



Langford Budville Church of England Primary School

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'Celebrating life and learning together'

Newsletter 12: 2020-21

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Lockdown Update 1

Dear Parents/Carers

This is not the way I was expecting to welcome you back to school for the new term!

We are certainly living in challenging times, but here at school we will continue to do our best to support you and your families as we move through this second period of school closure. It was heartening to hear so much resolve and determination from parents when I spoke with each family earlier in the week. As ever, please do call or email if you need any help with home learning or managing your children's behaviour/mental health during this time. Seriously, no request or question is too small or too silly to bother us with. The information below is about staying in touch with us at school; teachers will be making contact with their classes to discuss their home learning expectations. We also aim to telephone each family every week as before.

The staff made a swift 'U-turn' on Tuesday...; having spent Monday creating an excellent programme of exciting things to learn about in school this term, they then set about creating an equally excellent range of home learning activities for your children, the first of which you should have received on Wednesday afternoon. Thank you to all of the staff for jumping into action with such positivity, and also for being prepared to physically deliver these work packs, enabling your child to begin their remote learning as quickly as possible.

Computer and Internet access at home: Schools are expected to direct children to online resources for their home learning in the same way that we would use online materials in school. Many of you found out how beneficial these were during the last lockdown. We are aware that some of our families have difficulty providing access to the internet for their children's learning, and with this in mind we have tried to cover all eventualities by suggesting both hard copy and online materials where possible.

If you are **not able** to provide your child with internet access, or you **do not** have a suitable device such as a laptop or tablet on which they can **sometimes** work, **please let us know**. Most of the online materials will not be 'live', and therefore a child might be able to use the internet once adults or other children have finished working, however, asking a child to watch a daily phonics video or maths input from a mobile phone screen can be a greater barrier to their learning. We would like to be aware of any families where this is the case so that we can make alternative provision.



Organising home learning: Many of you are experts at supporting your child in their home learning! The government expects that schools will provide remote learning activities for approximately 3 hours per day for Primary aged children; this may of course take more or less time, and may vary from day to day.

How you organise your home learning depends upon your individual circumstances; remember that routines are vitally important for children, with a balance between focused working time and less structured playing or self-directed time. Staff will give guidance on how long they expect an activity to take. If it is clear that a set of activities should last for a week, then share these out over the days – all children need time to assimilate what they have learnt, in small doses, rather than learning lots of new things on the same day.

You are asked to support the school and encourage your child to engage with the home learning. The amount of support they will need will depend upon their age and ability; an older child might need very little support beyond a check that they understand a task, and encouragement to keep on trying, whilst a younger child may need an adult to work with them for the entire session.

All children need exercise each day, preferably outside when conditions allow.

Keeping in touch

Email the office: If you need to speak with either me or Mrs Blackmore please call or email the office. There will be someone here every day.

Class email contact: Each class has a new email address, which will be active throughout the lockdown. You can use this to communicate directly with the class teachers, and they will use it to send out class messages. Please use these email addresses in preference to the main school address if it is the class teachers you wish to talk with.

Class Dojo: Miss Coombes is embracing new technology and is setting up another means of communication via the Class Dojo website. Your children are already familiar with this site, since we use it to record house points in school. You will be able to view group timetables created by the teachers with details of activities, including links to online learning, and upload images and scanned copies of your child's work into individual portfolios. Staff will also be able to give feedback on work completed, and send messages via this platform. As soon as we are able to activate this technology we will let you know.

Free School Meals: We have ordered vouchers for all families entitled to free school meals; they should be with us by the beginning of next week.



FLBSA News: Calendars for 2021 – we have a few left - £3 each. If you received a calendar where the images are upside down please accept our apologies; if you let us know we will print a replacement for you!

Stay safe, and please don't get stressed about the home learning – we're all in this together, and we will help in any way we can!

Jane Major
7th January 2021

