



Number 2
Friday, 18 September 2020

LPPS Newsletter

Web: www.ladygrove-park.oxon.sch.uk

Email: office.2609@ladygrove-park.oxon.sch.uk

Phone App: Search "School Jotter"

Foundation Stage: Under the strangest of circumstances, involving individual Zoom calls and one at a time drop off, the newest Ladygroves began in Reception on Monday, on Wednesday and then altogether today. Congratulations to all the children and to the parents for their very calm approach to this unusual beginning. There was some anxiety from the parents but the children were all smiles by the time they settled. My congratulations to everyone for the rapid settling, nevertheless, the school remains vigilant for the emotions of the new children since sometimes they can dip a little when they realise they are supposed to continue coming to school and it's not just a one off visit!

For those parents who are brand new to us, please take the time to navigate to the previous newsletter from last week which outlines the usual start of year school information. www.ladygrove-park.oxon.sch.uk> Letters and Blog> Newsletters

House Captains: Congratulations to our new house captains in Year 6: Ollie and Molly for Oak, Sanjeev and Amelia for Willow and Harry and Hannah for Beech. They are beginning their work with me via their own Google Classroom. They also began collecting house point scores which we hope to announce for the first time on Monday.

Congratulations to all the staff and children for getting back in to routine and starting the new year with positivity and resilience.

Covid update: I'd like once again to thank everyone for working together with us and appreciating the difficulty in navigating this period. Thank for your support, especially since we understand the difficulties for you when managing timings and co-ordinating your children. Your understanding that we are still learning as we go is really appreciated along with your approach when accepting our temporary plans.

Current picture: Last week we saw very high attendance followed by a small proportion of absences for colds or similar. Of course, a number of children therefore displayed some of the symptoms we need to monitor more closely and wait for the return of a negative test result at home. This week we have seen the number of high temperatures and coughs settle around single figures (compared to a school roll of 411) and these children are returning on average 2-3 days after leaving with symptoms, mainly due to the testing backlog. At time of print, we continue not to have any positive tests within the student and staff body. The rare incidence of positive results in a couple of local households are being dealt with through correct isolation protocols in those households.

Social distancing: The challenge of this pandemic is that everyone needs to work together with the guidelines and what we currently know, we are all somewhat still in the dark and the best approach is the all-in-this-together/ team ethic. This is a part of our school motto which addresses 'collaboration', we have highlighted the value in classes, especially when children inadvertently forget their distancing. As expected, social distancing is a tricky one for some children, they need continuous reminding because it is often against their nature to stay distant from their friends. We continue to remind all of the importance of this, even if the implications are not visible.

As with many public settings, it is difficult for us to enforce our guidance on visiting adults, we hope that everyone does their best to keep to our protective measures including making use of the large outdoor area to stay distant and abiding by staggered drop off times to ensure there are no bottlenecks formed.

When walking around our site, keep a mask handy for times when it seems distancing between adults is narrowing. We have enough outdoor space for social distancing and we have staggered drop offs and pick ups in such a way that there is minimal overlap as long as everyone drops off/picks up in a timely fashion (unavoidable lateness etc accepted). Please also remember that you can line up on the left or the right of the side gate (Tyne Avenue) and take turns entering.

Testing and Advice: We have now discussed individual circumstances with many, many parents and while we can share thoughts we can't give a second opinion based on any reported story of events, such as what might have happened over a weekend. Please use your best judgement in these cases. Nevertheless, we've made an expanded flow chart which might help with the most common queries and your decision making. We are aware that all circumstances vary but this chart might form a good starting point.

Oxfordshire's Medical Director has just written to schools with advice to give to parents: "Please note that the UK's "pillar 1" testing strategy (of symptomatic individuals, households, and symptomatic children of key workers) is CENTRALLY administered. Access to this is via the website NHS.uk or the DHSC Department for Health and Social Care's "119" telephone line." They have asked schools to inform parents not to contact your GP, Out of hours service or A+E to try to obtain tests.

We are aware of the issue obtaining tests. Our best current advice (recycled from what parents are telling us) is that arranging local test appointments is quicker than trying to get one posted to you.

We know that there is a vast difference in response times for gaining tests and obtaining results even depending on the time of day you apply. We sympathise with those who are forced to isolate at home with their child even after the symptom has retreated but no test result is forthcoming. I'm sure you will understand that we have to follow the guidance on isolation for current safety with the unknown.

When phoning us about absence please be clear whether your child is ill with symptoms or not, so we can monitor the possible issues accurately.

Friday finishing: We are very aware of the difficulty for some of you around staggered school timings and we have discussed the 2 hour earlier closing on Fridays with this as a key consideration pitted against the health risks in bubble sharing. We have today made the decision to continue early closing on Friday to the October half term (ie. another 3 weeks- 6 in total). We appreciate the difficulties this poses for all but the risks remain high otherwise. One of the key risks is that wider bubble sharing of staff caused by normal PPA routines (the statutory practice of teachers having 10% of their week as non contact in school time for activity including Planning, Preparation and Assessment) could lead to us closing more bubbles, more rapidly if a case impacts on these staff and therefore your children. You will be aware from the news that some schools are beginning to see domino effect problems for bubbles, siblings, transitional staff, staff with children in other schools, families in multiple schools and many more cross pollination issues with isolation. These two hours a week mitigate many of the risks of closure and children continue to receive the full school timings each week through timetable alterations in the school day. To be clear this early closing remains an exception due to the circumstances, lack of coherent testing and rising cases nationally. It is temporary and certainly not regarded as a new norm.

We are exploring reverting timings for after half term, we will inform you as soon as we can but we are also mindful that changing our guidance might cause confusion and that the national picture may change either way.

Learning at home (lockdown, isolation and illness): We have contingency plans in place for remote learning if we are forced to return to those trickier times of lockdown. We will post the procedure online if we find it necessary and in good time. However, the government have explained in their 'tier' approach that primary schools will be one of the last settings to close in any version of a return to lockdown. In the near future, any school closure would occur on a case by case basis rather than by national direction. If your child is healthy but isolating because of a household case, teachers will continue to signpost and engage with them online through the Google Classrooms.

If they are symptomatic, we will 'check in' but won't engage as much because they need to get better first!

Resources: Government guidance describes how the sharing of resources such as pencils, balls and contact between objects is allowable within a bubble/class because risk is mitigated by the other proactive measures such as washing hands after use/ not touching faces.

Free School Meals (FSM): If you are in receipt of benefit support from the Government you may be entitled to Free School Meals (FSM). It is important to make the school aware of this as they receive funding from the Government for families that qualify for FSM; if you think this relates to you please speak to Sarah or Heather in the office as we can check whether you are eligible. **Please note this is different to universal free school meals.**

A series of online webinars and support for parents and carers supporting children and young people with autism are available. Please click here for further details

<https://witherslackgroup.cmail19.com/t/ViewEmail/t/5E51A4B17363E45A2540EF23F30FEDED/E778E5B78568BE28A4A88C2FAEAC43DE>

Cake Crumbly Dates: For parents new to our school *Cake Crumbly* is a way year groups fund raise money by selling cakes. This normally happens on a Thursday on a year group rota basis. On the date your child's year group has their cake crumbly we ask parents to donate cakes to sell in the courtyard after school for 30p per cake. This is temporarily suspended due to Covid restrictions.

NOTICES ...

Reminder: Admissions to school (Academic Year 21/22): If your child was born between 1st September 2016 and 31st August 2017 you must apply for a school place for your child for entry in the academic year September 2021. You will be able to apply on-line from 3rd November 2020. Please visit www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/admissions for further information. NB The deadline line date for online applications is 15th January 2021.

Please remember the following:-

- It is the responsibility of parents/carers to apply for a school place by the deadline of 15 January 2021
- If your child is attending nursery classes within a primary school, you must still apply for a place in the main school
- You can list three different schools in order of preference. We strongly advise you to use all three preferences
- We advise you to enter your catchment (or designated) school as one of your preferences
- Attending your catchment school does not entitle you to free home to school transport if it is not your closest school and / under 2 miles away
- If your application is late, you are far less likely to get a place at one of your preferred schools.

Click on this link for easy access to OCC website <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/schools/apply-school-place>

Reminder: Admissions to Secondary School:

Year 6 parents can now apply on line for secondary schools and the closing date is 31st October 2021.

Remember, to ensure your child transfers to the school that you consider most appropriate, you must apply before the closing date.

Please visit secondary schools websites for information about 'virtual' tours/parent meetings. Click on this link for easy access to OCC website. <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/schools/apply-school-place/secondary-school>

For transport information click on this link <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/schools/travelling-school>

Please remember that each Friday we finish early at:-

Reception 1pm	Years 5, 3, & 1 1.10pm	Year 6, 4 & 2 1.20pm
--------------------------------	---	---

Andrew Markham and the school team

PG ratings (NON PERMISSION slip)

At various times through the year we will use **video clips/DVDs** to enhance our curriculum. The clips/DVDs are either suitable for all ages (U) or will, on occasions, be a PG. All PG films will be vetted for their content before showing them to the children. We would like your permission to allow your child to watch a PG film. Please email us OR complete the slip below only **if you are not** willing to allow your child to watch a pre checked PG film in school.

✂.....

Child's name:..... Class:.....

I **DO NOT** give permission for my child to watch a PG rated film in school.

Signed:..... Date:.....



Didcot Girls' School
Committed to Excellence



Virtual Open Evening
Wednesday 30th September
4:30pm and 6pm



To book a place visit: <http://www.didcotgirls.oxon.sch.uk/327/open-events-and-admissions>
Information about our interactive open events can also be found here



ST BIRINUS SCHOOL

Inspiring excellence through Care, Courtesy and Commitment

Remote Open Evening

Tuesday 29th September 2020 6-7pm or 7.30 - 8.30pm

To book your place on one of the Remote Open Evening presentations or to book a conversation with the

Headteacher to discuss admissions, please contact

admissions@st-birinus.oxon.sch.uk

You are warmly invited to join us for our Virtual Year 6 Open Events:

Open Evening: Thursday 1st October

Open Mornings: Mon 12th, Tues 13th, Wed 14th,
Thurs 15th, Fri 16th October

Visit www.aureusschool.org/548/open-events

to register to attend one of these events

Please note that the Open Mornings will be the same as the Open Evening so you will not need to book onto both.

#creatingfutures #schoolofchoice #achievegreatness #workhard

