

The Leys Nursery & Primary School

Wednesday 1st September 2021

Dear Parent,

Welcome to the new school year. I hope that you have had a happy and safe holiday. A very warm welcome to all our new pupils and their families, we hope that they all settle quickly into school life and enjoy their time at The Leys.

Recently schools received operational guidance for September 2021 to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 in our school. We will continue to follow an updated risk assessment and create an outbreak management plan outlining how we would operate if there were an outbreak in our school or local area. All information will be available on our website this week.

We have planned for school life going back to some kind of normality and have reflected on COVID-19 systems that we have in place that have worked well.

September 2021 updates

Please remember that school starts at 8.55am, and ensure that your child is on time, so that lessons can commence promptly at 9am after registration. No staggered starts.

Start and finish times

Reception:

8.50- 3.15 p.m

KS1

8.50-3.15 p.m

Lower KS2

8.50 - 3.15 p.m

Upper KS2

8.50- 3.15 p.m

We request that children not arrive on the school premises **before 8.30 am** as there is no supervision before this time.

Classroom doors will be opened at **8.45 a.m** for all years. The door will be kept open to **8.55 a.m.** by a member of staff. All pupils should report to the main office after this time.

Routes on and off the school site

You will be pleased our one-way system will not continue in September, but we ask all parents/carers to take time and space when passing others.

Bubbles and Self-Isolation

From Monday 16th August there will be no need to self-isolate as a close contact if you have been double vaccinated. Children also do not need to isolate due to contact at that point, this means that we should not have to close 'bubbles' if there is a positive case of covid. People who are positive with Covid themselves will still need to isolate but this will not affect the rest of the pupils. This means we no longer need to keep the children in

consistent groups, known as 'bubbles'. Children will be able to enjoy play time and lunch time outside with other year groups and we will be able to celebrate together in Key Stage assemblies once again. We will be guided by Public Health should we need to reintroduce class or year bubbles temporarily.

Hand Hygiene

We will continue to ask children to wash their hands regularly and will continue to provide hand sanitiser; the children and staff have got into good habits with this so we want to continue this into the winter months to reduce the risk of more viruses spreading.

Face Coverings

Staff and adults, including family members, will no longer be required to wear a face covering on site outdoors. However, Parents / Carers will be asked to wear a face mask when entering the school for meetings or the school office area.

'Meet your teacher'

We are delighted to welcome back our parents/carers into school, please see below dates for each year group meetings. This is a **vital meeting** for you to meet your child's new class teacher but also gain insight about your child's learning journey and day to day routines. The meetings will all take place in the **infant hall at 9am**.

Please see below the following dates

Year 3 - 6th September
Year 1 - 7th September
Year 2 - 8th September
Year 6 - 9th September
Nursery - 10th September
Year 4 - 13th September
Year 5 - 14th September
Reception - 15th September

We ask for only one parent/ carer to attend this meeting, wearing a face mask and enter via the side door near the Year 3 block. The meeting will take place for no longer than 15mins, with questions at the end.

School Values

In the summer, pupils, teachers and governors all worked together to create and update our school values;

Empathy, Inclusivity, Respect, Aspiration, Determination, Empowerment

As a school we will be referring to these values in all aspects of school life and education.

This term we will focus on Empathy- we support pupils to strengthen relationships by understanding how we learn, feel and think differently.

Newsletters

Please could you make sure you let us have your email address so we can keep you up to date with what is happening in school with the class newsletters. If you haven't had the text email to admin@leys.herts.sch.uk.

Other reminders

Coming back to school, it is always good to remind parents/ carers of a few expectations.

Uniform:

- Plain black shoes or trainers only please. The children need to be able to run in their school shoes.
- Ear rings have to be a plain stud. Children will be asked to remove their earrings for PE lessons.
- No other jewellery, nail varnish or tattoos.
- Please put a name label in everything. We send bags and bags of clothes to the charity shop. Putting names on the ends of sleeves, facing out, rather than in the collars, helps the children to find their own clothes more easily.

Health & Safety

The health and safety of the children at The Leys is of the highest importance and therefore for the safety of the children please do not park on the yellow zigzag lines outside school. Please be extra cautious when driving in the area around school.

Holidays

I would like to remind parents that, as from September 1st, the law gives **no entitlement to parents to take their children on holiday during term time**. As headteacher I no longer have the authority in law to authorise absences for holidays or related activities, unless there are 'exceptional' circumstances. I would not be expected to class any term time holiday as 'exceptional'. This being the case, any requests for term time holidays will be declined and any subsequent absences will be recorded as unauthorised. Please do not take holidays in term time to avoid any misunderstanding. Thank you for your understanding and support in implementing this change to the law.

Curriculum Enrichment

The teachers have been working very hard to organise a number of enrichment trips for this academic year. For this term Year 2 will be enjoying Whipsnade Zoo, Year 3 will be thoroughly enjoying themselves at Celtic Manor and Year 6 staying in North Wales at Manor Adventure! Letters have or will be issued about these events and many more in the year! We are hoping to offer swimming lessons for our children in Year 4, 5 & 6 this year as part of our catch plan. We will seek your views later on in the autumn term regarding parent consultations taking place face to face or via phone.

PTA

The Ley's PTA is a small but active group of parents who work to support the life of the school as well as raise valuable funds. As your child is a member of The Leys Nursery & Primary School, you are automatically a member of our PTA...your voice counts! Our first Meeting will take place online (a link will be sent out) on Tuesday 5th October at 6.30pm. Please come along and see what it's all about!

Please check the school website regularly and weekly newsletter for updates. Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

I wish everyone a happy and successful new school year.

Yours sincerely,

D'Khangura

Mrs D Khangura
Headteacher

