



LONG DITTON

INFANT AND NURSERY SCHOOL

THE HEART OF LONG DITTON SINCE 1911

NEWSLETTER

20th March 2020

LATEST NEWS

Dear Parents and Carers

Before I continue to go over arrangements for the coming weeks first let me tell you about some of the learning this week.

Exploding Volcanoes – From my office I could hear the uproar as Year 1 carried out an experiment mixing materials to make them explode. Mrs Nolan, Mrs Emmett and myself all went to look at the same time because of the noise. Only to find all of them completely stuck in amazement as the explosions happened!

Chick Diaries – The children have loved watching these little miracles hatch and the writing they have produced because of it has been wonderful.

Virtual Glasses – The library has been full of wobbles and screams as the children have experienced virtual worlds such as under the sea. They loved it!

STEM Challenges – And the challenges that they have faced and overcome have been wonderful to see. Designing and making, trialling and improving and just having a go to solve a problem. All brilliant.

Birthday Books

Thank you to Forrest and Oly for each choosing a birthday book to share with their class.

Attendance

All children have been amazing coming in to school this week. 100% to everyone who came! (Yes we were challenged on this actually being possible by the Year 2 children. As we explained well even if

there were only 17 children in your class today that's 17/17 which is 100%. 100% attendance!)

Chicks

Congratulations to Ellis, Elizabeth, Olivia S, Rahaf, Sophie W, Alexa for correctly guessing that number 3 egg would hatch first.

And now to more serious matters...

School is closed

From today until further notice school is closed to all children except for key workers or vulnerable groups.

Staying in Touch

Just because we are closed doesn't mean that we are not going to stay in touch! We will be continuing the weekly newsletter and welcome your 'at home' celebrations and contributions to share with everyone.

Each class has its own email address with which you can communicate to your class teacher. The children can email them with questions or queries, you can email them with questions or asking for advice. They will be able to respond between the hours of 8.30 – 3.30 every day.

The class email addresses are:

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

You can of course contact the office in the usual way. Please be patient with our responses though – we will only have a skeleton staff.

The Newsletter – our intention is to provide a newsletter each week. This will contain information but also hopefully the celebrations of all of your learning achievements at home. The teachers will also be putting weekly learning ideas and resources in the newsletter as well.

The website – we will update this weekly and include links on the year group pages to learning activities for the children to complete at home.

Over the weeks off we have lots of ideas of other ways to keep the children engaged and hopefully – so watch this space.

And you know you can always write us a letter! I know we would all like to hear from the children to find out what they are doing with this precious time.

Picking up Home Learning Packs and PE kits
If you have yet to pick up your home learning pack or collect your PE kits you can do so next week during the times below.

Monday 23rd March

Nursery: Between 9 – 10 in the bike shelter.

Beagle: Between 9 – 10 outside Year 1 classrooms (under the shelter)

Corgi: Between 9 - 10 outside Year 1 classrooms

Dalmatian: Between 10 – 11 outside the year 1 classrooms

Husky Class: Between 10 and 11 in the bike shelter

Spaniel Class: Between 11 and 12 outside the year 1 classrooms

Labrador Class: Between 11 and 12 in the bike shelter

If you are not able to pick these up during those times, we will contact you during the week with alternative times.

Home Isolation Advice

Please follow this link for advice from the Government about this <https://campaignresources.phe.gov.uk/resources/campaigns/101/resources/4992>

Active Surrey

Active Surrey have a dedicated home page with workout ideas and podcasts to complete at home. You can access their page here <http://www.activesurrey.com/get-started/active-at-home>

And Jo Wicks is leading a 9am PE lesson for everyone. Send us pictures if you take part! <https://www.thebodycoach.com/blog/pe-with-joe-1254.html>

Advice for Parents and Carers

This advice was sent to us from the Educational Psychology team at Surrey. I think you might find it useful!

- Schools have not 'shut down' – Although most children will not be able to physically attend school you will still be able to communicate with senior leaders or, in some instances, teachers.
- Don't try to replicate a full school timetable – It won't be possible to replicate a full school timetable for a variety of reasons. Giving yourself and your children permission to accept this can be a big weight lifted.
- *Expect stress* – This is an uncertain and unpredictable situation, stress and anxiety are normal.
- Reassure children – Children can sometimes believe they are responsible for things that are

clearly beyond their control. Reassure children that it is the adult's job to make sure things are OK and to keep them safe.

- Help children stay connected to their friends – Friendships are a key resiliency factor for children and young people. Most children see their friends nearly every day of the week and so not being in contact with them for some time might be upsetting. Is it possible for children to talk to their friends on the phone? Perhaps establish a group Skype or WhatsApp call? Perhaps they could write letters to each other.
- Normalise the experience – Normalising the experience is likely to reduce anxiety for many children. Reassure children that lots of adults and other children are in the same situation.
- **Have a routine and structure** – Having a plan and a predictable routine for the day can be very reassuring. As adults we like to know what is going to happen, and children like this too. A consistent routine lets everyone be secure about the plans for the day. It is often useful to involve children in creating this routine, so that they feel part of the plan, rather than the plan being imposed on them. You could display the routine using a timeline, or maybe pictures and visuals. Encourage children to develop independence by referring to their own routine/plan themselves.
- Don't worry if the routine isn't perfect – Remember, this isn't a normal situation. If you find that planning and sticking to the routine is causing more stress, friction or conflict, then it's OK to be more 'free-flow'. Perhaps be guided by the activities that children want to do.
- Avoid putting too much pressure on academic work – Most parents and carers aren't teachers and so **it's OK not to be doing 'school work' for six hours a day**. It might be more important to be spending time together, building relationships, enjoying shared activities and reassuring children, as opposed to replicating the school timetable.
- Try to keep work in one place – If children are doing school work or project work at home, try to keep it all in one place so that it doesn't spread out over the house. This can help to maintain

a work/home boundary. We know that people live in different circumstances that might mean this isn't always possible, so perhaps there might be other ways to 'signal' the end of working e.g. putting away the work and then **enjoying a favourite song or shared dance!**

- **Reduce access to rolling news** – It is important to keep up to date with new developments and announcements, but it can be hard to switch off from the constant stream of news from media outlets and social media. Reduce the time spent hearing, reading or watching news – at the moment it might be overwhelming for adults and children. Try to protect children from distressing media coverage.
- **Supervise children with screens** – It is likely that children and young people will be using screens more often over the coming weeks e.g. phones, tablets, gaming consoles and the internet. If this is the case make sure they are supervised. Ensure appropriate content filters are active – the UK Safer Internet Centre offers guidance on setting up parental control. Try to ensure all children have a balanced range of activities each day. Involve children and young people in these discussions so that they feel part of the plan.
- Reassure young people that the government and Department for Education are working on a plan.
- **Play – Play is fundamental to children's wellbeing and development – children of all ages! It's also a great way to reduce stress in adults.**

That is good advice for everyone I feel – keep it in a safe place and read it if things get tough! Then remember my Grans words 'you can only do your best!'

Food Bank Donations and Parcels

Thank you to those people who have offered to donate food for vulnerable people or those unable to access shopping facilities. We will be promoting this over the coming weeks so if you do have anything spare (please don't buy extra though) and would be willing to share, we will be arranging for us all to do this.

Daily Changes

This is unknown territory for us all. Although there may be daily changes it might not be possible for us to keep sending a daily message out to everyone. We will do our best though to ensure we update the website where relevant and send the newsletter once a week.

Thought for the week:

Gosh I have been thinking and searching for something up lifting for the newsletter this week. The thing I keep coming back to is a story that my Grandad told me when I was younger. I warn you this is not a 'nice' story but a story about resilience and coping in extreme circumstances. If you don't want to read it, please stop reading now – if you do read this bit and want to complain – please don't. There is a message in there somewhere.

My Grandad was in a prisoner of war camp in World War 2. He didn't talk much about it but would occasionally speak about some of the eventful times. One such time is when he and his fellow prisoners were being lined up to be shot. "We were standing there Moni" he would tell me "and just waiting. Then one us farted (his word not mine). Well that was it. We all started laughing and sniggering." "What happened Grandad?" I asked him. "Well they were so stunned that we could all laugh at such a time they put their guns down. Then they marched us back to the camp. One of the guards said 'why you laugh at time like this?' And we said because if you can laugh at a time like this, when things are really serious, anything is possible."

In these interesting times there will be stories to be told to the future generations who will listen with wonder at how we managed. You are going to be creating them yourselves – let's share them with each other to keep smiling, sniggering and maybe even laughing.

Have a good weekend, and a lovely Mothers Day – the sun is going to be shining ☺

Mrs Paines

Reception

Dear Parents/Carers,

Just a note to say thank you for all your lovely messages and kind words this afternoon. This will be a strange time for the children as well as all the teachers and we will miss seeing them each day very much.

Please keep an eye on the school website where we will be posting weekly home learning, including our new sound of the week and a weekly challenge. We have a new class email for your time at home, so please feel free to contact me via this email if you have any questions or concerns regarding home learning. I would also love to stay updated on what you are all getting up to!

New class email: corgi@longditton.surrey.sch.uk

We hope to see you all again soon!

Best wishes,
Miss Howden

Dear Beagle Class children and parents/carers

Just to say a huge 'thank you' for all your kind messages over the past few days. Mrs Johnson and I will really miss the children over the coming weeks and are sad that we will not continue to hear all their news and see their amazing learning. They have all done so well and the progress they have made is huge.

Please do keep in touch. We will be sending out regular updates so please keep an eye on the school website. We have a class e-mail that we will be accessing regularly so any photos, messages or writing about your time away from school will be much appreciated.

Class e-mail is beagle@longditton.surrey.sch.uk

We will miss you all loads and look forward to the time we are all back together again.

Keep well

Mrs Dawes, Mrs Johnson, Mrs Bailey and Miss Riding

Year 1

Wow! This has certainly been a very surreal week and we have worked hard to keep things as normal as possible for the children during this time of uncertainty. STEM week definitely provided many exciting learning opportunities for the children.

This week, the children had the chance to use the virtual reality headsets where they were able to see a range of settings. Some of these settings included African grasslands and forests, under the sea, space and snowy mountain landscapes. The children were so enthused by this that some even started to make their own headsets during their independent learning time.

As well as this, the living eggs arrived amidst excited anticipation. The children enjoyed their daily observations of the chicks with great excitement and came up with some amazing adjectives to describe the newly hatched chicks. Each day, the children wrote in their chick diary describing the changes. The pupils focused on using full stops, capital letters, finger spaces, adjectives (describing words) and conjunctions (joining words e.g. and) in their sentences. Ending their sentences with an exclamation mark was very appropriate!

The children also had great fun doing a science experiment. First, they made predictions about what they thought might happen. It was great to hear the children relating their predictions to previous experiments that they have completed at home! Once they had discussed and written their predictions, the children completed the experiment. During the experiment, they dipped paintbrushes into different coloured food colouring mixed with white vinegar and dripped it onto bicarbonate of soda. See if your child can explain the results to you (if they haven't already!). In maths, we completed a problem-solving activity in groups which included sorting farm animals. We discussed some different ways that the animals could be sorted and then sorted them accordingly.

Home learning

We hope that you find the packs useful which the children have received. We have discussed the packs with the children, emphasizing the importance of home learning and how we look forward to hearing and seeing how they get on. We hope that they will take the same pride in their learning as they do at school. It is a very strange feeling right now and we wish we could be there for the children at this point in time. We will miss them! We wish you luck on your journey of home schooling and please don't hesitate to contact us via the class emails if you have any questions or need support. We are happy to help and look forward to keeping in touch.

Year 2

What a brilliant STEM week we have had! It began with the arrival of the Living Eggs! Year 2 have been so excited about watching the eggs hatch into chicks, we have recorded what has been happening in our daily chick diaries. It has been so exciting to watch them hatch!

On Monday we found a giant egg in the playground! We found out that David Attenborough has been finding these grey eggs with colourful splodges 'all over the world.' We carefully examined the egg and used our imaginations to work out what came from the eggs. We wrote descriptions about what we thought it would look like and where it had come from. We wrote a letter to David Attenborough with questions we wanted to find the answers to. We will wait patiently to see if he writes back.

In ICT we have been researching Antarctica and found out many interesting facts on the chrome books.

In Science we wanted to find out which material would be the best thermal insulator to use to keep liquid warm if you were in a cold climate such as in Antarctica. We predicted, tested and recorded our ideas.

In Maths we have been subtracting using the column subtraction method. We also had a 'Let's

Think Maths' where we had to decide 'which was best' out of a range of scenarios.

The most exciting thing we did this week was use the Virtual Reality headsets to explore different habitats. We explored Antarctica, under the sea and pre historic lands.

Key vocabulary: Antarctica, expedition, diary, fractions, numerator, denominator, Continents

Home learning project to create an Easter Garden. The children will be bringing home their own plan for an Easter Garden.

Thank you!

School Office

Home Learning Packs

If you are unable to pick up your home learning pack on Monday, please let the school office know by email so we can make alternative arrangements with you.

Thank you!

Thank you so much for all your thoughtful emails and kind words, cleaning products and staffroom goodies for the coming weeks – they really are appreciated by us all.

Please keep in touch by email and we will see you all again soon.

Friends

Well, we didn't really know what to say, it's a weird situation alright!

Thanks for everyone's support for the past few months. Remember the WhatsApp groups can be used as a support network and for ideas on how to home school, and we will be back and strong as soon as we are able for more fundraising fun.

Stay healthy, positive and indoors to protect the vulnerable ones.

Have a great Easter, at least the shops are not running out of chocolate eggs!

See you all in a few

The Friends

ACHIEVEMENTS

Value Stars: Appreciation



Iris
Noa
Thomas G
Mia S
Finley
Elizabeth

Golden Certificates:

Harry D
Evelyn
Betsy
George R
James S
Beagle class
Salih
Jonah
Sophia S
Rufus
Gabriel
Fynn

Credit Card:



Olly – 6
Elizabeth – 6

Outside Achievements:

Martha received a Maths Factor medal and certificate for completing a 30 Day Maths Challenge

DIARY DATES

March 2020

Postponed	Corgi class assembly
Postponed	Parent/Teacher consultation appointments
Postponed	3.30-8.00pm Parent/Teacher consultation appointments
Postponed	Nursery Celebration Assembly

April 2020

Postponed Cancelled	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent Helper safeguarding session • Rocksteady concert
6 th -17 th April	Easter Holidays
TBA	Return to school/nursery
Cancelled Postponed	Yr R visit to Hampton Court Palace Yr 1 hockey sessions start
Postponed	Class photographs by Imago Juniors photographers

May 2020

Friday 8 th	May Bank Holiday – school closed
TBA	Yr 2 Spaniel class to Stokes Field (spring/summer visit)
TBA	Yr 2 Labrador class to Stokes Field (spring/summer visit)
Cancelled	Yr 1 visit to WWT London Wetland Centre
25 th to 29 th	Half term break – school closed

June 2020

TBA	Return to school/nursery
TBA	Start of Sport & Active week
TBA	Sports event at Long Ditton St Mary's Juniors

EVENTS / ACTIVITES (outside of school) / School Adverts

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