

# Parent Update (Spring Term 2021)

## 12/2/2021 Update

### Mental Health

#### **Peer Mentors**

Congratulations to our new peer mentors. These are Year 5 pupils who will be available to support anyone in Year 4 or lower who would like a peer friend to look out for them. There are 6 Peer Mentors: Archie, Aalaya, Olivia B, Olivia P, Katie and Sienna. All the applications for the role were completed very thoughtfully, making the selection process very hard. In fact, we decided to engage all the other applicants as well. Therefore we will be setting up a Peer Mentor Classroom- this will work like the Story Telling Classroom but contributions will be made by all the Peer Mentors applicants. Hopefully, these contributions will include ideas to make you happy, moral stories and messages of positivity.

#### **And for the adults:**

Please find below information about Lucinda Powell's Wellbeing Workshop for parents. It will take place on 24th February at 8-9pm. There are 25 places for the live session but a recording of the session will also be available to all afterwards.

Request a place here: <https://forms.gle/hDe3U1bDV27cWW6p6>

#### Workshop outline from Lucinda:

Ever wondered whether optimism is something we are born with or if you, as parents, can influence how optimistic your child is? The things that you say to your child, the behaviours you encourage (or not), the questions you ask, the obstacles you remove and the behaviours you model all affect optimism in your child(ren). This webinar will give you a toolkit of practical ideas to try at home to boost optimism, resilience and ultimately wellbeing.

Lucinda was a psychology teacher for 15 years but now works as an educational consultant, study skills tutor and coach for young people and parents. She has a particular passion for mental health and wellbeing and regularly speaks at school events and webinars on this topic. As a parent of 3 boys, two of whom have special educational needs, she is well aware of the challenges parents face going through the educational system. She runs a [Facebook group](#) supporting parents with children in secondary school.

## Parent Update (Spring Term 2021)

**OPEN PRIMARY SCHOOL NETWORK  
EVENT**

**10 WAYS TO  
IMPROVE  
WELLBEING AT  
HOME**

with Lucinda Powell

**FEB. 24 | 8 PM - 9PM  
ONLINE**

Some practical ideas to boost wellbeing in  
your home, help build positive habits and  
allow your children to thrive.

**BOOK YOUR PLACE**

**GIVE BACK TO THE  
COMMUNITY**

This one hour webinar will cover 10  
practical ways you and your family  
can improve your wellbeing, develop  
resilience and encourage optimism.  
During these challenging times this  
has never been more important. As  
parents there are many simple things  
we can do to encourage positive  
thinking that will set them up for life.

PLACES ARE LIMITED SO PLEASE BOOK YOUR SLOT VIA THE  
LINK ON THIS EMAIL

### Try Something New 5

This week the final video for Try Something New focused on 'Drawing Something New':

<https://youtu.be/rCohPhQvO5g>

### For half term- message from CBBC

There has been a revamp to the [CBBC YouTube Channel](#). We think your pupils and parents may be interested in this for entertainment at half term and outside of home-schooling hours.

We are uploading videos to it daily that are suitable for 5-11 year olds. We have all the top CBBC brands, with a wide range of genres from factual shows, news, dramas, comedy to entertainment. Programmes like Horrible Histories, Blue Peter, Newsround, The Next Step, Saturday Mash-Up, Operation Ouch, the Playlist, the Dumping Ground, Heirs of the Night and Jamie Johnson. We are also welcoming back Dani Harmer in the brilliant new programme My Mum Tracy Beaker.

### Looking forward: Second Half of Spring Term

We will begin a fresh Parent Update next half of term in anticipation of renewed strategic plans from the government and the return to full opening, hopefully for the final time.

Remember to complete the survey again this week: <https://ladygrove-park.feedback/parent-survey>

## Parent Update (Spring Term 2021)

Although it feels like more of a pause than an actual holiday we hope that you find time for yourself and your family to rest and stay safe next week.

### 5/2/2021 Update

#### Try Something New

**Week 4 focused on 'Play'**. See the latest video here:

<https://youtu.be/wl2uHklyl2Y>

Congratulations also to all those who we know are joining in but choose not to post their picture. A new TSN focus comes out today introduced in an assembly video by Mrs Barringer.

#### Year 5 Peer Mentors

The opportunity is now open for **Year 5s** to become **Peer Mentors**. If you are in Year 5 please see my video assembly about this opportunity in your classroom. If you are interested, here is the application form for the role.

<https://forms.gle/TkecXVWLCzSVYnw76>

#### More Mental Health help

Ladygrove and our partner schools will be hosting an online workshop for parents focused on Well Being on 24th February, run by Lucinda Powell. Lucinda (a child psychologist and trained teacher) worked with us 3 years ago when we spearheaded the Mental Health agenda at school. Our school will have 25 spaces available for the live workshop BUT, don't worry, **the recording of the workshop will be made available to you all afterwards**. More information will follow as soon as we get the links for you to apply.

Here are some further **resources with the mental health focus** from Sarah Cheetham our Learning Mentor:

Suggestions for picture books to help support children going through challenging situations and dealing with big feelings. Includes books about bereavement, anxiety and behaviour.

<https://www.littleparachutes.com/parachute-book/>


Parent help page from Young Minds, lots of advice and ideas tailored to Coronavirus and lockdown situations as well as more generally.


<https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/for-parents/>


More below:


## Parent Update (Spring Term 2021)

### 8 WAYS TO HELP CHILDREN STRUGGLING DURING LOCKDOWN

- 

**1 Know how to spot the signs**  
If you notice your child is becoming withdrawn, that there's been a change in sleeping or eating habits, if they seem to lack confidence or get upset, it might be a sign they're struggling.
- 

**2 Talk to your child**  
If you spot signs your child might be struggling, it's important to talk to them. Keep talking and trying to communicate in any way you can – hugging, listening to them, texting them.
- 

**3 Create structure and routine**  
Try introducing a rota or loose timetable that includes fun things you're doing during the week. This can help to create a feeling of stability, which can alleviate anxiety.
- 

**4 Give children a sense of control through information**  
Look online with your children to find useful information and resources that help children feel they have control.

### 8 WAYS TO HELP CHILDREN STRUGGLING DURING LOCKDOWN

- 


**5 Keep children learning**  
Using fun and creative ways at home to learn alongside continued access to educational opportunities will support your children's development.
- 

**6 Limit screen time and mix up activities**  
As most socialising moves online, it's important to have conversations on how an increase in screen time can have an impact on everyone's mental health and self-esteem.
- 


**7 Help your child manage stress**  
If you spot signs your child might be struggling, it's important to talk to them. Keep talking and trying to communicate in any way you can – hugging, listening to them, texting them, etc.
- 

**8 Expressing feelings doesn't have to be face-to-face**  
Children might find it easier writing their thoughts down, so the whole family could do this and put them in a 'feelings box' and then talk about their good, sad or difficult feelings at the end of the day.

### THE STRESS RELIEF GIRAFFE



OUT OF CONTROL	<b>WHAT YOUR CHILD CAN DO:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Calm breathing exercises</li> <li>Use visualisation meditation techniques</li> <li>Body tightening exercises (progressive muscle relaxation)</li> <li>Sigh to become fully present in the moment</li> <li>Practice music therapy</li> <li>Change location / surroundings</li> <li>Use a stress ball / fidget toy</li> <li>Give themselves a 10-second hug to boost their mood</li> <li>Colour, draw, write, craft, etc.</li> <li>Practice positive self-talk / words of affirmation</li> <li>Exercise</li> <li>Go outside</li> <li>Play</li> <li>Hydrate with water</li> </ul>
SCARED OF LOSING CONTROL	
NERVOUS	
UNSURE	
CALM	





## Parent Update (Spring Term 2021)



### **NHS Every Mind Matters**

[www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters](http://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters)

This website offers a range of mental health advice as well as an interactive quiz that's designed to help you feel more in control of your emotional/mental wellbeing.

### **Kooth**

[www.kooth.com](http://www.kooth.com)

This site contains free mental health support with their online counsellors. It is a free sign up service that has resources such as discussion boards, helpful tips/articles written by young people and an option for them to write mood journals & set positive goals.

### **Childline**

[www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)

A mental health charity for children & young people that has a wide variety of helpful videos, games and articles. They have a free telephone helpline (0800 1111) and message boards where young people are encouraged to share experiences and support each other in a positive way.

### **Papyrus**

[www.papyrus-uk.org](http://www.papyrus-uk.org)

A mental health charity dedicated to preventing young suicide by providing support and resources for young people and their families. They have their "Hopeline" (Call: 0800 068 4141 / Text: 078600 39967 / Email: [pat@papyrus-uk.org](mailto:pat@papyrus-uk.org)) for children and young people who are experiencing thoughts of suicide, or for anyone concerned for a young person that could be thinking about suicide.

### **Calm Harm**

An app to help teenagers manage/resist the urge to self harm by providing a wide range of distraction techniques.

### **Combined Minds**

This app contains psycho-education for parents, families & friends with practical advice on how to provide mental health support to children & young people.

### **Cove**

A relaxing musical app that helps people try to capture their mood and express it by making music within the program and capturing it in a journal format. Note: you do not need to know how to play an instrument to use this app.

### **Stem4**

[www.stem4.org.uk](http://www.stem4.org.uk)

A charity that promotes positive mental health in teenagers as well as encouraging them to build resilience and manage difficult emotions via online resources.

### **YoungMinds**

[www.youngminds.org.uk](http://www.youngminds.org.uk)

A mental health charity that gives help and advice for young people, as well as encouraging them to get involved in fundraising/campaigning to raise awareness for children & young people's mental health.

### **Samaritans**

[www.samaritans.org](http://www.samaritans.org)

A charity that offers mental health support & information online for everyone. Their helpline is free and available to all ages. Call 116 123 or email [jo@samaritans.org](mailto:jo@samaritans.org) 24/7.

### **Child Bereavement UK**

[www.childbereavementuk.org/young-people](http://www.childbereavementuk.org/young-people)

A site which has resources for young people who are grieving, as well as providing information & advice to families/professionals on how to best support a young person who is bereaved. A helpline is also available on 0800 028840.

### **Clear Fear**

An app to help children & teenagers manage anxiety through distraction & helpful activities.

### **Calm**

A mindfulness app that includes various relaxing sounds to listen to as well as "sleep stories" & some guided meditations.

### **Headspace**

A mindfulness app that has more of a "podcast feel" to it with various talks, guided meditations and helpful videos available.

## Parent Update (Spring Term 2021)

### Most recent Covid spread analysis for Ladygrove

Cases reported to school: following the spike in the first half of January cases have decreased each week and we currently have a small number of pupils isolating due to symptoms in their household (bearing in mind not all cases might have been reported to us).

However, data from NHS for last week show 9 positive cases in Ladygrove which (per 100k population) means Ladygrove currently has a lower rate than most of the Didcot area.

### Survey Results

<https://ladygrove-park.feedback/parent-survey>

The survey about remote learning opened last Friday. It is a continuous survey from which we take weekly snapshots. We ask simply: "How was remote learning this week?"

59% said Good or Great

32% said OK

9% said Not Good or worse.

A large proportion of replies were positive about the use of Zoom/live contact, useful routines and daily structure of work, the variety/range of work and the amount of work.

The difficulties came from those who had trouble trying to get their child engaged, having resistance to doing work or a low focus.

As expected, where parents have a strong feeling and opinion, there is a clear polarisation. For example: for a parent who states they are overwhelmed by the school activity online there is someone else who thinks there is not enough of it. This leads to us continuing to navigate through the middle, continuing to empathise acutely with your situation and giving tailored attention where possible.

Thank you for giving us the constructive feedback as we all continue to master these unwanted but temporary circumstances. Survey feedback was also analysed for any specific trend in replies and teachers continue to discuss this with us to modify approaches where necessary.

### Looking Ahead- 8th March

We are all now very experienced in the twists and turns of this pandemic and we know it's difficult to predict even the short term future. However, we are working on the expectation of return to school by 8th March. During the previous return, we learnt through continuous monitoring and evaluation that the children generally came back eager to get involved, eager to re-socialise and very responsible when it comes to the temporary rules imposed due to protective measures. We will tailor the next return with this in mind, as well as being mindful where some children usually have higher anxiety this might be exacerbated.

## Parent Update (Spring Term 2021)

We expect to adjust the parent survey nearer that time, to gain a view of the childrens' state of mind for their return but we know already that the main issue is that they miss seeing their friends, which sits as a priority alongside accelerating academic progress on their return.

We will send out fresh guidance which will cover all operational matters for our return as soon as we know more about the national picture and expectations.

### 29/1/2021 Update

The latest **Try Something New** (TSN) videos are now on Youtube (unlisted links):

Week 2 (Music) <https://youtu.be/CkwzH77QPzo>

Week 3 (Build) <https://youtu.be/sgGGIZWbwm4>

and Week 1 (Food) is on the link in the update below.

The spring Year 6 **House Captains** were announced in a special assembly today. Well done to Molly M, Rufus, Paige, Theo, Poppy and James in Year 6. They will be working online in their modified House Captain roles until we all get back onsite. Thank you again to the outgoing captains who carried out their roles so well given the circumstances. And, as ever, those in Year 6 who weren't successful this time, stay resilient, there are always more opportunities for those who keep trying.

Thank you to those of you who have taken up precious time to send us positive and useful messages. It is great to get the positive feedback and we always carefully consider all other constructive feedback, all of which is passed on to the staff where relevant.

Now, as an additional temperature check and to continue to refine these new approaches, the below **survey** is live. It is specially designed to be a very quick survey which is repeated weekly so we can judge how things are going and if views are changing. There will be further surveys specifically for the children to do in the near future.

<https://ladygrove-park.feedback/parent-survey>

Following guidance, school will be entirely **closed for half term** (15th-19th February) with no remote learning or any onsite critical worker or vulnerable child attendance. We hope that this gives you some opportunity to step back and spend time on other activities or just get a rest.

### 22/1/2021 Update

Our appreciation goes out to the whole community for their efforts at this time. We know that everyone is feeling the strain of the circumstances and the currently uncertain timeline. We continue to be mindful of the complete spectrum of family home circumstances with our blend of synchronous and asynchronous provision but we greatly appreciate how everyone is remaining positive and doing whatever they can. We continue to review and modify approaches where necessary. It's worth repeating- do only what you can and get support when you need to. Likewise, if your child is enjoying

## Parent Update (Spring Term 2021)

and thriving in the current climate, make use of all the extra activities and signposts to other opportunities (such as those below and those given by your child's teacher).

### Section 1: Remote Learning

#### **Try Something New (TSN) Challenges**

You can see last week's video (**Food Week**) here (unlisted link):

<https://youtu.be/vYGAXd682Yk>

This week's video (**Music Week**) will be presented by Mrs Barringer during today's assembly. She will also introduce your challenge for next week, if you'd like to join in.

It's still necessary to be strict on the deadline of midday Thursdays for submissions. It's not possible to keep re-rendering the video after each late submission. However, any late entries will be placed at the end of the following week's video.

Remember to log in to the school's **Story Telling Room** for extra stories, news articles, factoids and poems. Next week includes short, abridged versions of Shakespeare plays, amongst other posts.

**Assemblies** continue on Mondays along social themes and, during the week, with a mental health focus. Fridays include the big TSN presentation.

Year 6, for your information, teachers are planning a way to start the next **house captain hustings** next week.

#### **Mental Health (and safety) at Home**

This is a short video with some further useful advice on Mental Health and Well Being while at home:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cJuw5ZBJSyM&t=978s>

This **online magazine** from Vodafone is a beneficial guide for parents and easy to read:

<https://www.flipsnack.com/FA7569CC5A8/digital-parenting-by-vodafone-2021-edition/full-view.html>

#### **Temperature Check Surveys**

Coming next week: now that we've settled in to this temporary way of working we will start offering regular, short burst surveys which will help us to get a temperature check from staff, parents and children about how they are feeling and how they are dealing with remote learning/well being at home.

[Blue Peter on YouTube](#) are uploading videos that are suitable for 5-11 year olds including world record breaking challenges, arts and crafts, environmental videos, cooking and baking how tos, inspirational films, gaming, celebrity appearances, dance routines and music performances. They also feature ways of getting a Blue Peter badge, behind the scenes footage and extra content about their presenters Adam, Lindsey, Mwaksy, Richie and Henry the Blue Peter dog.

### Section 2: Onsite Adapted Care



## Parent Update (Spring Term 2021)

Thanks to those who have to use the onsite care for their fantastic cooperation and respect of our timings and organisation.

Just one note to ask that, as far as possible, children change their clothes (such as jumpers) if they have become soiled the day before, to help minimise any bacteria spread from day to day.

### Section C: Other Matters

Please remember to continue to **report to school** if your child is isolating, symptomatic or positive. We continue to confidentially monitor this to track the local picture. It appears that cases have dropped recently but we believe that this is due to a lack of reporting.

#### **Overnight Residential- Year 4 and 6**

As the nation holds their breath, so do we. Under normal circumstances, children in Year 4 and 6 go on overnight residential trips in the summer term but it is impossible to know when overnight visits will be safely reinstated. We are discussing suitable replacement options but still hoping, if it is completely safe to do so, that these may go ahead. Therefore we will not make a decision until there is any stronger indication of the position nearer the time. Of course, any payments you make will be reimbursed fully if trips do not go ahead.

**Year 5** can start making their arrangements and payments for Kilvrough in 2022 now and a useful powerpoint about Kilvrough is on the website under 'Communications', 'trip letters'.

**Year 4** a letter will be emailed next week about Hill End so you have the option, if you prefer, to start paying for this trip in instalments. If this trip is cancelled you will be fully reimbursed.

#### **Testing staff using Lateral Flow Tests**

This week we have been preoccupied with planning the strategy for staff testing. Staff will be using LFTs to check if they are asymptotically infected. This government drive is an additional method to stem the spread. The tests are done by staff who are expected onsite. The tests merely provide a better picture, they aren't provided to increase safety- the protective measures are in place for this. Staff are assigned the tests which are recorded by number, therefore they cannot share the stock of their tests with others. The original PCR tests remain the expected method of testing for anyone who is symptomatic. If you want to know more about this system for staff, the government have made all the documents and videos publicly available on the government website and YouTube.

Although prudent and helpful to stem the spread, there are particular challenges with testing the staff onsite. Logistics include: constant anytime communication between staff, timing of testing, rescheduling of timetables at the last minute, reacting immediately to arising issues, etc. Since it is possible that up to a third of the population might be asymptomatic, this new testing regime might cause sudden staff absence so please be aware onsite disruption may occur.

#### **School Awards**

We continue to run a rewards system as best we can. In normal times we have a large number of ways that children can be rewarded for their academic success and for their efforts. These are more limited

## Parent Update (Spring Term 2021)

online but as we always say in assembly, it's not about how many rewards you get, it's about the significance and reasons behind each individual award.

Thank you to Mrs Garraway who donated two laptops for school use- these will be checked and reconfigured by our technician to be made available for staff use.

We have received 5 new laptops in total from the government scheme and these will be used to upgrade from our older equipment for SEN children, based on their needs.

### 8/1/21 update

As we all again navigate new expectations and different pressures at home and school, we hope to swiftly rediscover the right balance. Please remember only to do what you can with home learning support- we attempt to provide the content and input to guide learning which is made to be flexible enough to cater for those who want a lot of challenge and pace, those who feel pressurised by home schooling expectations and every one in between.

#### Section A: Remote Learning

##### **Optional Extras (including things you can get done easily just with a mobile type device)**

The formal learning content from teachers is outlined in the previous update below. Additionally here are some optional activities: you can browse the school **website for signposting to learning content** we think is most relevant to fit alongside class curricula. The **Story Telling Classroom** is always accessible and updated with **picture books**, but now also with our own **literary and factoid podcasts for older children**. Furthermore (alongside regular **video assemblies**) there will also be optional **whole school projects**, starting next week with **"Try Something New - food week"**. The details about this will be in today's assembly. But in a nutshell: take a picture of something you have baked or helped to bake and send it to us by midday Thursday 14th Jan and we will make a celebratory presentation to share with everyone. Email the picture to our new address to be used only for these mini projects:  
[celebrate@lpps.org.uk](mailto:celebrate@lpps.org.uk)

#### **Safety**

I mentioned this last time, but for the benefit of those new to school: it might seem strange but it is a good idea to discuss/review with your children what to do in the event of an **emergency at home**. For example: we run a fire drill every term to check children are confident with evacuation but do they know what to do at home? Our staff fire awareness training teaches us that children sometimes panic and attempt to hide in small spaces in such an emergency.

#### **E Safety and School Rules Reminder**

## Parent Update (Spring Term 2021)

The same school rules apply as last time. The Google Suite system we have is used by schools worldwide and is focused on minimising e-safety issues. For this reason all pupil to school communication should stay within the environment. The only other method of communication we use is Zoom which is controlled by teachers with passwords and waiting rooms. Pupils should not use any other platforms to share school based information, especially images. Pupils will all be aware of the E Safety Rules they agree at the start of every year. These remain in place whenever children are doing school based activities online.

### Teaching Activity

Thank you to everyone for continuing to show the Ladygrove School and Community spirit and showing patience in frustrating and/or anxious times. Continue to feedback to us where necessary. As always, bring up issues before they become too big. We are happy to discuss approaches and modify things which appear to affect any wider group. The main contention of lockdown (spawned by a combative ministerial approach and some polarising national media headlines) is that for every parent who wants more content, activity and school input there will be a parent who feels overwhelmed with it. Everyone else is on the continuum in between. Teachers will continue to navigate through the middle of this with activities that are flexible and an empathy for the difficulties at home. But it's also worth mentioning that teachers are also still new to the experience of prolonged teaching online (in essence 'Newly Qualified Online Teachers'), just as everyone else has now become an involuntary newly qualified home learning assistant. The school's well being email address [wellbeing@lpps.org.uk](mailto:wellbeing@lpps.org.uk) is still operational and we regularly call or monitor engagement through Google classrooms.

Please note that **illness and medical conditions** of other kinds are still occurring amongst children and staff. For example, your child's teacher might not be available on a day they are ill themselves. We remain fortunate that in our school all teachers work in pairs (as we are 2 form entry) and can handle this eventuality to some extent.

Teachers will continue to undertake their statutory PPA on **Friday afternoons** but will signpost work for those who wish to continue at this time- such as outlined in the section above.

### Section B: Onsite Adapted Care

To be clear, school uniform is **not** necessary.

We are still bound by **bubble isolation rules**. We might have to close a bubble if there is a positive case-based on the same rules as last term. This is the case even though there is now further social distancing in school: the children still remain together for a very long period and are therefore close contacts.

Bear in mind that staff are **unable to make pastoral contact** with children on the very rare occasion that they might struggle with anxiety to enter school. Please have a plan B ready for return to home, if your child cannot be encouraged in.

## Parent Update (Spring Term 2021)

Parents with **vulnerable children** - we will continue to talk to you regularly throughout this time to discuss the level of health safety in the community and jointly decide on their attendance plan.

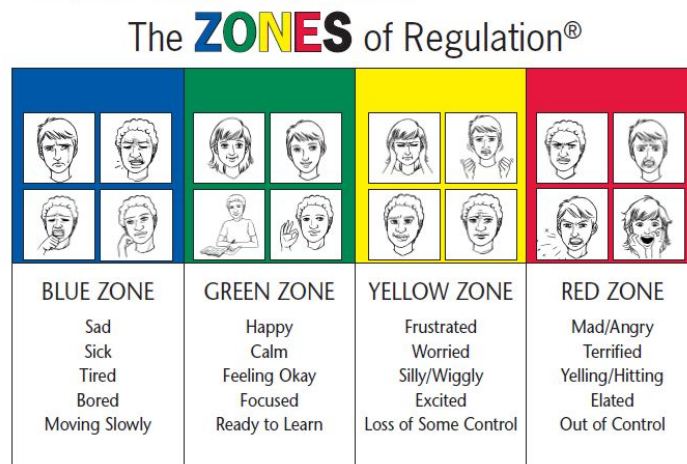
Due to the temporary flexibility of staffing rotas we are able to complete the full day on **Fridays until 3.10pm** (teachers will still take their PPA on Friday afternoons). However, there remains fragility in the timetabling due to the necessity for staff to be working onsite with some children and online with the majority.

### Section C: Other Matters

#### Local Covid Picture

Currently high- a larger number of children have been isolating following positive cases for them or a household member after Christmas. Plus NHS data show Ladygrove Estate currently has one of the highest rates in the Didcot area. Please keep safe and act safely.

In less relevant news, Virgin Media caused a whole new school issue after 24 hours of our meticulous replanning (following the prime ministers no-notice strategy for schools) when without any warning they blocked off the schools main public entrance 5 minutes before we reopened. I spent some time using the '**zones of regulation**' emotional literacy techniques we use with the children after that event.



"Emotional Literacy is the ability to recognise, understand and appropriately express emotions. People who are emotionally literate are often more successful in education and their careers and more resilient to the ups and downs of life."

You might like to use this system with your child at home. At school we do a 'check in' and ask them which zone they are in and why.

**5/1/21 update**

## Parent Update (Spring Term 2021)

It is truly sad to again be working in a school which lacks the vibrancy and energy of all the children excitedly returning from their holidays. As harsh as it feels, if this further temporary adjustment to learning goes some way to allay serious health issues it is hopefully for the best.

Although it eventually seemed inevitable that the PM would announce a new lockdown, due to the concerning acceleration of cases, the length of time was still a surprise. This is an obvious signpost to the seriousness of the situation.

Please note that these updates will continue during the lockdown through to February half term- they will be published at any time there is new information to share. As a parent, I understand the stress sometimes incurred by a large amount of information coming from school so, as before, I will attempt to start each update with *key points* followed by greater *detail* for those who want more information. With this approach, we hope to reach more parents directly rather than by word of mouth.

The updates are in relevant sections as before:

Section A Remote Learning provision

Section B Home Support/ Other Matters

Section C Onsite 'Adapted Provision' for Vulnerable Children and Critical Workers' children

### Section A Remote Learning provision

#### *Key Points*

The lockdown implications are being taken very seriously by all staff. We empathise with the pressure of caring for your child while trying to support their online learning and work from home.

Our plans and activity around remote learning are reviewed continuously and also formally reviewed at weekly staff meeting. At this time, SLT specifically monitor online teaching and governors collaborate on the strategic approach.

Children are expected to join their Google Classroom from tomorrow **Weds 6th January by 9am** and thereafter at the request of their teacher.

Remote learning will begin with the teacher outlining your **year group's curriculum for the term** (e.g. the term's Curriculum Newsletter and Learning Organiser) and setting out an example timetable for each day.

This might be **adapted depending on arising circumstances** and monitoring of the childrens' engagement.

#### *Detail*



## Parent Update (Spring Term 2021)

We recognise that this time away might cause variation between childrens' learning levels or knowledge but, we know these can be addressed on their later return to a safer environment (as we did on return in September).

Teachers are mindful of the possible issues created by broadband limits, lack of devices in the family and take this into account when designing the provision online.

It is likely but not statutory that, each day, children will be offered a combination of:

- Maths (inc. Timestables Rockstars fluency practice)
- English (inc. Reading)
- Subject learning e.g. Science, Art, History, Languages etc.
- Mental Health and Well-Being activities
- Physical health activities

Teachers will give children:

- Timings of the Google Classroom lessons/sessions;
- The set times of any live lessons;
- Deadlines for completion of assigned work;
- Timings when they are available for learning support dialogue.

We have coordinated teacher time to minimise clashes of live interaction between siblings in different classes.

Please refer to the School's Remote Learning Policy:

[Updated Link](#)

SLT will review and monitor provision across the school.

Last term, as part of our recovery curriculum, we worked with children on useful methods for self regulated learning. Classes online will include a variety of methods for addressing learning such as retrieval practice, low-stakes quizzes, spaced reviews, 'big Ideas/big questions', Enquiry Based Learning and metacognition including self-help skills.

Gap analysis is on going for all children from last term and will also shape the provision for remote learning going forward.

### Section B Home Support/Other Matters

Safeguarding of children continues to be a key driver

## Parent Update (Spring Term 2021)

It is a stark fact that some will find this period of isolation very difficult. It is important to restate that the school continues to use our normal safeguarding methods but, due to remote learning some methods have changed:

If you are concerned that there is a safeguarding issue emerging involving a child at home you must refer this directly to external services. Then share your concerns with the school so we are aware of them but to be clear we cannot act on third party information in these lockdown circumstances- we cannot reliably recount an incident to the appropriate body on your behalf, it must come from you: Contact 999 in an emergency or the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) if you have urgent concerns for a child, or suspect that a child has been abused in any way, please call immediately on 0300 500 80 80 (if you are a member of the public).

### Assemblies and Story Telling Classroom

These are videos which the children have been accessing daily in their class bubbles at school and will now be signposted in Google Classroom by teachers.

### Pupils registered as in need of Free School Meals (not Universal Free School Meals)

During this period the DfE have informed us of a newly determined approach. Food parcels/small hampers will be made available by us for pick up from school once a fortnight. These are the raw ingredients for a fortnight of lunches. We are contacting registered parents individually about this.

### Covid cases local trend- shared where possible

We will share the local community picture (Ladygrove estate) whenever we have information about decline or increase in cases- obviously not the specific cases.

### Support for those pupils who have very limited broadband or device access

Learning packs have been put together and we will be in touch with parents who we know to have a serious need due to lack of devices or reliable broadband.

### Things to look forward to

- Parent Evenings usually take place in February (before half term). We currently intend to run these in Term 4 or 5 instead.
- Year 4 Hill End Residential and Year 6 Kilvrough Residential are still booked and since they take place in the summer term we are working with the full intention of carrying these out.
- Once things settle we hope to start a discussion between school and PALs about a big summer celebration. We will create a survey to get a collaborative view from everyone on how to celebrate.

## **Section C Onsite 'Adapted Provision' for Vulnerable Children and Critical Workers' children**

## Parent Update (Spring Term 2021)

- If you have applied through the Google survey form (or emailed the school by the time of this update being published) and **have not heard from us then you can assume that your child(ren) is on the onsite register for your requested days.** However, with relatively high numbers, we may approach you at some point to talk about the rationale behind your child attending school if there appears to be capacity for them to be looked after safely at home.
- **Drop off at 8.40am: enter the school car park** and follow directions
- **Pick up at 3.10pm:** enter the school car park and follow directions to the same place as drop off
- **Do not drive in to the school car park** as this will be used constantly by pedestrians
- If your child requires a hot school dinner please tell us at drop off (unfortunately this is still chargeable unless your child already has free school meals)
- If at any time your child gets symptoms please arrange a test (drive-through is still most efficient) and follow national guidance. Inform us.
- If symptoms become apparent in your household you must stop bringing your child to school and isolate for 10 days. Inform us.
- On the first day drop off may take some time, as we implement this new protocol- please be patient.
- Breakfast Club and After School Club will not restart until next week at the earliest. We will update you as soon as plans are in place.
- Attending children have been placed in new smaller bubbles (small groups which they remain with while onsite and might be of mixed, but similar, age). Bubbles are not themselves a protective measure, they are a management measure in the event of a case or outbreak.
- However, groups are small and designed to be able to socially distance at all times including in class. This is a protective measure. Nevertheless, please be aware that isolation may still occur if a positive case is found.
- We have been asked to emphasise that **only parents who have applied for a place can attend school.** We cannot admit your child if we have not pre-arranged it with you. We understand circumstances change and review registers daily.

Refer to key worker/vulnerable definition and guidance here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

Questions to ask before attending onsite provision:

If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading. That is why the government has asked parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and asked schools to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend.

## Parent Update (Spring Term 2021)

1. Is this **childcare unavoidable** and is it **specifically** for my work **to support those who need help or to stop the virus spread**?
2. Do I have **contact with others who are elderly or vulnerable** and sending my child to school could lead to further spread?
3. Is my child or anyone in my household **showing symptoms**. Contact us to give us this information and **do not enter the site**.

Note that it remains possible that the school could still close entirely, either due to severe lack of staff or outbreak. Complete closure will be communicated via the app and website as soon as the decision is made.

We understand that sometimes you might need to alter your child's attendance. Please aim to give us at least 2 days notice when you want your child to start or stop attending- this is to ensure we have the appropriate staffing in place.

To ensure registers are always complete we will ask you to confirm your days for the following week by the Thursday PM of each week.

It is important to underline that schools, colleges and other educational establishments remain safe places for children. But the fewer children making the journey to school, and the fewer children in educational settings, the lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in wider society.

### 4/1/21 Evening Update

This is a rough and brief update to inform you of our actions since the Prime Minister's unexpected, but equally unsurprising, announcement earlier.

It seemed inevitable, according to the rising virus data, but was still a shock to have to close the school to most pupils again.

More information will follow tomorrow.

#### Remote Learning

School staff will now begin **Remote Learning for all children** with their reintroduction to the online format and expectations. Pupils should log in to their Google Classroom by 9am on Wednesday 6th January to find everything they need to know from their teacher. Although we thoroughly prepared our Remote Learning Policy last year and spent time during the INSET day today anticipating a new remote learning eventuality, teachers still need time tomorrow to switch their face to face planning to online versions.

#### Vulnerable Children and Critical Worker care- starts Wednesday 6th January

## Parent Update (Spring Term 2021)

**School will be closed to all except those who are defined as Vulnerable and/or those whose parents/carers are Critical Workers (working to fight the virus or for infrastructure).**

Please note before applying for a place:

- This is onsite adapted provision which is unlikely to be provided by your child's own teacher due to their remote learning work.
- The more children we have onsite the less effective the national and local strategies may become.
- The government have closed schools to most as a way to mitigate the latest spike in virus spread.

Please check the official definition of Vulnerable Children and Children of Critical Workers here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

The form to apply for a place is here:

<https://forms.gle/xeKozuPmgRHCmiGC9>

This form is open from now and closes at **midday tomorrow Tuesday 5th January**.

After this deadline please email [office.2609@ladygrove-park.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office.2609@ladygrove-park.oxon.sch.uk) if your circumstances change.

It is necessary for us to create a register of attendance and then work out the staffing. Due to the short notice of the Prime Minister's announcement, even with pre planning, it is not possible to safely and thoroughly organise staffing and attendance by tomorrow. **School will be closed to all for Tuesday 5th January** as we wait for responses, prepare registers and coordinate staff based on the numbers. We recognise and empathise with the inconvenience created by the extreme short notice of the government announcement. Attendance for these children will start on Wednesday 6th January.

- The next update will follow tomorrow with more information about remote learning and onsite provision/logistics.
- Please continue to update us with your home circumstances regarding isolation and any positive cases. In this way, we can continue to track and feedback virus trend within the local community.
- Responses to any school queries may be delayed over the next few days as we switch over our extensive planning and processes.