



HALTON LODGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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NEWSLETTER 17

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Rather than produce a weekly newsletter, during the period of the national lockdown, we have tried to post any key information that we have received – as soon as we have received it - on Studybugs. This has included details of school closures, free parent workshops, details about free school meal vouchers, DfE laptops and opportunities to sign up for free broadband (wifi) boosts (amongst many other things).

However, as this half term comes to a close, we thought it was worth providing you with some information that may otherwise pass you by.



Staffing Update

This week we were very pleased to welcome Miss Stephens back to school – following her period of maternity leave.

Miss Stephens has joined Miss Murphy as the second teacher in Year 3 – and is also supporting with the teaching of the children from LKS2 when they are in school.

Miss Stephens return does mean that Mrs Sproston's short term contract has sadly come to an end. However, we are hopeful that we will be able to welcome Mrs Sproston back in the not so distant future should the opportunity to do so arise. We can't thank Mrs Sproston enough for the work she did for us between the October Half Term and now (covering the latter part of Miss Stephen's maternity).

Roofing Update

For anybody who has come to, or walked past, the school this week, you can't fail to notice that there is some scaffolding at the front of the school. This is because, whilst the roofing repairs were being carried out to the roof above the classrooms, main corridor and the hall, it became apparent that the remainder of the school roof (the two sloping roofs over the offices and the school kitchen area) were also in need of repair.

Fortunately, the full cost of these extra repairs will also be covered by the local authority, so there will be no negative impact on the school budget. In fact, the savings we anticipate making in no longer needing to finance regular repairs when leaks arise and the subsequent redecorating costs will, hopefully, enable us to invest even more money each year in continuing to raise the quality of education that we can provide to all of the children who attend our school.

The repairs to the school kitchen roof will commence on Monday – to minimise any disruption to the running of the

TOOLS



school – and the roof should be water-tight by the end of next week. We are also hoping to have some of the key redecoration work completed during half term, whilst there are no children in school too.

The repairs to the office roof will be timed to coincide with Easter – to, again, minimise any disruption to the running of the school. *However, prior to this work commencing, the scaffolding will need to be erected around the main entrance to the school, so we will need pupils, parents and visitors who enter the school grounds through the main school gate to be extra cautious.*

Lockdown Legends



Over the last 7 days, the teachers in school have been finding ways to acknowledge and recognise the hard work and dedication of the children at our school who have continued to show a real determination to continue learning during the period of the national lockdown (whether they have been in school or accessing their education from home). These children will have received a certificate, letter, postcard or small gift to recognise their achievements and resilience.

We fully understand how challenging it is to keep your child(ren) motivated, enthusiastic and wanting to learn. However, as you will continually read online and in newspapers – and hear on the news on the television or on the radio – the 'school closures' risks significantly widening the attainment gap between those pupils who regularly access their educational entitlement during the national lockdown and those who don't.

Whilst we will do everything that we possibly can to help the children to 'catch up' when they return to school, it is vital that the children access the Google Meet sessions and, once they complete the activities set by their class teachers on Seesaw (Year 1 to Year 6) or Tapestry (Reception), they submit these for their teachers to review and provide feedback.

We have been very fortunate that we have been able to allocate a DfE laptop to every family that has requested one. However, if there is anything more you feel we could do to support you to help your child keep up with their peers, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

The staff at our school have done an amazing job at coordinating the remote (home) learning, replying to hundreds of messages and posts each week, whilst also continuing to teach the children who have continued to attend school throughout the lockdown.

We know that schools will remain closed to the majority of pupils until Monday 8th March – and, for some pupils,

potentially even longer. Therefore, if you have been able to keep up with all of the work that has been set, please keep it up – as your child will return to school full of confidence and should do extremely well. If you have struggled to get your child to complete all of the work set, please speak with your child’s class teacher to get some ideas about how to get them more actively involved when we return to home learning after half term – on Monday 22nd February.

All of the activities that have been set over the last 5 weeks are archived – so, if you wanted to catch up on any missed learning over Half Term, it is all there waiting for you. Hopefully we will have a lot more Lockdown Legends when we repeat this exercise next month.

However, we also recognise that the children’s mental health and well-being is of paramount importance, so you may be looking for some fun and inspiring activities to do next week – to provide your child(ren) with a necessary break from school work.

We have been informed that Cheshire & Warrington School Sport will be attempting to break a World Record for Skipping on 22nd September 2021 – so you may wish to get in some practise (if you are considering getting in the Guinness Book of World Records this year).

Alternatively, you may wish to have a go at building your own marble run out of recycled materials. If you are looking for inspiration you may wish to google ‘Giant Marble Run Project Eden Cornwall’.

Equally, if you have some great ideas on how to keep active, motivated, relaxed or calm, please feel free to share these – so we can include them in a future newsletter.



Parents’ Evening

Some of you will have already been contacted by your child’s class teacher to explain that we will be holding our Spring Term Parents’ Evening appointments after half term.

These appointments will provide you with a brief overview of how your child was doing in school prior to Christmas and then allow you to talk about their attitude towards learning, at home, since 5th January 2021. If you have any thoughts or questions, you will also be able to share these too.

Please keep an eye open for details of your child’s Parents’ Evening – and book an appointment as soon as you are able to do so.

School Cleaning

In response to a question that we have been asked by one of our parents, we have been encouraged to share details of what we do, as a school, in response to a confirmed case of Covid-19; when we are informed that there has been a positive case in school.



Firstly, in addition to the two school cleaners (who each work for 15.5 hours each week), since the beginning of June, we have also employed a full-time cleaner who is in school from 8:00am until 4:30pm every day. This means that the toilets and the key contact points (door handles, light switches, sinks, hand sanitising stations, etc) are cleaned on multiple occasions, at regular intervals, throughout the school day. Furthermore, the tables in the classrooms, the chairs and the floors get cleaned after the children have had their lunch – so we have a much more intensive and rigorous cleaning schedule than we have ever had before. *This is in addition to the regular hand washing and extra hygiene measures and routines that the teaching staff have implemented and supervise.*

In accordance with the Coronavirus guidelines that schools have been issued with, should we be informed that there has been a positive case in school, we put the key areas (namely the classroom and toilets used by that person) out of action for at least 72 hours. *We would only conduct a thorough (or deep) clean, if we needed to have access to these areas of the school within the 72 hour period. It is also worth noting that these areas will have been thoroughly cleaned that evening, before the school was locked up.*

Furthermore, even though we are informed that the virus is unable to survive on most surfaces for longer than 48 hours, we still thoroughly clean the room again after the 72 hour period before anybody who is allowed to re-enter and reuse the room.

All of our procedures have been shared and discussed in detail with The Public Health Team, have been evaluated and appraised by our Health & Safety Advisor (Compliance Education) and are routinely reviewed by staff and governors to see if they can be further improved.

We have been commended on the processes that we have in place and when we received an unannounced Health & safety Inspection (as all schools in Halton did during the Autumn Term), we were not given any actions or recommendations as our Operational Plan, Risk Assessments and the practices that were seen were all very detailed, comprehensive and substantial.

Obviously each and every one of us is at risk of catching and spreading the virus unknowingly – as we are able to transmit the virus for 48 hours before we display any symptoms. Plus, it is recognised that most children and 1 in 3 adults can be asymptomatic. However, I would hope that every parent would acknowledge and appreciate that, as a school, we react very quickly to any confirmed cases – even when these arise late in the evening, over the weekend, or during school holidays – and we do our best to inform all key contacts very quickly (so they can self-isolate and restrict the spread of the virus any further).

If you have recently changed any of your personal contact details – home or mobile telephone number, email address or place of work – could you please email sec.haltonlodge@halton.gov.uk so we can update our records.