

LEYBOURNE SS PETER & PAUL C E PRIMARY ACADEMY



Headteacher: Tina Holditch

Rectory Lane North
Leybourne
West Malling
Kent
ME19 5HD

Tel: 01732 842008

Email: headteacher@leybourne.kent.sch.uk
www.leybourne.kent.sch.uk

4th December 2020

Dear Parents

Well, what a week! Thank you so much for your support during what has been a challenging week in school. I am very pleased to say that Mrs Newington appears to have a relatively straightforward case of Covid-19, and that the people she was in contact with whilst infectious all appear to be well at this time. Let's hope this continues.

I realise that some parents may be concerned, or frustrated, if we send children home due to a new cough. Please understand that we are not doing this to be difficult, we are simply trying to do all we can to ensure that we keep all members of our school community safe. I appreciate that if a child has asthma or a cold they may well cough – but we need to be sure. That is why we are asking parents to collect children and have a test before returning them to school. Whilst a cough may well not be related to Covid-19, people with asthma can get Covid-19 (and very seriously), so we cannot make assumptions and ignore it. I do understand the frustration when you are called to take your child home, but I would much rather err on the side of caution and send one child home to be tested, than need to send a whole class home to isolate in the weeks before (or over) Christmas. We are very nearly at the end of term, and it would be such a shame if the virus took hold in school now.

Dropping Off

I would like to thank the overwhelming majority of parents who are supporting us with the dropping off and collection arrangements. However, I am sorry to say I have been informed that a small number of parents of children in Years 3 and 4 are allowing their children to walk down the path into school unaccompanied by an adult. I would like to remind you that the only children permitted to walk along the path in the car park without an adult are those in Years 5 and 6, whose parents allow them to walk to school unaccompanied. Pupils in Years 5 and 6 are too young to assume responsibility for younger siblings, and get them into school. I do appreciate that it is obviously easier for parents to drop children off at the car park gate and avoid the one-way system, or remain outside with a dog, and we have considered this at length, but we are also aware that removing the one-way system could increase the number of people passing on the pavements on Oxley Shaw Lane, and also increase the risk to children walking through the car park.

In an effort to support parents and hopefully make your lives a little easier, we have allowed parents to use just one drop off and collection time for siblings. Please can I also remind you that this was not intended to enable parents to use the earlier drop off and collection times just for the younger siblings, whilst allowing the older children to walk to or from school alone. Thank you for your support.

Parking

Unfortunately, I have received further complaints about parking along Castle Way. Residents are understandably very concerned that they are being forced into the middle of the road when turning onto

**We promote the learning and development of all children to achieve their full potential
in a caring, happy Christian environment**



Leybourne Ss Peter & Paul CEP School is part of The Tenax School Trust which is an exempt charity and a company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales with company number 07542155. The registered office is at Culverden Down, Tunbridge Wells, TN4 9SH.
01892 521595

Castle Way from Oxley Shaw Lane – especially as there is a good deal of available safe parking on Oxley Shaw Lane that is not being used.

I completely understand the frustration of using the one-way system and walking back along Castle Way to return to a car parked along Oxley Shaw Lane. But I would hope you would agree with me that it is better to walk a little further, rather than cause an accident. I have been told that residents will be approaching the police and the Council regarding this issue, and I do sympathise with their concerns. Please park safely and considerately.

Stars of the Week and Leybourne Bright Sparks

I am delighted to share with you this week’s Leybourne Bright Sparks, those pupils who can always be relied on to do the right thing and our Stars of the Week, pupils who have done something exceptional and worthy of celebration as an extraordinary achievement.

Congratulations to our Stars of the Week:

Reception	Niamh	Charlie	
Year 1	Florence	Ben	
Year 2	Alfie	Pollyanna	
Year 4	Isabella	Matthew S	
Year 5	Chloe	Tilly	
Year 6	Cameron	Amy L-K	Annabelle

and, also, to our Leybourne Bright Stars

Reception	Joseph Z.
Year 1	Freya
Year 2	Lucy
Year 4	Nadesh
Year 5	Amelia
Year 6	Olivia D.

Year 3 were not included due to Miss Courtney’s absence (not Covid-19 related, I’m pleased to say!).

It was also really lovely to share Team Points results as a whole school:

St Andrew	2662	St David	3018
St George	3650	St Patrick	3543



With love from Leybourne

Thank you so much for all of your lovely comments and support regarding this initiative. We have been asked by some parents for suggestions as to possible donations - we would simply like to treat people at Christmas following a tough year, so food treats or gifts (toys and games, for instance) for families would be very much appreciated. Collection boxes will be outside until Monday 14th December, and we look forward to hopefully raising people’s spirits as Christmas approaches. Thank you.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend – I had snow on my car this morning, so who knows what the weekend will bring!

Kind regards

Tina Holditch