thinking about how we support all of our pupils to reconnect with school: reconnect with the school as a community; reconnect with learning; and reconnect with each other. We understand that lockdown has been both challenging and unsettling for our pupils and we have focused this week on settling them back in with a theme of 'Together We Achieve' - ask your child what they have been up to this week in class.

We are not 'testing' pupils as they return to school. Instead, we are asking our pupils to complete tasks and quizzes that will give us a clear understanding of what they have remembered and where they are in their learning so that we can plan future learning to deepen their understanding and build on what they already know. I have seen some great tasks taking place this week: from poetry in year 6, maths challenges in year 5, understanding difference in people in year 3, and excellent use of phonics in year 2.

We have also been planning how we will be able to continue supporting our pupils if they are unable to be in school because of Covid-19. On the next page there is some useful information for parents about how this will happen and how we can get set up. Mr Petty has been busy putting some videos together for you which I have shared with you.

Whilst we are not able to have parents in school at the moment, teachers are busy preparing some information for you as an introduction to the new school year. They will be putting together a short video introducing themselves and will be sharing a letter with you. This will be through Google Classroom. If you have any problems accessing this, please get in touch and we will do our best to help you out. This information will be with you by the end of next week.

Thank you, again, for a smooth return to school for everyone. I hope that we can continue to work together as we look forward to a successful year for Lipson Vale.

I truly hope that you have a wonderful weekend and the sun continues to shine.

Take care.

Peter Lewis-Cole (Headteacher)

Virtual Learning

As a school, we want to be able to continue to provide our pupils with opportunities for learning—even if they are not able to be in school because they are self-isolating or we need to close a bubble because we have a confirmed case.

So that we are able to get learning to pupils quickly, we will be using Google Classroom for pupils in Year One through to Year Six. Some of you may be familiar with Google Classroom already but for others it will be brand new. Don't panic—we will be teaching children to use Google Classroom in school and they will be given some chances to practise.

Mr Petty has created two videos that will help you to get started—either scan the QR code or click on it to be taken to these. These videos are to help parents and families get to know Google Classroom and how we will be using it.

Parents Videos



SCAN ME

What will happen if your child is not able to be in school?

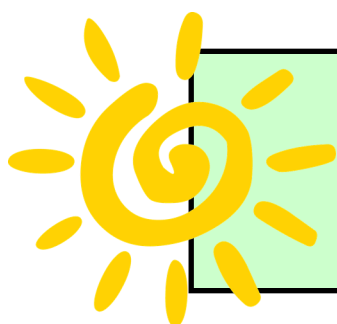
If your child can't be in school for reasons connected to Covid-19 (they are self-isolating or have tested positive) and are well enough to complete school work, their class teacher will set them 'assignments' through Google Classroom. These will most likely be links to lessons online so that they can be completed to fit around your day and other priorities. We will be providing as much of the curriculum as we can through Google Classroom in this way. Teachers will also make contact with your child to check how they are getting on.

What will happen if a whole bubble is sent home?

If we need to send a whole bubble home because we have a confirmed case, learning will be provided for all pupils in this bubble through Google Classroom. Assignments will be set with links to online lessons. Teachers will be available to give feedback and help out if there are any issues.

What would happen if you don't have a computer to access Google Classroom?

Don't panic. We are able to get hold of some laptops that can be loaned to you whilst you are not able to be in school. Get in contact with us if you don't have a laptop, WIFI or other hardware that is needed to access virtual learning.



"The sun has got his hat on"

The weather is going to get hot next week (Yes, in September!), so please make sure that you put sun cream on before school and, if you do bring sun cream in with you, make sure it is labelled clearly with your child's name. Sun hats too please.

-----A Rainbow of Hope by 6W

Terrible news - a global pandemic.
Lockdown.

Clueless about what will happen,
Panic buying leads to bare shop shelves,
And empty, desolate streets,
Whilst cancelled holidays fill people with sorrow.
Isolated, depressed and lonely,
With fearful thoughts of death,
Lost and without hope,
Missing friends and family,
A despairing negativity fills the air,
The world is troubled.

Behind the gloom, a silver lining peeps through...
It is time to reconnect with the earth,
As a greater awareness of the world emerges,
Healing the planet.

A reduction in pollution leads to clearer skies,
Liberating wildlife, as their natural habitats return,
A world full of delightful birdsong.
People take time to learn new skills,
Exercising their mind and body,
Whilst creativity replaces boredom.

Virtually coming together with loved ones,
Making new memories,
Supporting one another is a gift to the community.
People respecting others and sharing possessions,
Forming unbreakable bonds,
As less crime takes place, more love is shown.
Thanking the life-saving NHS by clapping to express our gratitude,
Fund-raising heroes, selfless in their efforts
Caring for the vulnerable and elderly.

Working together to keep our planet safe,
We must try to make the world a better place,
For future generations to be proud.
Let the Earth breathe again,
Make every moment count,
Build positive mental happiness.

This is our new beginning for making memories.
Remember, when times are tough, there is always **hope.**