



LAMBERHURST ST MARY'S CEP SCHOOL WEEKLY NEWSBRIEF

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HEADTEACHER AWARDS

Friday Celebration Assembly, with the whole school via Zoom this morning, announced the weekly Headteacher Awards, with gold stickers presented by Class Teachers, to the following children:

Ruby Class (Yr R)-Theo Anson

Emerald Class (Yr 1)-Delilah Duggan

Topaz Class (Yr 2)-Finley Attwood

Amber Class (Yr 3)-Libby Vickerman

Sapphire Class (Yr 4)-Edith Thompson

Garnet Class (Yr 5)-Megan Moger

Diamond Class (Yr 6)-Sofia Capone

EASTER EXPEDITION

Don't forget to wear wellies or trainers to school next Thursday and bring some slippers/shoes to wear in school, as our Easter Expedition may be a little muddy underfoot! Pupils may wear school uniform or PE kit and everyone will be in school for normal lunchtime arrangements.

EASTER BREAK

We break up next Thursday 1st April for Easter Break. Care Club, Football, Dance and Sewing Clubs will run as usual on this last day.

All pupils return to school on Monday 19th April for Term 5 which is a six-week term up to Friday 28th May. Summer or winter uniform is optional and we will continue with the current PE days/PE kit arrangement.

After School Clubs and Optional Music Tuition letters are attached to this week's ParentMail.

PTA VIRTUAL DISCOS

A huge 'Thank you' to our PTA Team who organised the amazing virtual discos this week. The children loved them and it was such a well-deserved treat for them all after such a difficult and challenging year.

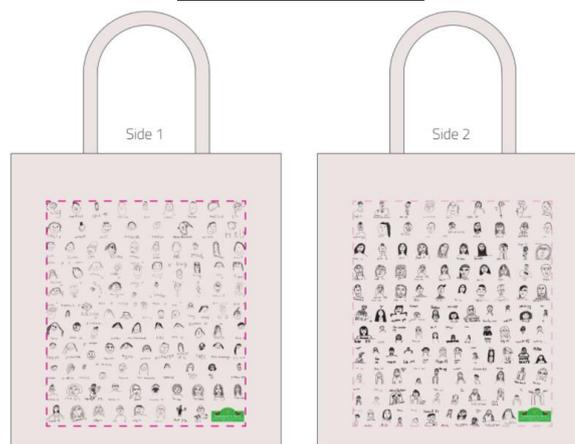
Today you will also receive:

Every Family ~ Summer Term Music Lessons letter

Every Family ~ 'ThinkUknow Keeping children safe online' guidance for parents

- After School activity club information will be sent via Parentmail on Monday

PTA TOTE BAGS



The pupils of Lamberhurst St Mary's have been busy little Frida Kahlos and Vincent Van Goghs! They have sketched some rather wonderful self-portraits, which have been transferred onto a very special tote bag for you to purchase. A perfect Easter gift or keepsake for the family. Buy your bags via the jumblebee site, link below, and the PTA will be at the gates to distribute them as soon as they are delivered (currently expect to distribute Wednesday & Thursday next week).

www.jumblebee.co.uk/selfportraitslmtotbags

MUSIC TUITION LESSONS

Priority is given to those pupils already learning an instrument in school, who will automatically be timetabled unless parents give written notice to cancel. Parents must notify the school by next **Monday 29th March 2021** at the latest if they do not wish to continue with their lessons next term or if new pupils wish to start lessons after Easter Break.

Existing music pupils do not need to reply.

Email: secretary@lamberhurst.kent.sch.uk with your request to terminate, new music lesson requests or any changes to existing instruments/lessons.

PARENT CONSULTATIONS

Class Teachers are very much looking forward to catching up with parents next week during our virtual meetings. Please make a note of your day and time slot for your meeting which will be managed automatically by our 'School Cloud' system.

GOVERNING BODY THANKYOU

At our Governing Body Update Briefing with the school Senior Leadership Team last week, governors expressed a wish to write to parents, pupils and staff personally, to thank and congratulate them regarding the challenging year that we have all experienced. This message will come to you as a separate ParentMail letter.

Mrs Bromley, Mrs Mitchell, Mrs Turner-Moore and Mrs Belling have also been carrying out monitoring of the children and classes since they returned to school and this was also discussed with the governing body. As a result of these discussions we have put together some FAQ's which may help parents make best use of their time in next week's consultations and answer some general questions.

FAQ's

- Will the School be trying to teach more during the Summer Term in order to catch up lost time?

Mrs Mitchell attended national training recently which gave clear and valuable advice to schools. It is not possible to cover everything that has been missed during lockdown. The advice is to cover the most essential learning in each subject so that children are confident to go further when they have settled back into classroom learning. The NCTEM maths team advised - 'Go slower to go faster'.

Professor John Hattie's research has advised that teachers focus on "what has to be learned" instead of getting through a lot of curriculum.

- Are there any aspirations or restrictions in trying to catch up on learning?

There will never be a ceiling on the aspirations that we have for our pupils at Lamberhurst St Mary's-our Vision statement that 'Every child and every adult at Lamberhurst St Mary's is able to be and wants to be the very best that they can be, because they have the opportunities and the support to do so'

We must however be mindful that children will not be able to just come back to school and carry on as if nothing has happened. We are giving them lots of opportunities to talk about their feelings and worries, to get used to being back together again and to reinforce past learning to give them a really strong confidence to go forwards.

Professor Hattie's research looked at evidence of lost schooling after the New Zealand earthquake and Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans. Hattie says that, students "recovered quickly and actually began to see gains in test scores". Professor Hattie's reassuring message to parents is.....'When we get back to the old normal the recovery will be reasonably quick'.

- What can I do at home to help catch up?

Make sure that children read every day using their school RWI and Accelerated Reader books. They should also read and look at a wide range of other books-fiction and no-fiction and be read to by an adult. This gives them the opportunity to hear more advanced text and vocabulary that they can actually read themselves.

In maths make sure that the weekly home learning is completed and that children practise and learn the number bonds and times tables as guided by teachers.

- Has attainment in one subject fared worse than another?

There is no substantive evidence for individual subjects yet. The element of school that has fared worse is the gap created by the isolation of lockdown. The children are finding it very hard remembering how to be part of a bigger group again.....but don't worry they will get there and we will help them with your amazing support 😊

- Now the children are back at school will they still be using online learning resources or will it be Face to Face teaching once more?

Videos and online learning are used to support school-based face to face teaching and will continue to be so. White Rose Maths resources are a good way to reinforce what is being taught face to face by teachers and can also help parents at home. Some new resources are being created to help parents and we will make these available as soon as we get them.

- The Government has said every school will be given catch up funding. How will this be used?

Some of the Catch-up Funding was used to purchase the maths books that we gave to the children during the lockdown, some will be used for additional learning resources and extra support groups. We need to get children settled back into school first and carefully assessed so that they are not overwhelmed, as this would be counterproductive.

We continue to be guided by DfE and government regarding school organisation and Covid safety procedures and will keep parents fully informed of any changes that can be made going forward.