



LONG DITTON

INFANT AND NURSERY SCHOOL

THE HEART OF LONG DITTON SINCE 1911

NEWSLETTER

3rd April 2020

LATEST NEWS

Dear Parents and Carers

Happy Friday everyone! How's your week been? How are you feeling? What have you been up to? How's home learning going? You know in September there will be lots of vacancies for the teacher training programmes – considering going into teaching yet? Please apply – we need teachers who love teaching 😊

Easter Holidays

Congratulations to all of you for rising to the challenge of teaching your own children from home. It is clear from all your emails and pictures you are all ensuring your children are making progress in their learning. I absolutely know that teaching your own child is not easy and I am glad that my daughter is 25. Trying to get her to do anything when she was younger was a nightmare for me. She would do anything for 'Miss Taylor' but trying to get her to even say the 3 times tables was impossible for me! Well done and guess what? It's the Easter holidays so you can have 2 weeks off 'teaching and learning'! (Make sure you tell your children their teacher said that it's because they have worked so hard at home for you, it's a treat for Easter).

Plans for After Easter

Thank you to everyone telling us about the wonderful online learning opportunities there are available out there. I know that you have all tried different things, will be comparing what we are offering as a school with other schools, will be talking to other parents and carers about their ideas for online learning and developing your own curriculums to suit the needs of your own children. That is all great!

As a school we have a planned approach to what we have offered and what we will continue to offer over the coming term. As even this is not going to suit everyone but is based on what we as a school think is in the best interests of the children. Please be guided by the teachers who are thinking about the learning of the 'whole child' not just a 10 minute times table online challenge. Also remember that our children are young to be sitting for hours on a computer screen. Hands on learning is still the most important way of learning for our age children.

Below I have set out our whole school plans so far for the coming term to help the children learn and to help you support their learning.

Reports – the teachers have been working on the reports of what your children have achieved so far in relation to the National Curriculum requirements. Included in the reports will be targets for you to be working on from home with your child. We plan to have the reports sent out to you from 1st May. This may change if sickness becomes an issue.

Phone Calls – After Easter the teachers will begin calling you at home to speak to the children, find out how they are getting on and to listen to what they are finding hard and help them through this.

Planned Weekly Learning – All year groups will have new planning in place ready for the learning after Easter. This planning will be progressive across the term and they will have planned the learning to build upon each week. It will be important for you at home to follow what is provided in the weekly learning – not skip ahead – so that the building blocks for future learning are

secure. These weekly planned learning activities will be put in the newsletter and on the website each week.

Emails – The teachers and staff will continue to respond to the emails you send. Please make sure you have emailed your class teacher at least once so that you can receive updates.

Learning Packs – We will be putting together another home learning pack for the children to complete from home. This is going to take some time arranging from our end to ensure it fits with the learning the teachers have planned. When this is ready to go we will let you know.

Online Learning – We are using Discovery Education and Education City as our online learning tools for the children. These are both platforms that the teachers use every day in school. The Discovery Education login for all children was sent in the pack you received. The individual logins for Education City will be sent out by your class teachers by email after Easter.

In these ways we will ensure that we have contact with each child, will have provided a planned curriculum for each child, will have provided a safe online experience, will have addressed parental issues, ensured hands on learning opportunities for every child and will have reported on the progress made so far.

As the term progresses we will continue to develop how we are helping the children to learn from home.

Live Streaming, Social Media and other Online Learning Sites

I know lots of you are using live streaming and social media to keep your children connected. All of you have come across excellent free sites online to help children learn. This all sounds fabulous! I know there is increasing pressure from a few parents and carers for us to put lessons online, join in zoom meetings or use Facetime to talk to the children. We face some safeguarding challenges around all of these.

Firstly, all the different online learning sites. These sites have always been there and usually cost money for schools to join. I know that many of them are brilliant and that in an ideal world it would be great to say 'yes the school will sign up to that' for each one. But remember we need to approach everything from a cohesive whole school perspective. The teachers are working together to plan home learning that they think meets the requirements of the National Curriculum in a way that is suitable for the children. Just signing up to random sites or lessons that might seem exciting may be good as a one off but we have a whole term of learning to complete. This must be done in a structured way.

As a school we will not be signing up randomly to sites we haven't used before. There is nothing to stop you from signing up to these sites and using them with your children – as I said they have always been there.

Secondly live streaming and social media. As a school we have a duty to keep children and staff safe. Again it would be easy to say yes let's just do a zoom lesson for the children but there are so many safety issues to consider before we put this into place. Will the sessions be private? Will they be recorded? How do we know who will be watching? What happens after the streaming has finished will it be deleted? What if I see something that worries me about a child? What if something is said that is inappropriate? (Joe Wicks did this!) What about copy rights? The concerns are many. That said we would like to increase how we are interacting online with the children in a safe way. We are currently updating our social media policy and acceptable use statements to include live streaming and social media. After Easter we will send out an updated Social Media Policy guidance and an acceptable use agreement for you to sign before we use these kind of platforms with the children.



Please see this link (on next page) that details some guidance and things to think about for online safety:

<https://primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/bromstone-primary-school/UploadedDocument/7faf8c54034544dcb7a54c074b57ed19/live-streaming-guide-v3-060618-1.pdf>

and these sites for how to ensure you are doing what you can to to keep your children safe online:

- [Internet matters](#) - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- [London Grid for Learning](#) - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- [Net-aware](#) - for support for parents and carers from the NSPCC
- [Parent info](#) - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- [Thinkuknow](#) - for advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) - advice for parents and carers

Mrs Bailey's Art

Mrs Bailey has some lovely ideas for exciting art learning activities for you to try at home. You can access her ideas at the link below!

<https://www.instagram.com/ninaspaintpod>

Staying in Touch

Please make sure you are using the class email address for correspondence with your class teacher. This includes all your lovely work examples for the newsletter so that they can see the work and include it in their sections of the newsletter. After Easter it will be important to have ensured you all emailed your class teacher so that they can send out learning via a whole class email. Even if you have nothing to say please email to say 'hi' to them.

Nursery Class: sheltie@longditton.surrey.sch.uk

Corgi Class: corgi@longditton.surrey.sch.uk

Beagle Class: beagle@longditton.surrey.sch.uk

Dalmatian Class:

dalmatian@longditton.surrey.sch.uk

Husky Class: husky@longditton.surrey.sch.uk

Spaniel Class: spaniel@longditton.surrey.sch.uk

Labrador Class:

labrador@longditton.surrey.sch.uk

Please note that teachers will not be responding to emails over the Easter two week break.

The Lychgate Magazine

This cannot be delivered in the usual way but you can access the online version by following the link below 😊

https://issuu.com/stmaryslongditton/docs/the_lychgate_april_may_2020

Food Bank Donations and Parcels

We will be collecting any spare food items for our vulnerable families on the **8th April** to be distributed ready for the Easter Weekend.

If you can spare any items that are in tins, packages or dried food or the odd Easter Egg the school will be open for you to drop them off on the 8th April in boxes outside the school. You could do this as part of your daily exercise 😊 Mrs Nolan is coordinating this with some helpers from school. If you do have anything to spare it would be gratefully received.

Top Teaching Tip Week 2:

'Learning is hard'

If you have found yourself wanting to take the pencil out of your child's hand to complete something, or wanting to finish off the art creation because they have had enough, or saying 'I have told you this is what you have to do' it's because teaching, or thinking you are teaching, is easier than learning something new. When was the last time you started to learn something from scratch with little or no knowledge about it? Just because we have told children something does not mean that they are truly going to understand it or be able to do it.

Learning how to learn is difficult. Sometimes people are super at one thing and because they are good at it naturally, or with little effort, they assume that they are good learners. But that isn't good learning. Good learning comes from persistence and understanding not just the transference of knowledge or skills.

Children are good learners because they are so used to not knowing anything or being less competent at things. As teachers we may have the long term aim in mind but we can't expect them to learn everything in one go. Helping them to learn has to take place in small steps. Remember how they rolled over before they could sit up and how much they had to practise to get that right?

Our job is to look at what they can do now and think about a small step they can do in that instant to help be them be better. It might be to write a number correctly, to spell a word better, to recognise a rectangle, etc. Add those small steps up and in the long term it will be progress.

If you are inspired to learn a little more about what learning is have a look at this article <https://infed.org/mobi/learning-theory-models-product-and-process/>

Keep learning!

Behaviour Advice

Children bickering, saying unkind things, being rough with each other, arguing over toys, games or attention? Sibling frustrations, disagreements and fall outs will be happening, however hard parents strive to maintain harmony in the house!

THIS IS PERFECTLY NORMAL AND TO BE EXPECTED UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES!

Remember all behaviour is a communication!

At school we manage everyday differences of opinions and fall outs between children by using "Restorative Approach" questions. Having seen the positive impact this has in school, I definitely recommend it for effectively managing any form of conflict at home too! (Please see the attached fact sheet for an overview of what a Restorative Approach is.)

Try this simple step by step guide to using "restorative questions". It will help your children understand their feelings and how to express them appropriately. It teaches them to take responsibility for their actions and the impact they have on others - deliberate or not. It also teaches them to consider the feelings of others, to be forgiving and to move on or "let go".

For us adults – it reminds us that there are always "2 sides to story" and we need to "investigate" to have any chance of truly understanding the dynamics of any conflict!

Step by Step Guide to Using Restorative Questions.

1. Have both (or all) of the children present.
2. Remind them to respect and LISTEN to each other and take turns to speak.
3. Reassure them that EVERYONE will have a turn to speak.
4. Remind them of the importance of telling the truth and acknowledge that it is brave and honest to tell the truth when you know or think you have made a poor/bad/wrong choice.
5. Ask child A and then child B: -
 - "What happened?"
 - "What were you thinking / feeling when you did that (OR when that was done to you)?"
 - "Who has been affected / hurt by this?"
 - "What would help everyone move on and make things better?"

Compass of Shame
Reactions when children get angry or they have made a bad choice.....

Restorative approaches
Reactions when children get angry or they have made a bad choice.....

- They minimise their involvement ("It wasn't my fault!")
- They fail to see the other side
- They don't recognise the impact of their behaviour
- They don't take responsibility
- They don't feel accountable

Discipline styles

A restorative approach to discipline is far more effective ...

- It is a structured approach. It is NOT a soft option
- It recognises the needs of both the offender and the victim
- It promotes relationships and doesn't marginalise offenders
- It teaches respect, responsibility, accountability and how to repair damage to relationships
- It teaches children to self-monitor and regulate their behaviour

NB. These phrases are a guide, please use phrases / words that are comfortable to you and appropriate for the situation.

6. Let the children decide the "consequence". In my experience they have never chosen anything too extreme, in fact, at times I have had to intervene so the sanction is more appropriate (sometimes "Sorry" is not actually enough and missing some playtime is also needed).
7. This may seem time consuming initially, however, it is a much fairer way of dealing with conflict and research has proved it reduces the number of incidences so worth the effort! It is widely used across the World and there are

many studies evidencing how it equips youngsters for coping with everyday life and reduces repeat “offences”.

Please see the attached fact sheet for an overview of what a Restorative Approach is or search Restorative Approaches on the internet – there is a huge amount of information, including YouTube clips, available from around the world.

Remember that Mrs. Emmett has a dedicated email address especially for you if you would like some advice or support with behaviour at home.

behavioursupport@longditton.surrey.sch.uk

Advice from Educational Psychologist Becci Best

Becci is our school EP and she has sent this link for you to look at with regard talking to your children about our current situation.

<https://weneedtotalkaboutchildrensmentalhealth.wordpress.com/2020/03/27/tips-to-share-with-children-to-help-them-cope-with-the-new-normal/>

Skipping Challenge

1. Mrs Paines 96
2. Nancy 84
3. Tuuli 58

Who can be first to 100 skips in a minute? Let me know 😊

Daily Learning Challenges

If you have completed the Daily Learning Challenge sheet, please post it or drop it off to school so that I can send out certificates!

Learning from Gallery

We have had some fabulous photos from home demonstrating the wonderful learning that you are all doing at home. I have included as many as I could in the newsletter. Keep sending them in and the teachers will choose two from each class to include in the newsletter each week!

Thought for the week:

‘The greatest weapon against stress is our ability to choose one thought over another.’ William James

Have a great weekend!

Mrs Paines

(If you have read all of this mammoth newsletter I think you should have a glass of something nice and bubbly as a treat.)

Nursery

What an interesting week it has been. I hope you are all keeping well. It has been so lovely to hear from so many of you and hear about the range of wonderful activities you have been doing at home! Well Done to all the children and their families. Here are just a few examples of what has been happening across the Sheltie network this week....

Brenin has been busy making crafts and even typed his very own email to me, impressive! Ella has been making lolly stick fairies and has been helping out with housework, awesome! Hannah has been making rainbows and gardening, wonderful! Harry has been practising recognising his numbers and number matching, fabulous! Hari has been enjoying making Paw Patrol crafts and playing golf in his garden, amazing! Indie has been learning about fossils and made his very own fossil, he even sent me a video clip of him telling a joke, fantastic! Jose has been practising his counting whilst working on his crane project and role played shopping with mummy, excellent! Sophia has been to London and Space via her junk modelling projects with her family, spectacular! TJ has been making superhero crafts and chalking outside, brilliant!

We're so proud of you all and the range of activities you have been doing is just right. I've been thinking about planning for after the Easter break to help give parents ideas and guidance about learning and activities. In early years it is very important to follow the interests of the children and it sounds like the parents that I have heard from are trying to do just that. Brilliant work grown-ups! Remember any activities that I share are suggestions or guidance and you can adapt as necessary for your child.

Cont'd/...

Home learning link:

<http://longditton.surrey.sch.uk/meet-the-classes/nursery/>

Reception

Dear Beagle and Corgi Class,

Thank you to all of you who have been e-mailing and sending us your work and pictures of what you have been up to over the last week. Colin the Corgi has been busy making rainbows, cooking brownies and going outside for some exercise. Please see attached his diary update for you to enjoy. Bertie Beagle misses you all and will write to you all after Easter.

We have had some wonderfully silly suggestions for sandwich fillings and have been impressed by your use of phonics in your writing. The stories from the pobble pictures show us how much your writing has come on over the past year. Well Done! It's the Easter Holidays for the next two weeks so the Reception Team are hoping that you all get a chance to spend some quality time with your families having some fun. We are planning an indoor Easter Egg Hunt and a family board game every day.

Below are a few suggestions of Easter activities you could complete and some ideas about how to keep your phonics and maths going over the Easter break.

Please remember that we will not be responding to e-mails during the holidays but will be able to get back to you from Monday 20th April.

Happy Easter!

Home learning link:

<http://longditton.surrey.sch.uk/meet-the-classes/reception/>

Year 1

We hope that you have enjoyed this second week of home learning and found the learning suggestions on the school website helpful. It has

been lovely to hear from the parents who have emailed in and we would encourage all parents to do so after Easter (we will resume responding to emails after Easter). Please do see if the children can respond to their teachers' comments and questions. If your child hasn't already, get them to have a go at Miss Griffiths' 'Wake and Shake'. This can be found on the school website under year 1. We are hoping to do more of these over the coming weeks.

The home learning for over the Easter break will be more relaxed than the work set over the previous week (as would be the case had we been in school!).

Have a lovely Easter!

Home learning link:

<http://longditton.surrey.sch.uk/meet-the-classes/year-1/>

Year 2

Well done to all of you for completing your second week of home learning! You are doing a fabulous job! We love seeing pictures of all the exciting things you have been doing so please keep it up!

This year is going to feel very 'different' for the Easter holidays, we have included a few games to keep you going, during this strange time. We hope you enjoy them.

We are very much looking forward to when things return to normal and we are keeping our fingers crossed that it won't be too long!

In the meantime, carry on enjoying spending time with your families and stay well.

Year 2 Team

Home learning link:

<http://longditton.surrey.sch.uk/meet-the-classes/year-2/>

School Office

Hi everyone!

The goldfinches are still twittering and I even managed to get a photo this week – see below. There is also a fact sheet about goldfinches from Rayaan and paintings from Tuuli, Indie and Mrs Bailey - thank you for sharing these.

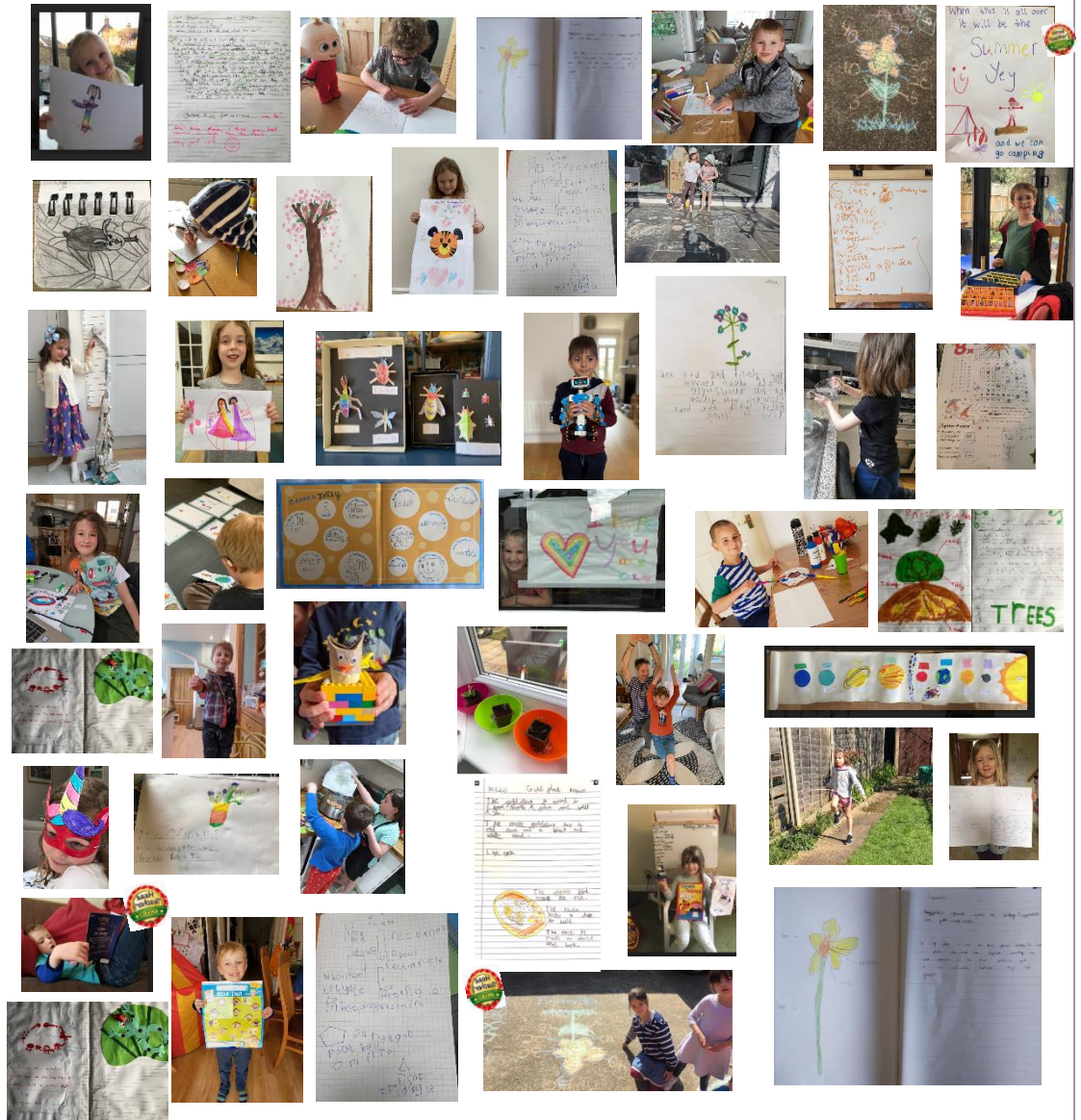


This bird also appeared in the garden this week.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Have a look at the wonderful learning from home gallery!

Well done everyone 😊



Other Achievements



Georgia has learnt how to do the splits
Hannah has learnt to ride her bike



Finley - 7
Betsy – 7 – Betsy made some cakes to share with her friends
Leo H – 6
Poppy H – 7



DIARY DATES

April 2020

6 th to 17 th April	Easter holidays
Monday 6 th	International Book Day
Friday 10 th	Good Friday
Sunday 12 th	Easter Day
Wednesday 22 nd	Earth Day – raising awareness of environmental issues worldwide
Thursday 23 rd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St George's Day • National Shakespeare Day • Ramadan begins
Saturday 25 th	World Penguin Day

May 2020

Friday 8 th	May Bank Holiday
25 th to 29 th	Half term break

June 2020

EVENTS / ACTIVITIES (outside of school) / School Adverts

*Please note the school does **not** promote or endorse any children's clubs or activities advertised.*