



Dear Parents,

Thank you to all parents for helping to support our measures to keep our school and the wider community safe in the current pandemic. As the number of infections continues to rise around the country and locally it is great to see how children and parents are helping through social distancing, good hand hygiene and keeping us informed of any infections. This week we were able to welcome back our Year 6 class who had been isolating at home and I am pleased to say that there were no more positive cases, another reassurance that many of our measures in school are helping to protect our community.

It was lovely to see the children wearing something yellow today – such a cheerful colour and thanks to Mrs Saad who brought in some sunflowers to brighten up the Thorns staffroom. All children have been learning about mental health today. This is the start of a conversation in school and our sessions today are helping to establish some shared terminology.

We all have mental health.

Mental health is about our feelings, our thinking, our emotions and our moods.

Looking after our mental health is important.

Children in Reception and Year 1 have been naming a range of emotions and learning about talking to someone in school if they are worried about anything. In Year 2 and at Park Hill children have watched a short video clip from the Anna Freud Centre and considered who they have on their personal network. We use the personal network with the children in our protective behaviours curriculum and also in the anti-bullying assembly last week. Children are asked to think of five people who they trust and who they could talk if they feel unsafe or worried about something. You could ask your child who is on their network; please use the parent leaflet attached to this email to support you in any conversations with your child.

You can see the video clip at
<https://www.mentallyhealthyschools.org.uk/resources/starting-conversations-in-the-classroom/>

Best wishes, Mrs Liz Bradbury

This week

Next week

Thorns PTA AGM on Monday 12 October at 7.30pm – online

Park Hill school photographs on Tuesday 13 October

Park Hill parent's evenings and learning reviews 12 to 16 October on MS Teams – appointment links emailed to parents

Year 6 Bikeability for Godiva class – please see email for more details

Next week

Thorns	<p>Snacks</p> <p>Children at Thorns are given a free piece of fruit or a vegetables through a funded government scheme. There is always a choice of snack for children in each class. Over the year we have apples, pears, bananas, carrots, tomatoes, baby cucumbers, strawberries and dried fruit.</p> <p>Please do not send any snacks into Thorns as we provide these for all children. Thank you.</p>
Park Hill	<p>Parent's Evenings and Learning Reviews</p> <p>Park Hill parents should all have received an email from school this week with the date and time for your parent's evening appointment and a link to join the MS Teams meeting. If you have not received an appointment from us then do please get in touch.</p> <p>Our parents evening appointments will be 10 minutes long and as they are scheduled to run one straight after another the teachers will be working very hard to stick to the allotted times. Please help us by ensuring that you join the meeting online just before the start and this will enable the teacher to begin each meeting promptly.</p> <p>As this is the first time we have used this approach for parent's evening we anticipate that there may be some teething problems. If you are having any difficulty on the day please call the school office or email us; there will be someone available to respond to any queries.</p>
Park Hill	<p>School photographs</p> <p>On Tuesday morning we hope that the children arrive even more polished and shiny than usual ready for our annual school photograph day. Unfortunately this year we cannot invite younger children into school for a photo opportunity as we normally would. We will take photographs of siblings together if both children are at Park Hill.</p>
Years 4 and 3 and 2	<p>After School Clubs</p> <p>We are making every effort and working with external partners to look at how we might bring back some of our after school activities and clubs. Unfortunately due to coronavirus restrictions some clubs are not viable and will not be able to run at present and others will need to be adapted.</p> <p>One of the first clubs making a return is Ricky's Dance Club. This will be open to Year 4 only in the first instance and we will look at offering the club to other year groups later in the coming months. Each Year 4 class will be kept in their separate bubbles at the club.</p> <p>In Year 2 and Year 3 we are offering cookery club through Bayleaf cookery. This club will run if we have twelve children from one class as we seek to keep the groups separate.</p> <p>Please return the club reply slip as soon as possible if your child would like to join one of these clubs.</p>

Autumn Festival Trail and Thorns Raffle Winners

The PTA are excited to announce a new event for the half term holidays. The Autumn Festival Trail is an opportunity to decorate your house and/or garden at a time of year when we traditionally celebrate lots of things: the change of seasons, Diwali, Halloween, Dia de los Muertos and more!

All households who wish to enter will be located on a map which will be free for everyone to enjoy the trail. Entry for the display competition is £5 and both Thorns and Park Hill Schools can benefit from these funds. Other PTAs across Kenilworth are also joining in, which means we hope there will be lots of interest and fabulous displays to enjoy! There will be an online vote for the best displays and fabulous prizes to be won, donated by local businesses!

For more information, go to the Autumn Term Festival Trail Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/autumnfestivaltrail/> (you do not need to have a Facebook account to see this) – the entry form will be available soon. We hope you'll join us for this latest fundraiser!

The Thorns raffle is now complete and the winner of the £84 Bouncy Castle credit voucher is Rachael Caveney and the winner of the microlight flight is Sarah Bennett. Congratulations to both lucky winners and many thanks to all those who took part and purchased a ticket; we raised over £130.



ILEAP Charity - Supporting Children With Additional Needs

The ILEAP Charity have been providing community based leisure activities in South Warwickshire for children aged 4 and above and adults with Additional Needs for 19 years and we'd like to reach out to as many families as possible so that we can spread the word to those who may be isolated and or vulnerable.

We currently have a fantastic variety of fun, creative interactive online sessions, Cookery, Arts, Dance, Quizzes and Drama to name just a few. These are running now and will continue throughout term time and school holidays. We are making a safe phased returned to our much loved community based activities too. We currently have a free renewal and membership offer, please see poster below for more detail.

We have recently received a grant from BBC Children in Need to provide sessions for children ages 4-12 years old. In October Half Term, we have organised brand new sessions for children in this age gap to help give parents/carers some respite.

We are also looking for reliable and enthusiastic volunteers to join our team. ILEAP activities run all year round and opportunities are flexible and ongoing. Our activities are currently based online but we will look to make a phased return to community based sessions when we can do so safely.

If you'd like to find out more about joining ILEAP charity or our volunteering opportunities, please visit our website or our Facebook page or contact us for a chat by telephone or email!

Charlie Higgitt, Children's Project Coordinator
ILEAP Charity

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Email: children@ileap.co.uk

Website: www.ileap.co.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ileapcharity

Donate: www.justgiving.co.uk/ileap