



NEWS & VIEWS

Achievement & Enjoyment

Headteacher: Mr S Bowsher



Headteacher's Comment:

This week the Prime Minister announced that schools will not reopen until at least 8th March. I know many of you will have been disappointed to hear this as after half term was the date we were hoping to be back. However, I will look on the positive (if that is the right word) side of this and at a few more positive things.

Firstly, all it really means is an extra two weeks of home schooling. I know this may sound a lot, but we have now done 4 weeks. There are two weeks until half term, then a much-needed break for everyone and then 2 weeks. Hopefully at this point the government can say children can return to school. COVID case numbers continue to fall and in Brentwood they are now much lower so we are heading in the right direction.

Another plus is that all primary schools, like secondary schools, have now started twice weekly home testing of staff for COVID. This will hopefully make it safer for everyone when we do return.

We have given out a number of laptops to families who did not have access to a tablet or laptop and all families are now online. The DfE provided us with some, we have had some donated by the Pilgrim's Hatch Community Partnership and we have purchased some ourselves. We don't have an endless supply, but if you are only accessing the learning via a mobile phone as you have no other device at home, please get in touch so we can see what we can do. Similarly, if children are having to share a device let us know. The same applies to the internet. I know some networks are letting you get extra data for tablets for free, but we also have a number of routers available to help connect people to the internet.

I was in a meeting this week with other school leaders and we were talking about school values and vision. We have *Achievement and Enjoyment* written everywhere around the school – it is at the top of this page too. It sums up what Larchwood is about. Achieving our best, but enjoying school. This needs to apply to home learning as well. I'm not suggesting you paint '*Achievement and Enjoyment*' all over your house, but it is worth keeping it in mind. Yes, the work needs to be done for children to achieve, but they need to be enjoying home learning as do you all.

In terms of achievement, each week the teachers send me some excellent home learning to tweet and I know that it is really hard for them to choose the work, but it is lovely to see how well everyone is working and all the fantastic things going on. This week I've been sent some of the home learning, not to tweet, but just because it is amazing. I've also spoken to a few of the children at home about how good their work is. Well done everyone.

As well as the daily work set for the children we have started sending home a number of additional activities. These are completely optional but will hopefully give you something else to do that is enjoyable. A few examples of these are listed on the next page:

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1. Don't forget to sign up for the RSPB Great Garden Bird Watch this weekend at <https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/>
2. Miss Dow sent home some simple lockdown recipes to try at home. Let us know how they go if you do any.
3. Miss Rimmer has suggested a number of activities to help relax and for mindfulness which were put on Teams and Tapestry today. They have also been emailed to parents. It's not just children these are good for. She will be sharing via class teachers different things every Monday and Friday to do that are not learning based.
4. I shared via twitter a colour walk from the Tate last weekend. You can see it here <https://www.tate.org.uk/kids/make/cut-paste/go-on-colour-walk>. It looks like a really fun thing to do.
5. If you haven't watched one of Mr Collins-Duncan's PE videos yet log onto Teams or Tapestry and find the link to the YouTube video. They are excellent and really help develop key skills. Thursday's one can be found here: <https://youtu.be/GHIR2TKSjH0>

Hopefully that will be enough to keep you busy for the next few days and will provide some enjoyment.

Governor Election

The parent governor election is now open. Please see the letter that was sent out yesterday and remember to vote. The results will be announced after voting closes on Thursday 11th February.

Parent Consultations

We are due to have parent consultations in the last week of half term. Last time this was organised in the usual way but was held on the phone. Since we can't send out booking slips we have subscribed to School Cloud as an academy trust. This is an online booking system that then allows us to have video appointments. It is really easy to use and I used it for one of my own daughter's parent consultation last week. We will be discussing how your child is getting on with home learning and what they are doing well. Our roles may be reversed a little as you have now been acting as the teacher to a larger extent and we may feel more like you do as parents! Details will be with you next week.

Well done everyone for another successful week. Have a great weekend.



Stars of the Week

RS	RT	1P	1PR	2B	2G	3A
Grace Marlowe	William	Bodie Sophie	Gruffydd	Freddie Lucca	Reggie	Izzy
3B	4D	4K	5R	5S	6PA	
Ellis Lillie-Mai	Riley	Bella Bradley	Ella	David	Belle Ben	



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