



Headteacher: Tina Holditch

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24th September 2021

Dear Parents,

COVID-19 Update

You may be aware that we now have three members of teaching staff who are not in school. Please be assured that unless a teacher is unwell, they will continue to teach the class virtually during their absence. Teaching assistants will support pupils in school whilst teachers continue to plan and deliver their lessons remotely. Pupils who are not in school, but who feel well enough to access remote learning, will be encouraged to join in with the daily lessons led by the class teachers.

As a school, we are all committed to providing the very best possible education to all of our children and our staff are working hard to ensure that the children's learning is not adversely affected by the current situation any more than is absolutely necessary.

I would like to thank you for your understanding when we have contacted you to request a PCR for your child, or to ask for further information regarding the details of their LFD and PCR results. Your support is very much appreciated by us all.

At this time, we are waiting for PCR confirmation of positive cases in Years 3, 4 and 6, in addition to further cases in Year 5.

I would ask all parents to please let us know of any test results that come through over the weekend. Please do email me at headteacher@leybourne.school at any time over the weekend to inform me of your results – it will help us to monitor the spread of the virus. In many cases, the virus is, as you would expect, being spread through families, both with primary and secondary aged siblings.

I do, therefore, appreciate the concern that some parents have expressed that we have not closed classes, or refused to admit pupils with a sibling or family member who has tested positive. *Please understand that I am simply not permitted to do this.* The guidance is very clear – schools are not allowed to close classes, or shut entirely, unless under the express direction of PHE. From my conversations with headteachers of other schools with far more cases than us, this really does not seem to be considered an option at this time.

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



Some of you may wonder why parents are still permitted onto the school playground at this time. Research shows that the spread of the virus is greatly reduced outdoors, and our monitoring of cases in school does not suggest that the virus is being spread between parents on the playground. As you know, I had intended to continue with our system of staggered starts and finishes throughout Term 1, before the Government guidance made it clear that this was not considered appropriate. In this way I had hoped to reduce the risk of the virus actually entering our school. Now that the virus is here, reintroducing this system is of very limited value, and would undoubtedly cause additional stress and inconvenience to families.

Parking

I received another complaint about dangerous and selfish parking around the school this week – this time from the Parish Council, who have themselves received a number of complaints from concerned residents. **Please be mindful of others when parking.** I fully appreciate that many parents drop their children off to school on their way to work, and must therefore drive – but I do ask that you do so in a safe and considerate manner. Thank you for your support.

The Parish Council also raised the possibility of reinstating the Walking Bus. The Walking Bus closed a few years ago, due to a lack of parent volunteers to run and organise it. If there are any parents who would like to restart the Walking Bus, please do contact me and I would be happy to give you further information.

Stars of the Week / Leybourne Bright Sparks / Team Points

Week ending 24 th September 2021	Leybourne Bright Spark	Stars of the Week
Year 1	Ava	Skye, Joseph F.
Year 2	Sophie N.	Bella, Blake, Lily
Year 3	Jessica	Bradley, Finley
Year 4	Olivia	Zack, Aoife, Nicola
Year 5	Sophia	Tristan, Emilia
Year 6	Amelie	Harry, Lewis C.

Team Points		Week ending 24.09.21	
St Andrew	St David	St George	St Patrick
1204	1322	1227	868

Year 6

I am delighted to confirm that Mrs Siverland-Bishop will be back with Year 6 on Monday. She is very pleased to be returning and is looking forward to teaching her new class. I would like to thank Miss Bled for her hard work with Year 6 over the past three weeks, she has given them a good foundation from which Mrs Siverland-Bishop can build.

Thank you for your support this week – it is very much appreciated by us all. I realise that this is a difficult time for everyone, and that many of you will have genuine worries about the current situation. As a parent myself, I really do understand your concerns and frustrations. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards

Tina Holditch
Headteacher