

**GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**



Leighterton Primary School
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Dear Parents

Thank you for all your support and kind messages throughout the year, and in particular during the lockdown. They mean a lot to all of us and it has been lovely to hear from you. It has been a very strange year and we are looking forward to being more 'normal' as soon as possible.

You are all doing an amazing job supporting your children with their learning at home – so a huge thank you to you all too.

I am writing to let you know about the plans that we have put in place for the children to return to school in September. Although I am writing now, there may be further advice published by the DfE during the summer which means that our plans may have to change slightly. If this happens, I will let you know as soon as I can.

ATTENDANCE

We will be reopening school for all children from 3rd September and all children will be expected to return to school. Shielding will be relaxed from 1st August and if there is a reason why any child will not be returning to school, please contact me. However, if your child is ill, please keep them home and let us know in the normal way.

If children become ill during the school day, we will contact you, as normal.

DROP OFF AND PICK UP

As parents are unable to come onto the school site or gather in our carpark, children may be dropped off and collected from the car park.

We will have staggered drop off and pick up times for all children who are in school full time. Children who are in Bowldown can be dropped off at 8.30 am in the bays in front of the school building in the car park. There is enough space for three cars so that several children may be dropped off at once. Children will come in through the wide wooden gate on the playground. Bowldown may be collected from the gate at 2.45 pm unless they are going to After School Club.

Children from Haymead and Ridge classes may be dropped off at 8.45 am at the wide, wooden playground gate. There will be a marked 'lane' for each class to enter so they can social distance as they come in. Again, there is space for three cars to drop off so more than one family can be dropped off at a time. Collection will be at 3.00 pm from the wide, wooden gate.

If you have children who are due in to school at more than one drop off time, please would you drop all children off at 8.30 am and collect them at 2.45 pm.

As we will have many more families at Leighterton from September, please would you ensure that the children are really well organised at drop off so that drop off is efficient. We will do the same at collection time.

Apsemore children will be starting their transition into school and a parent may bring them through the metal side gate by the hall to Apsemore class.

BREAKFAST AND AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

Breakfast and After School Clubs will reopen in September and booking and payment made be made in the usual way. Children may come to Breakfast Club from 7.30 am and one parent may bring them through the side gate by the hall to the door of the club. At 8.30 am the children will be brought over to school ready to start learning.

All children booked into After School Club will be collected taken over at 3.00 pm. Parents may come through the side gate by the hall to collect the children but unfortunately, will be unable to come into the building.

Children in Breakfast and After School Clubs will stay with their classes so that the bubbles social distance. They will be able to play away from their tables and the bubbles will not be allowed to mix at a distance of less than two metres. They will be able to spread out between both rooms in the terrapin so there will be more space for them.

CLASSROOMS

Each class will work in their normal classrooms. The tables will all face the front of the room and children will be able to sit side by side. Within the bubbles (each class), the children will not need to social distance (although they will be encouraged to do so, where possible) but the adults will social distance as there will be times when the adults will move between bubbles.

EQUIPMENT

Although children will be able to share general equipment in the classroom, they are unable to share pens, pencils etc without them being deep cleaned between each person using them. Please would you provide a pencil case for your child in Bowldown, Haymead and Ridge classes. This will be kept on your child's table and only your child will use their belongings. Please would you provide a pencil, a rubber, colouring pencils, a pencil sharpener, a ruler marked with cms and a glue stick inside the pencil case.

Children will need to keep their equipment at their tables and there will not be much space as there will be two children at each table. They may bring a lunch box, if needed, a coat, a hat and a small rucksack that they will keep on the back of their chair.

PE

On days when the children do PE, children should wear their PE kit to school and may keep it on all day. The teachers will write to you at the beginning of next term to let you know which days they will be doing PE.

SCHOOL BUS

As soon as the DfE released information about returning to school, we contacted the Local Authority about the school bus and are waiting for them to confirm that it will run. As soon as we have further information, we will contact you. Children under the age of 11 should not wear a face covering on the school bus. As they need to stay in their bubbles, Mrs Stevens has made a seating plan so they can sit safely to travel.

APPOINTMENTS AT SCHOOL

As we are unable to welcome visitors into school at present, parents are asked to phone school if they would like to speak to either me or one of the teaching team and we will arrange a mutually convenient time to talk.

TIMETABLES

We will operate using staggered drop off and collection times and playtimes and lunchtimes will be staggered too. The playground and fields will be zoned so that children have a specific area that they will be able to use. Lots of the learning will take place outside, where it is safer.

SCHOOL LUNCH

Only one class is able to use the school hall and after that it will be deep cleaned or quarantined for 48 hours before being used by a different group. Because of this, we will be unable to use it to eat lunch. Children will eat their lunch either in the classrooms or outside and will have a lunch box style lunch. This will continue to be provided by Caterlink and will be made in Dursley School and delivered to Leighterton each day. All children in Apsemore and Bowldown may order a lunch free of charge, as normal, and children in Haymead and Ridge may order a paid for packed lunch too.

You should have received a copy of the school holiday dates last week with the INSET days included. We have decided to hold two INSET days in September so that we can make last minute adjustments and move furniture to accommodate the children returning to school. These dates are also displayed on our website.

Thank you again for all of your lovely emails. We all really appreciate them. I hope you all have a lovely summer and I look forward to seeing you again in on Thursday 3rd September.

With best wishes

Meryl Hatfield

Headteacher