Headteacher: Mrs V Guest

Lostock Primary School
Glengarth Drive
Lostock
Bolton BL6 4PS

Tele: (01204) 333733
Fax: (01204) 333734
E mail: office@lostock.bolton.sch.uk
Web site: www.lostock.bolton.sch.uk

SUMMER 2 PARENT/CARER UPDATE 12.06.20

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you are all well and looking forward to a restful weekend.

Government Updates and Transition Arrangements
I am sure that you are aware that this week, the Education Secretary clarified the government's position regarding the full opening of primary schools for a month before the end of term. He has accepted that schools do not have the capacity, in terms of both physical space and teaching staff, to welcome back all pupils. Therefore, it is with regret that we will not be able to invite any more year groups back to Lostock Primary School before the end of the Summer Term. I understand that this situation is far from ideal and is frustrating for both you as parents/carers and your children.

Over the next two weeks, we will be making decisions about transition arrangements and staffing plans for September. The transition plans will not take the form of the usual 'flying up days', but I hope the arrangements will provide reassurance to you and your children. Details of these plans will be communicated with you in the next couple of weeks…

I await the announcement from government about what arrangements for September will look like. Thankfully, the number of new infections and deaths from Coronavirus continue to fall. The latest figures tweeted by Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester, are extremely encouraging and provide further evidence that it is safe to open school to pupils in eligible year groups from next week… We are hopeful if these figures continue to drop, this may bring an opportunity for a 'normal' start to the school year in September. However, we can only keep our fingers (and toes!) crossed at this stage.

Region	New confirmed cases by infection date	Expected change in daily cases	Effective reproduction no.	Doubling/halving time (days)
East Midlands	34 (20 – 46)	Likely decreasing	0.9 (0.7 – 1.1)	-27 (16 – -7.4)
East of England	28 (18 – 37)	Decreasing	0.7 (0.5 – 0.9)	-9.7 (-80 – -5.1)
London	19 (11 – 26)	Likely decreasing	0.8 (0.6 – 1.1)	-20 (14 – -6)
North East	14 (7 – 20)	Decreasing	0.7 (0.5 – 1)	-8.5 (92 – -4)
North West	65 (50 – 79)	Decreasing	0.8 (0.7 – 1)	-17 (260 – -8)
Northern Ireland	13 (7 – 21)	Unsure	0.9 (0.6 – 1.2)	-27 (8.8 – -5.3)
Scotland	32 (20 – 40)	Likely decreasing	0.9 (0.6 – 1.1)	-25 (19 – -7.5)
South East	47 (35 – 60)	Likely decreasing	0.9 (0.7 – 1)	-21 (31 – -7.9)
South West	26 (13 – 35)	Unsure	1 (0.7 – 1.3)	90 (7.9 – -9.4)
Wales	35 (24 – 45)	Decreasing	0.7 (0.5 – 0.8)	-7.8 (-20 – -4.8)
West Midlands	37 (25 – 47)	Likely decreasing	0.8 (0.7 – 1)	-18 (33 – -7.2)
Yorkshire and The Humber	39 (26 – 49)	Likely decreasing	0.8 (0.7 – 1)	-16 (53 – -7.1)

Wider Opening (Key Workers, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6)
After plans in place for wider opening were delayed due to concerns the 'R value' was above 1 last week, I am thrilled to announce that we will indeed be opening to more pupils from Monday. A letter was sent out to all eligible families yesterday (and is also on the school website), confirming the start date for each bubble. Please remember to sign the parent/carer agreement and bring back to school on or before your child's first day of return.

NB: If you said 'no' to a school return or did not communicate your intention, please do NOT send your child to school. I understand that some of you may wish to change your decision as we move through the term. However, planning for wider opening was based on numbers collated prior to half term and any changes can only take place if we have the capacity and would need to meet the requirements of our strict risk assessment, approved by the Local Authority. Therefore, even if we can facilitate the request, this may involve a wait of up to two weeks. Please email the school office with any questions.

REMINDER: Parent/Carer Questionnaires and Postcards to Children
Parent/Carer questionnaires and postcards to all children were sent out in the post before half term. Thank you so much to those who have already posted theirs back to school. If you have yet to complete yours, please can you return them as soon as possible.

Home Learning
Thank you for another super week of home learning. As ever, if you have any issues or questions regarding the online work set, please contact your child's class teacher via the blog or, if more urgent, by sending an email to office@lostock.bolton.sch.uk.

Diversity
'Schools Diversity Week' was set to start, week commencing 22nd June. We have had this in our diaries since the start of the academic year and have planned a range of learning activities for children to complete both via online learning at home and with eligible pupils in school. Diversity is, of course, celebrated throughout the school year in many aspects of our school curriculum already. For example, through history, PSHE, British Values and SMSC (Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural development) taught across all subject areas. However, in light of current affairs, we feel it is necessary to widen the focus on 'diversity'.

We began by considering our differences and similarities and what makes us proud to be us on the school blog this week. Next week, class teachers will also be focusing on celebrating diversity and tackling racism – all in an age appropriate way. For example, KS1 might look at a clip from Sesame Street and draw pictures celebrating differences and similarities, whilst KS2 might look at a BBC Bitesize clip on tackling racism and write down or discuss their feelings. Then, week commencing the 22nd June, 'Schools Diversity Week', will focus on a different area of diversity each day: religion, culture, ethnicity, disability and gender. I'm sure you will agree that this area of the curriculum is incredibly important and that you will support your children with any questions they might have.

Thank you
I will continue to update you on any new government guidance and transition arrangements for September. All our parents/carers have been absolutely amazing in the way you have supported your children and in the way you have supported Lostock Primary School. This has made a very difficult and challenging time much more manageable and has ensured we have all been able to stay safe and healthy. Thank you.

If there is anything else I can help you with at this stage, please don't hesitate to contact me via the school office.

Have a lovely weekend.

Yours faithfully,

Vicki Guest
Headteacher