



Newsletter No. 240
December 11th 2020
www.levendaleprimary.org.uk



Classteacher Golden Awards

Year 1: Esme; Henry
Year 2: Cleo; Lila
Year 3: Theo
Year 4: Lydia; George
Year 5: Harry J; Zach
Year 6: Beth; Ashly

Since my last Newsletter, I have given Headteacher Awards to Toby in Y6, Zach in Y5, Reece in Y3 and Evelyn in Reception. Well done everyone!

Attendance

In the week ending 27/11/20, we had two classes with 100% attendance (Y3 and Y5); for the week ending 4/12/20, Y5 were again the class with the best attendance, achieving 99.7%. Well done indeed!

Closing for Christmas

There has been a lot of furore in the press around the DfE 'instructing' schools to close early for Christmas on Thursday 17th December. I would like to confirm that we are **not** intending to have a PD day on Friday 18th December and therefore children should be in school on that day as planned.

However, I will be acting as the 'track and trace' liaison between school and Public Health for the first week of the break – please refer to the COVID update section of the Newsletter for details of what we will expect from parents in the event of a symptomatic child and subsequent positive test result.

2020 Christmas production

Over the past two weeks, we have been very busy performing and filming individual class sections for our virtual 2020 Christmas production. I now have a draft of the final edit and will be fine tuning this prior to it being released to parents on Thursday next week. At present, I am investigating different options for hosting the final video: the file size is rather large (currently 3Gb) and my usual Amazon Drive solution will not allow me to upload the file for some reason. Details will be sent out on Thursday next week to allow parents to access the video of the performance.

Our usual restrictions around sharing video clips or still images apply: none of the footage or still clips taken from the footage should be shared on social media for any reason. This is a basic principle of our Safeguarding and Child Protection protocols and your adherence to this is appreciated.

COVID update

Please do not send your children in to school if they display any of the three official symptoms of COVID, even if you believe the symptoms are indicative of an unrelated ailment. The three symptoms are: an elevated temperature (Government define this as where the chest/back feel hot to the touch, although a temperature of 37.8°C or above remains a useful benchmark), a new persistent cough and/or a loss of taste/smell. A test should be sought at the earliest opportunity. **This also applies to any other member of the household if symptoms are evident: children should not be sent into school where a member of the household is symptomatic until a negative test result has been obtained for that household member.**

As we break up for Christmas next week, I still have an obligation to act as the 'track and trace' contact for Levendale and be in a position to notify Public Health where we may have a positive test within a bubble. To that end, I must request that any symptoms that develop in a child between Friday 18th December and Sunday 20th December are reported to me as soon as possible: that child must then have a COVID test and the result should also be reported to me as quickly as possible. Where a child has been symptomatic (and subsequently tests positive) within a 48-hour period of being in school, I will then have to notify Public Health, identify close contacts (which in a primary school of our size is the entire class) and then request that all members of that bubble self-isolate for an appropriate period of time.

To facilitate the reporting process, we have set up a dedicated email address that I will monitor regularly between the end of school on Friday 18th and the morning of Monday 21st. **If your child develops any of the symptoms of COVID as outlined above, please email me as soon as possible on covid@levendale.org.uk and arrange for the child to be tested. That test result should then be communicated to me at the earliest opportunity.** If a positive test within a bubble is confirmed, I will liaise with Stockton's Public Health team then contact all parents of children within that bubble to inform them that the children should isolate in line with Public Health instructions.

On a related note, could I ask that parents, childminders and other relatives leave the school site as soon as possible after collection at the end of the day and discourage mixing of non-siblings from different year groups. Thank you.

PTA updates

Our PTA have been hard at work as ever and have agreed to fund some exciting projects in school, one of which will see a significant revamp of our early reading scheme after a substantial piece of work from Mrs Carnelly and Miss Waring. We are extremely appreciative of all that the PTA do for the school in terms of funding things that we might otherwise struggle to do without their support.

We had the Elfridges Secret Santa Shop in school today, another good fundraiser for the PTA and it will be non-uniform day next Friday before we break up for Christmas.

Y5 charity work

On behalf of the Y5s, I would like to thank everyone who has been able to support their charity work again this year. We are always extremely proud of the work that our Y5s do to support those who are vulnerable or lonely at Christmas.

Their traditional visit to Ayresome Court is still going ahead this year, albeit with some significant alterations to make it COVID-secure, and this will take place on Monday 14th December. They will not be entering the building itself this year and will instead sing to the residents from the patio area outside. This visit is always hugely appreciated by the residents and therefore we are very pleased that we've been able to make this trip again this year.

Speed around school

Last week, we received a concern from a parent regarding the excessive speed that many vehicles are travelling at on the access roads to school. As I'm sure you're aware, the school is surrounded by a 20mph zone which starts/ends at the junction of Leven Road and Kirk Road then the junction of Glaisdale Road and Green Lane/Leven Bank Road.

PLEASE adhere to these speed limits - they are there for a reason and we have personal experience as a school community of losing a pupil in tragic circumstances to excessive speed from a driver. It is also worth considering that the cul-de-sac at the front of school is subject to the same restrictions, but common sense dictates speed should be much lower along that particular stretch of road.

Y5/6 Bikeability

Due to circumstances beyond our control, the planned Bikeability sessions next week for Y5 and Y6 have had to be postponed (new dates below).

Head Boy/Girl

Letters of application for the positions of Head Boy/Girl and Deputies were received earlier this term and then staff were given the chance to read these letters then vote for their top two choices in each position.

Head Boy: Sam Deputy: Josh
Head Girl: Caitlin Deputy: Annabel

Thank you to all the Y6 children who applied for the positions and well done to those who were successful. Hopefully the next Newsletter will have a section written by the Heads and Deputies themselves!

Dates for your diary

December

11 PTA Elfridges Shop
14 Y5 singing outside Ayresome Court care home
EY Christmas party
15 Y1 and Y2 Christmas parties
16 Y5 and Y6 Christmas parties
17 Y3 and Y4 Christmas parties
18 Break up for Christmas

January

4 Start of Spring Term 1
21 Y5 Level 1 Bikeability
22 Y6 Level 1 Bikeability
26 Y6 Level 2 Bikeability

February

12 Break up for half-term
22 Start of Spring Term 2

March

26 Break up for Easter

April

12 Start of Summer Term 1

May

Y2 test period across May
3 May Bank Holiday – school closed
10-13 Y6 SATs week
17-19 Y6 residential at Robinwood
28 Break up for half-term

June

7 Start of Summer Term
7-11 Y1 phonics screening check week
7-25 Y4 multiplication check period

July

16 Break up for summer



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