

Long Meadow Matters

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Dear Parents and Carers,

As Head Teacher of this amazing school, I am disappointed for our families that we have had to take the measures we had to last week, at a time when some normality was returning for our children. However, we have a duty to mitigate any known risk, however low, to our children and our staff. We would all rather have been in school this week, but after continuing to work in partnership with Public Health England and Milton Keynes Council, it was recommended that some children and staff self-isolate as a precaution. We always put our children's and staff's safety first and will do everything we can to minimise the possibility of a local outbreak in our community. We know this is not the start our new EYFS families would have wanted, but please rest assured once we are back we will resume service as 'normal'.

You may have also seen recent articles in the MK Citizen. Yes, they have a duty to report what they believe to be the news, but we also hope that you as parents had the information contained in the articles before they were published. As a school, our actions are based on review, analysis, monitoring and advice and at no point because the papers publish an article. Our aim is to inform you of what we are doing and why we are doing it at the earliest possible time. From day one of being Head at LMS, I spoke about speaking to us directly if you have a concern. This still remains the case. Putting posts or commenting on Facebook does not help anyone and does not solve any concerns you may have.

This week Year 4 and Year 5 have taken part in Waddesdon Manor's Christmas 'Stars' project. The children have made wishes and designed them onto a star. All the wishes are being sent to the Manor and they will be engraved onto a metal star and displayed as part of their Christmas festivities. The children have thought very hard about what they would like to wish for:

- I wish my Dad could get a job
- I wish to make the world a better place
- I wish for the whole world to go back to normal
- I wish I could get rid of climate change



This put into perspective just how our children are thinking right now

We look forward to welcoming back Year 6 on Monday, EYFS on Thursday and Year 1 on Friday— we cannot wait to see your smiling faces.

Due to this **PLEASE** ensure you keep to your original drop off and pick up times as this will ensure we reduce the number of parents on-site.

Have a great weekend and look after each other.

Mr Gray
Head Teacher

Don't forget to share your Home-learning with us on Twitter (@Longmeadow Sch)

We love seeing and sharing all you have done!

Please remember **DO NOT** send your children into school if they are displaying any of the following symptoms:

New continuous cough and / or high temperature and / or a loss of, change in, normal sense of taste or smell.

Please contact school reception on 01908 508678 for advice if unsure.

If parents wish to wear face masks when picking up and dropping off, please feel free.

We must all do whatever we can to continue to stop the spread.



Week 3– Belief

We all need belief every single day. Belief in ourselves, belief in our children and belief in our school. As soon as we do not believe, doubt creeps in.

Thank you for your belief in us since we re-opened. Thank you for believing that we will always do everything we can to keep your children safe. The belief that we are open and transparent with you. The belief that we show relentless tenacity no matter what is thrown at us.

Share with your children how much you truly believe in them. Share with them how much you believe in us. If you can't, don't be negative about any part of school in front of them.

We will continue to show them every day just how much we believe in them.

Harvest Festival for the MK Food Bank

Harvest Festival is coming up soon, and we are hoping that parents will want to donate to MK Food Bank this year. The COVID-19 crisis has caused demand for their emergency food parcels to increase significantly and the need for community donations is higher than ever before.

This year they are asking if we can focus on their most needed items. which is a little different from how they usually run our harvest requests. The SIX ITEMS they would like us to focus on are as follows:

- Tinned pasta (spaghetti, spaghetti hoops, ravioli, macaroni cheese)
- Tinned custard and rice pudding
- Tinned meat (corned beef, Spam etc or tins of bolognese, chilli con carne, hot dogs etc)
- Tinned fruit
- Biscuits
- Long life juice / squash

This year they have a high stock of Dried Pasta , Dried Rice & Soup, therefore I would discourage you from bringing in these items if possible. Please could you also encourage children to check dates on items as we are unable to use food that is past its best before or use by date.

Finally, due to COVID-19, Could we please ask that NO carrier bags are used.

All items can be placed in the Food Bank crates in the main entrance. Please also ensure that you wait outside and socially distance if someone is already using the crates.

Thank you in advance for your support.