



LIONEL WALDEN PRIMARY SCHOOL



Headteacher - Mrs Sally-Anne Barnard-Taylor

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11th February 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

If your child tests positive for Covid over the weekend, we kindly ask that you report it to us by emailing the School Office in order that we can alert parents of the class involved. Please can you also ensure that you continue to report any positive results to the NHS website.

I would like to thank you for your continued support this half-term. As we returned to school after Christmas, the local authority's guidance for schools was to continue with existing measures as Covid rates were expected to rise significantly with the more transmissible Omicron variant, which they did. Our primary aim was to keep classes open and to minimise any further disruption to our pupils' learning; we needed to minimise the risk of staff contracting the virus. Fortunately, our rates in school have been lower than expected and we have been able to cover classes with existing staff when there have been absences. Thank you for your patience on the odd occasion when this resulted in reading books not being changed on the usual day or new spellings coming home on a different day.

I am aware that many parents are keen for school to return to how it was before the arrival of the pandemic and I can assure you that we are already thinking ahead to the Summer Term. This term, we have welcomed visitors to school. Year 4 have enjoyed a visit from a member of the Museum of Zoology, University of Cambridge, to lead a session on their 'Butterflies through Time' project. Years 1 and 2 have participated in lessons led by a Rugbytots coach. Imogen James, a sports coach, has led Football and Hockey lessons as well as lunchtime activities for all children. Years 4 and 5 have attended swimming lessons at The Empress Pool in Chatteris and several year groups have received specialist Music tuition from Kate Hamilton of Cambridgeshire Music. Mrs Bayes, our Deputy Headteacher, has been trying very hard to secure visitors to come into school for Science Week (14th-18th March) and we are very much looking forward to The Raptor Foundation bringing in their birds of prey. Unfortunately, some of our favourite visitors during this annual event are reluctant to come into school just yet, due to Covid, but the week will still be packed with exciting experiments and learning experiences.

Parent consultations will still be taking place by telephone in March - details will be circulated after half-term.



Staff are currently considering possible venues for class visits for the Summer Term and we are very much hoping to be able to welcome parents to a Sports Afternoon. We also have plans for the children to mark and celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in the week leading up to May half-term and the extended Bank Holiday.

There does appear to be light at the end of the tunnel and staff are also looking forward to returning to normal in the near future. It has been a long two years for everyone but there have been many positive experiences and much to be thankful for. Everyone has played their part and our children, parents, staff and governors have managed the situation incredibly well.

Please do contact me, if you have any questions or would like further information. Have a lovely half-term break - we look forward to seeing you on Monday 21st February and hope that you are able to visit the Book Fair which is in school that week.

Yours sincerely

S A Barnard-Taylor

Mrs S A Barnard-Taylor
Headteacher

