

LARKSWOOD NEWS

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents & families,

You will be aware that on Monday 4 January, the Prime Minister announced a national lockdown in order to reduce the spread of COVID-19, which has now come into effect. Full details of the lockdown restrictions including the stay at home message can be found at www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home. Larkswood will remain open only for the children of critical workers and vulnerable children and young people to attend. All other pupils and students will receive remote education until February half term and must remain at home, in line with national guidance.

I understand this will not be welcome news for many parents and carers, but it is absolutely essential if we are to successfully protect the NHS and reduce the transmission of the virus. In Waltham Forest we have witnessed the growing pressure on our NHS provisions, and the wider health system during the past few weeks.

As a school, we have adapted well to the current situation and were prepared for the impact and changes that were to be had on us and our school community. Earlier today I spent some time reviewing home learning on Seesaw and went in to each year group to review the children's learning – as ever, I am in awe of the resilience of your children, their attitudes to learning and the high expectations that they have of themselves is simply phenomenal.

From Monday 4th January our teachers have been busy providing high quality learning activities via SEESAW. From Nursery through to Year 6 the children are provided with daily activities which cover their specific curriculums. In Early Years these cover aspects of the prime areas of learning. In Years 1-6 these focus on Reading, Writing and Maths curriculum daily as well as wider subject areas on a weekly basis. In September 2020 we launched a new curriculum and this is what you'll see reflected in our remote learning- we are so proud of it and we hope you enjoy being able to get a taster of it via SEESAW.

We know that remote learning can be challenging for children and families. Please remember that although it would be great to cover all of the learning, we understand that this isn't possible all of the time. Putting in place a consistent routine can support home learning- starting at the same time each morning (ideally first thing) and factoring in break times after each subject is really useful. Minimising distractions and ensuring children have a clear, comfortable work space is really important.

Our remote learning policy and framework will be finalised next week and uploaded to the school website.

Free School Meal Entitlement and Provision

We understand that families continue to live in uncertain times and many are facing changes to their financial circumstances as a result. If you have not previously applied for Free School Meals, and now feel you may be eligible, please visit <https://www.walthamforest.gov.uk/content/free-school-meals> to see if you meet the criteria and to apply online. If you have any queries in relation to free school meals entitlement please contact Waltham Forest Free School Meals Service on 020 8496 8506/8505 or email them directly on fsm@walthamforest.gov.uk.

If you are currently in receipt of free school meals, we will be in regular contact to advise what provision is being offered to you during this period of school closures.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your continued support of our schools, and your compliance with the wider national restrictions in place. Whilst last year was extremely challenging, I was extremely proud to see how we all pulled together as a community and kept our spirits high. I have every confidence that together we will all play our part to protect ourselves and those around us.

Brendan Plunkett
Headteacher

LARKSWOOD NEWS

KEY DATES FOR SPRING 2021

Please find below a list of dates for the Spring Term These dates are provisional and could be subject to change.

Red = Additions to previous newsletter

Date:	Title:
12/02/21	Friday 12th February Half Term Break Up - Normal finishing time
22/02/21	Monday 22nd February Return Date (staff and children)
01/04/21	Thursday 1st April—Easter Holiday Break Up (1:30pm finish)
19/04/21	Monday 19th April Return date (staff and children)

APPLYING FOR A RECEPTION PLACE FOR SEPTEMBER 2021

The closing date for the September 2021 Reception intake is 15th January 2021

Please see this link to the Waltham Forest website:

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-primary-school-place>

PUPIL PREMIUM

If your situation has recently changed and you have been affected by Covid-19, you may be eligible for Pupil Premium, and therefore eligible for Free School Meals. If you think this may apply to you, please click on the link <https://www.walthamforest.gov.uk/content/free-school-meals> to view the eligibility criteria. If you fit the criteria, you will need to complete the short online form.

Click on 'Apply for free school meals' and click on 'Start new form'.

Please visit our website for more information on Pupil Premium funding:
<http://limeacademylarkswood.org/academy-information/pupil-premium/>

LARKSWOOD NEWS

NATIONAL ONLINE SAFETY

The Designated Safeguarding Lead and all teaching staff have completed the National Online Safety training course to ensure effective safeguarding and teaching of online safety for our children.

We are therefore delighted to announce that Lime Academy Larkwood have shown our commitment to protecting our pupils online by working with National Online Safety- providing resources for all parents and carers. To create your account, please follow :

<http://nationalonlinesafety.com/enrol/lime-academy-larkwood> and complete your details. When you're set up, you'll be able to set 'Parent/Carer' as your user type. The resources include Parents & Carers courses (presented by Myleene Klass), online video resources and weekly guides covering a huge range of topics.

National Online Safety Download your Free Online Safety App for Parents & Carers

Be #OnlineSafetySavvy
Keep up with the latest apps games and tech your children are using, with the worlds most comprehensive online safety app for parents.

On the National Online Safety app you'll find:

- ✓ Hundreds of online safety guides on the topics you need to know about - from screen addiction, fake news and trolling to hacking social media influencers and sexting;
- ✓ An online safety training course for parents - developed by our experts and delivered by online safety ambassador Myleene Klass;
- ✓ A user-friendly interface with increased functionality - find exactly what you need, when you need it;
- ✓ The option to get notifications to your phone as soon as new content becomes available - so you can stay up-to-date with the latest online crazes (and risks);
- ✓ An in-app voting system so you can help determine the subjects you'd like us to cover in future;
- ✓ The facility to personalise your content by favouriting key resources.

Download the free app today

Scan to download on Apple App Store | Scan to download on Google Play Store

or search for 'National Online Safety' in the store

Download on the App Store | GET IT ON Google Play

www.nationalonlinesafety.com | Call: 0800 356 8068 | Email: hello@nationalonlinesafety.com
Twitter: @natonlinesafety | Facebook: /nationalonlinesafety | Instagram: @nationalonlinesafety

LARKSWOOD NEWS



SEESAW HOMELEARNING

From Monday 4th January our teachers have been busy providing high quality learning activities via SEESAW. From Nursery through to Year 6 the children are provided with daily activities which cover their specific curriculums. In Early Years these cover aspects of the prime areas of learning. In Years 1-6 these focus on Reading, Writing and Maths curriculum daily as well as wider subject areas on a weekly basis. In September 2020 we launched a new curriculum and this is what you'll see reflected in our remote learning- we are so proud of it and we hope you enjoy being able to get a taster of it via SEESAW.

We are utilising the SEESAW program to its full potential and using videos and voice notes to support your child's learning. During the lessons skills will be modelled on video by your teacher before they then move on to practice and develop this themselves. Key Worker children attending school are covering the same learning on site.

We know that remote learning can be challenging for children and families. Please remember that although it would be great to cover all of the learning, we understand that this isn't possible all of the time. Putting in place a consistent routine can support home learning- starting at the same time each morning (ideally first thing) and factoring in break times after each subject is really useful. Minimising distractions and ensuring children have a clear, comfortable work space is really important. We upload the learning for the following day at 4pm each day, this is to enable parents to look over the learning to be covered the next day. Once the children have watched the teacher input on a session, they will have the opportunity to write down the questions/ task or print it and this gives them the chance to reduce screen time. If your child is reluctant to record a written response to a question it is fine to allow them to record a voice note so that they can answer it verbally. Similarly, if they are refusing/ reluctant to engage in a lesson, allow them to answer half the questions. Timetable Rock stars, My Maths and Bug Clubs are great resources to keep using alongside SEESAW, please ask for these codes if you need them.

If you are concerned about your child/ren's progress, access to ICT or have a query over the content of remote learning, please contact your child's class teacher or Head of Year via Seesaw or the school email address, who will be happy to discuss this with you.



LARKSWOOD NEWS

RECEPTION NEWS

Reception have become detectives this week searching for clues for reasons why a mystery penguin arrived at our door. Each day a new clue appeared to help us work out why he was lost and where he needed to go back to. We used our thinking skills to work out how he arrived at Larkwood and how we can get him back. A new clue appeared in the lost property box which helped us think of another idea for how we could get him back home and therefore we used our building skills to construct a boat. By the end of the week we discovered a story in the lost property box which helped us to work out that he needs to go back to the South Pole. We later found out that he might not be so happy there after all and decided to keep him to stop him feeling lonely!



Message from Waltham Forest

It's really important that if you leave home for essential reasons, that you take preventative action. This means wearing your face covering in shops, public transport and enclosed spaces. If you are in need of a face mask, [please order your free one on our website](#). [Free face masks | Waltham Forest Council](#)

[Please click visit the below website for up to date information and helpful advice](#)

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): guidance and support - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)