



# Langtoft Primary School

## School Closure – Update #5

Friday 5 February 2021



## REMOTE LEARNING CHANGES FROM MONDAY

From Monday, class teachers will be back in school, mornings only, to teach the growing number of children physically in school. Up to this point, it has been teaching assistants (with the exception of Mrs Bytheway in EYFS) that have been delivering the learning to those children in school as set by teachers working from home. The teaching assistants have been doing a great job. I really am grateful to them. Like parents at home, teaching assistants have become teachers overnight – and what a great job they – and you – are doing.

Having teaching assistants in school instead of class teachers has allowed class teachers to focus on setting up remote learning via Seesaw, new concepts to many of us – teachers and parents alike. Teachers have been able to respond to questions quickly, provide additional support to individual families as needed, read and respond to children's posts, and find ways to deliver teaching in a new way.

It is important that you know of this change as it means that things will be done slightly differently from Monday:

- Children attending school in the mornings will not have their completed activities uploaded to Seesaw as the class teacher will have already seen the work and given feedback
- Learning uploaded may now be 'approved' and 'liked' by the class' teaching assistant so that teachers can focus on giving feedback in the afternoons
- Teachers may not be able to respond to questions until the afternoon: they will be teaching in the morning.

The change from teachers working at home to working in school in the mornings will not change;

- the amount of learning that is offered: we shall still offer three hours in EYFS/KS1 and four hours in KS2
- the content of learning: children in school will be taught the same curriculum as the children at home
- the hour of learning in the afternoon for KS2: this will still be set by the class teacher and delivered by the teaching assistant. This will now be done in classrooms, though, rather than in the hall as before.
- the feedback given to children by teachers. I repeat the item from last week's Update...

## REMOTE LEARNING FEEDBACK FROM TEACHERS

I would like to clarify the expectations for feedback the children receive as part of remote learning. The *Department for Education* specifies precise feedback once a week. We have always given more than that – mainly because class teachers find it impossible not to!

From next week, writing in KS2 will receive precise feedback for improvement once a week. It is an expectation that children in Y3 to Y6 will repeat some or all of the writing – just as they would if they were in school – to show they have responded to the feedback. We accept that this may be difficult for some children and so encourage them to do their best. In KS1, where there are more writing tasks but less writing to read, teachers will continue to give feedback of encouragement little and often.

Feedback for mathematics will be given when there is a misconception or where work has been completed carelessly.

All other activities that are uploaded will continue to be 'approved', 'liked' and sometimes given a brief comment or emoji.

## **REMOTE LEARNING INTERACTION BETWEEN CLASS AND TEACHER**

We shall wait to hear the announcement about the return to school for all children due to be made on 22 February before planning the next stage in our offer of remote learning. If the return is delayed beyond the rumoured 8 March, we shall turn our efforts towards providing 'live' interaction between each class and its teacher.

## **PHONICS SCREENING CHECK ANOTHER TOP YEAR OF RESULTS**

The Y1 *Phonics Screening Check* was delayed until the autumn terms of Y2 due to the school closure between March and June last year. I am delighted to announce that

# 96%

of the children in Y2 reached the required standard. Well done, boys and girls. This is testament to the commitment of our school to high-quality teaching of phonics, our investment in resources and staff development, the support from parents at home that practise reading each day, and, of course, to the hard work of the children each day in school. You may be interested to know that the national figure is 78% and the figure for Lincolnshire is 76%. Just saying...

## **READING BOOK RETURN DEADLINE OF FRIDAY 12 FEBRUARY**

We request that the reading books and Home School Records of **ALL** children are returned to school on either **Thursday 11 February or Friday 12 February 2021**. This is so that we can exchange the books for new ones. This is especially important for children at the early stages of reading in EYFS, Y1, Y2 and Y3. Reading is a priority in our school: we want to provide as much support as we can. We can only do this if the books are returned.



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There will be labelled boxes outside the school gates **between 09:00 and 16:00 on both days** for you to drop off the reading books and Home School Record. Please bundle the books and Record

together with an elastic band or string. Please return the books in the plastic wallet they were sent home in (EYFS/KS1 only).

We shall endeavour to have new books ready for collection on the first day of Term 4, 22 February 2021. We shall confirm this nearer the time.

**Thank you so much for your help with this.**

## **JOB VACANCY SEND TEACHING ASSISTANT**

We have a vacancy for the position of a SEND Teaching Assistant. The post is permanent and part-time (15 hours per week, three hours each morning). Please visit the Vacancies page under the About Us tab on our website for details. The closing date is 12 noon on Wednesday 10 February 2021.

**THE INFORMATION BELOW HAS NOT CHANGED FROM LAST WEEK**

## **ADVANCE WARNING LATERAL FLOW DEVICE TESTING FOR STAFF**

Staff who are in school are carrying out a test for COVID-19 using a lateral flow device (LFD). The device indicates if an asymptomatic adult is carrying the virus. Testing is being carried out on Sunday evening and Wednesday evenings. Staff are reporting the test result to me by 8:00pm that day.

Whilst this is great news in the step towards breaking the chain of transmission, it does mean that at very short notice it may be necessary to close a 'bubble' whilst the adult has a PCR test. As always, I will communicate this via ParentMail so please get in to the habit of checking your ParentMail inbox each Sunday evening and each Wednesday evening just in case. Obviously, no news is good news.

## **FEBRUARY HALF-TERM SCHOOL CLOSED TO ALL**

The *Department for Education* has announced that **schools will be closed to all children, even those of Critical Workers and those that are considered vulnerable, during the February half-term** (Monday 15 to Friday 19 February). Our school will re-open for these children only on Monday 22 February. You will have needed to have requested a place for your child by using the form on ParentMail from Thursday 18 February and by 12 noon on Friday 19 February.

## **REPORTING TEST RESULTS FOR COVID-19**

If your child is NOT attending school at the moment i.e. during lockdown, you do not need to inform the school if your child's test result is positive. This is because your child is not mixing with anyone in our school community and so it is not considered 'school business'.

If your child is attending school (because they fall in to the vulnerable group or because you are a Critical Worker), you **must keep your child at home if they or anyone else in your household has symptoms**. You **must inform the school of a positive test result** so that we can inform others who have been in close contact.