

LODDON PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Loddon Primary School

Working together to realise the potential in everyone.

NEWSLETTER NO 6

27th November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,



House Gems

Congratulations to the following children who have been nominated to receive a Values 'House Gem'.

Rania S	Kites	Earth	Resilience, patience and perseverance
Callum J	Kestrels	Fire	Peace and responsibility
Elyssia W	Greylings	Air	Kind and responsible



The last 2 weeks have been challenging for our community at Loddon not least for the self-isolating Year 1 children and their families; staff members either self-isolating or covering duties for absent colleagues and of course for those who have been unwell. I would therefore like to start this newsletter by thanking all the Y1 children for their commitment to remote learning at home; all the parents who have supported that remote learning; all the staff who have covered extra duties on top of their own and anyone who has given a word of encouragement or reassurance to our school - your words mean the world to us. These are indeed trying times for us all with forced changes to routines, disruption to our daily lives and the associated anxiety for children and adults alike. I am truly inspired by the ability of people to pull together and go the extra mile at such times and thank everyone who has done so for your contributions when our school needed you most.

Update on Coronavirus in School

As national Lock-down comes to an end Wokingham Borough has been placed in the Tier 2 High Alert. The school's risk assessment <https://www.loddonprimary.co.uk/our-school/policies> remains appropriate to this level and we will therefore continue our controls as before. To support our efforts please can we ask you to continue to follow rules, systems and signs on site. This currently includes wearing a face covering when dropping off at Reception and Nursery due to the narrow paths and reduced staff supervision in that area of our site.



The following paragraphs of this newsletter are in answer to a few questions we have received about how decisions are taken in school on who needs to self-isolate. Each situation will need to be judged on its particular circumstances but the guiding principle will always be to identify **contacts** in partnership with Public Health England's advice. These **contacts** would then all be required to self-isolate for 14 days (or 10 days from when they show symptoms). We are not required to prove all contacts beyond any doubt but rather to identify where there is a reasonable chance an individual could be a contact; for example, it would be reasonable to assume all Y1 children in a bubble are contacts with each other as they do not follow social distancing at this young age.

Whilst it will always be regrettable if we need to direct individuals to self-isolate it is absolutely a key tool in suppressing the virus and avoiding an outbreak on site. We will always follow DFE and Public Health England advice on who needs to self-isolate and will never underestimate the challenges associated with having to ask children or staff to do so - that said there will be occasions where the health and safety of all our school community means this simply has to happen.

The following definitions are useful in understanding this decision-making process further.

Contact definitions:

Direct close contacts: Face to face contact with a case for any length of time, within 1m, including being coughed on, a face to face conversation, unprotected physical contact (skin to skin). This includes exposure within 1 metre for 1 minute or longer.

Proximity contacts: Extended close contact (within 2m for more than 15 minutes) with a case.

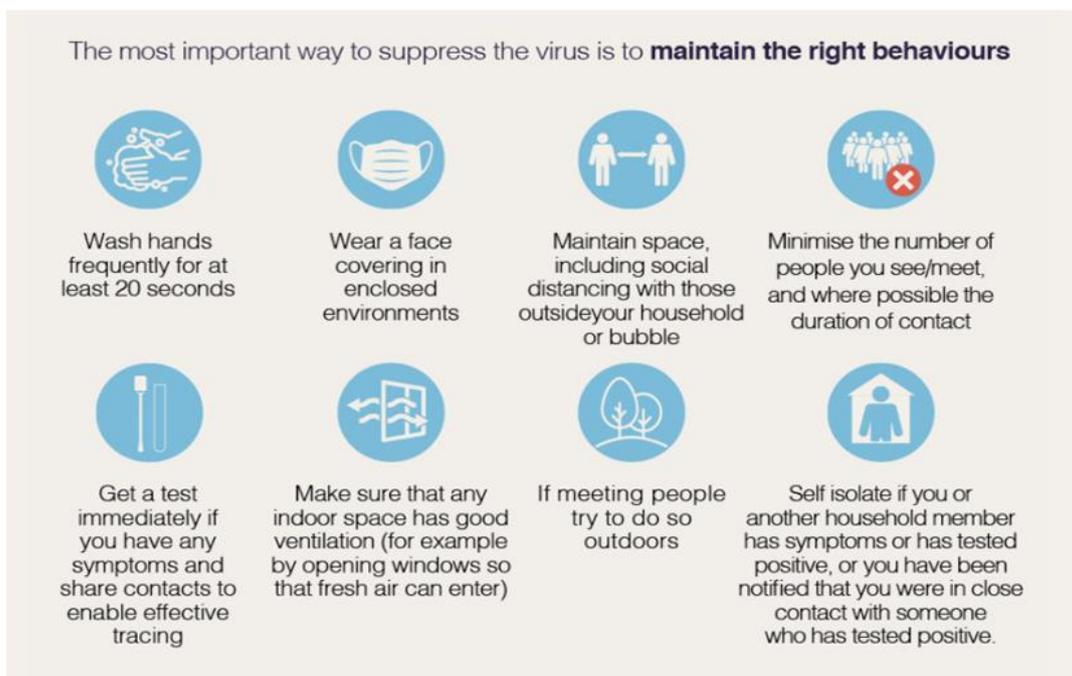
Travelled in a small vehicle with a case.

Infectious Period:

The infectious period is from 48 hours prior to symptom onset to 10 days after, or 48hrs prior to test if asymptomatic.

Incubation Period: 1-14 days, usually 5 - 7 days.

When all members of the school community follow the risk assessment on site this should reduce the number of associated contacts that will need to potentially self-isolate and most importantly will help to suppress the virus.



**Under 12s and some other individuals are exempt from the use of face coverings. Face coverings are not a requirement in Primary schools however; we currently recommend them for drop off and collection to Nursery and Reception classes.*

Second Hand School Uniform

Due to the current situation second-hand school uniform 'After-school' sales will be placed on hold until notice further. Any donations are most welcome but please ensure that items have been washed and placed in a carrier bag before dropping off into school in the box labelled 'second hand uniform donations' which has been provided and placed near the reception area.

Thank you for your continuing support.



Coffee Morning

It was lovely to see reception parents join our virtual coffee morning. Next week's session is open to Year 1 parents and carers. Parents of children in other years groups are most welcome to join too. Please click on the link provided to access via Teams. *Kam Bhogal, Parent Support Advisor*

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_NDdkMzA5OGUtZjQ4Yy00YjZjLWE0OTU+OGNjYzc2MjQxODRk%40thread.v2/0?cont ext=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22bb9e37b9-abf4-45ab-b518-b41fcfeea0d7%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22a32daae1-1346-4aba-b6a6-a82e901a6cf5%22%7d



St Nicolas Community Advent Trail

As we enter Advent this Sunday St Nicolas Church is putting together a Community Advent Trail, which means we need your help. We are looking for families to display a picture which will be provided, in your window from November 29th to December 24th.

Those following the trail will need to spot the picture and follow the trail leading to St Nicolas on Sutcliffe Ave RG6 7JN, so if you have a window which is clearly visible from the road, in the vicinity of St Nicolas and would like to take part please reply to Eleanor@stnicolas.org.uk with your address and postcode, by Wednesday 2nd December, so she can work out a route. Thank you.

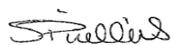
Trinity Church Advent windows

As a result of Christmas gatherings not taking place in the same way this year, Trinity Church (near ASDA) would like to invite you to visit the church during the weeks leading up to Christmas. We will be having a weekly Advent window Display for you to come and enjoy. From the first week of Advent (29th Nov) there will be a different theme covering LOVE, JOY, HOPE and PEACE and each display involving some cheeky characters, a tiny mouse to find and a bear (as part of the Lower Earley Bear Hunt). The Window display can be looked at from the outside (Asda Carpark side). The other main windows (on the Library side) will also be beautifully decorated with a stained-glass effect Christmas Nativity from beginning of December. These windows can be enjoyed from the outside and we would love you to share this with your friends and neighbours so they too can have a peek in the window on their way to Asda!

Community events

Are you a community leader and would you like to advertise an event in our school newsletter? We would like to work in partnership with community groups representing all within our diverse community so please do get in touch if you have an event to share which you believe would be of interest to Loddon families and in alignment with our values-based ethos.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs S Phillips - Headteacher

Diary Events List: Autumn 2020

Date	Time	Event
01/12/2020	16.00-16.30	Remote open day event for new admissions in September 2021 - e-mail the school office to book a place
04/12/2020	During day	Year one flu vaccination (new date due to self-isolating)
16/12/2020	During day	Caterlink Christmas packed lunch
18/12/2020	All day	Last day of Autumn term
19/12/2020- 3/1/2020	All day	Christmas holidays
4/1/2020	All day	First day of Spring term