

# Long Whatton C of E Primary School

Newsletter 07.01.20



Happy new year to you all, I think I speak for most of us when I say let's hope that this year is a positive one and maybe we will have some normality soon.

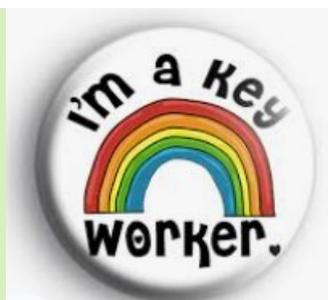
I do hope you have all had a lovely Christmas and managed to spend some time over the Christmas period recuperating and with family.

I do apologise for changing some of your Christmas plans due to class bubble closures but it was important that we keep you and your families as safe as possible. I'm sure it wasn't the news you wanted to hear but I hope you can understand that the isolation was essential.



On Monday this week we were preparing to welcome all of our children back into school again and then by 8.00pm all of those plans were scrapped as Boris Johnson made his announcement to close all schools and lock us down. Communication on the evening was extremely difficult as our Teacher's to Parent's system went down due to all of the other head teachers trying to communicate with their families last minute. Thank you to those parents who WhatsApped and Facebooked to direct our families to the Google classroom to pick up my email response to the announcement.

I'm sure there must be parents thinking 😞 Home Schooling Again! But please be kind to yourself. The most important thing is that your children are safe, well and happy. If you find the work too much then stop and take a break and just do what work you can do. Don't panic that they will fall behind because every child across Europe is in the same position and they will make progress again! Home is the safest place for them to be right now even if it doesn't feel that way.



We have been inundated with critical worker requests for care at school this lockdown. We have requested initially that it is parents that are both key workers as we are a small school with 8 teaching and support staff in total. Therefore we can only have two adults in the hall with the children as the rest of the staff must be able to plan, prepare and mark quality lessons on the Google Classroom for all of our children. We are a small school and have a small staff team compared to larger primaries. Of course we will try to accommodate any request

if we can.

I believe it is vital that our teaching staff are focused on quality lessons to help you as much as possible at home and to support our children and their learning.

Again I ask critical worker parents to not send their child into school if they are unwell or someone in their household is unwell as this will close the critical worker bubble and puts children, staff and their families at risk.

## Staffing Update

I just wanted to start by sharing how amazing I think the staff at the school are. They have been working incredibly hard now since the first lockdown in March and have worked tirelessly for your children.

They quickly adapt from teaching in the classroom to the online classroom and have at times been understandably worried as we had our first case in November but they have always been so positive and worked as a team.

They worked incredibly hard to create a normal-ish Christmas in school for the children in the final week and have had 1 days notice to change all of their lessons plans this week to adapt them for the children. Miss Hellowell had even purchased an Octopus and all sorts of sea creatures ready to share with her children on Tuesday to launch the topic but now her freezer is full after the lockdown was announced!

### **Mrs Plummer**

I'm sure that some of you may have noticed that Mrs Plummer is expecting a baby in May 2021. I'm sure you will join me as I congratulate Mr and Mrs Plummer on their exciting news.

### **Mr Lawson**

Mr Lawson has now joined the team to cover Mrs Plummer's maternity leave. We had made the decision for Mr Lawson to work alongside Mrs Plummer earlier than her due date as at 28 weeks in February Mrs Plummer will be classed as extremely vulnerable under the government guidance. Mr Lawson was all set to start with Mrs Plummer on Tuesday so he can get to know the children but again that changed at the last minute due to lockdown. He is now supporting Miss Hellowell and the Flying Falcons on the Google Classroom and will continue to work alongside Mrs Plummer until she goes on maternity leave.

Mr Lawson is a very experienced teacher and has worked all over Ashby and Coalville teaching all ages. He is also a year 6 SATs marker so knows exactly what is required in year 6.

He has introduced himself on the Google Classroom too and I'm sure he will become a familiar face.



### **Mrs Taylor**

Mrs Taylor will be returning from her maternity leave this half term and will be in school on a Wednesday. She will currently be working in the hall on a Wednesday with key worker children.

# Christmas

The children had a wonderful and busy last week in school. They enjoyed the online panto and the snacks provided by the PTA. They had a lovely Christmas dinner and Santa arrived at their Christmas parties. The online nativities gave our children a chance to shine and the sporty ones enjoyed their Santa Run!

Here is a sample of just some of the excitement!



## 50 Miles!

I would just like to say how proud we are of Alice Rands who ran 50 miles during the month of December and raised £1,060 for the Leicester Children's Hospital (where her own life was saved in 2015).

Well done Alice! That really is an amazing achievement!

I would also like to personally thank you for your kindness and well wishes for my recovery from the Corona Virus. It has taken some time to recover and I think I can speak from experience when I say please stay safe over this lockdown.

Mrs Gray and the Long Whatton Team