



Lady Elizabeth Hastings' CE VA Primary School
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NEWSLETTER – Friday 25th June 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Start and end of the school day

There have been recent discussions regarding the start and end times for each class bubble. After giving these comments due consideration, we have decided to continue with the current timings and arrangements. As there is such a relatively small proportion of the school year remaining, we felt that making alterations at this stage would not be worthwhile, given then the amount of change to routines it would cause.

Hopefully, class bubbles will be soon a thing of the past.

Play equipment

One positive step that we have been able to make is to allow the children to use the play equipment on the edge of the school field. Although this is a small step, it has proved popular with the children and they have enjoyed this small step towards normality.

LEH runs the Euros!

We are today launching a new physical activity and fundraising challenge that all pupils in school are able to participate in. As a whole school, we are aiming cumulatively run the distance from Thorp Arch to the different venues where the Euro 2020 matches are being played. Our first aim is to run the 168 miles from Thorp Arch to Wembley Stadium 'as the crow flies'. We've worked out that would be an average of 22 laps of the daily mile circuit for each pupil spread over the next two weeks, which sounds very achievable. Once we've hit that goal, we will see which other venues we can 'run to' before the European Championships final on 11th July.

We are using this challenge with two goals in mind:

1. To boost levels of physical activity and further develop positive attitude to active and healthy lifestyles;
2. To raise funds to buy new resources for our school – geography, design technology and equipment for our library are the main areas where we are aiming to spend the funds that we raise.

We are asking pupils to gather sponsors for taking part in the activity rather than for each lap or mile that they run. Year 6 pupils are taking responsibility for gathering and recording the total distances run by the whole school. They have already designed and made the spreadsheets that they will use to record the total distances covered by each class over the next two weeks. All children have been given a letter and sponsor form that they will bring home today.

Sports days

We had hoped to be able to run a whole school sports day but the extension of Covid restrictions means that this will not be possible. Instead, each class bubble will hold its own sports day events over the next few weeks. Although this is disappointing, there are some positives to be taken from this. Activities can be very much tailored to the ages and level of development of the children in each class. Last summer, we held a Y6 sports day which the children had hand in designing, and although it was different to the traditional sports day structure, the children still very much enjoyed it. We will still maintain a competitive element as well as making the events being enjoyable for all pupils. Sadly, we will not be able to invite families to spectate at the class sports days. Thank you in advance for your understanding.

Staffing

We completely understand that there will be uncertainty and concern about the changes of staffing that are due to take place and have already taken place in school. I would like to reassure you that first of all, the governors are working incredibly hard to get the best available staff appointed at LEH ready for September. The time and expertise that they are giving to support the school is invaluable and we would like to thank them for all that they have done and continue to do. Also, the school staff continue to work incredibly hard for our pupils, as they have done through the year.

The reason any of our staff work choose to work in schools and at LEH in particular is for the children; our pupils continue to be our focus, as they always have been, and we are looking forward to making the very most of the time available before the summer break.

The recruitment process for teachers for September is well underway. We had 63 people join a Zoom call last week to find out more about the roles advertised and we have received over 100 applications. Shortlisting is being completed today in preparation for interviews next week.

Garden update

Just a quick update on the retreat garden. It is looking fantastic! If you aren't involved in drop-offs and collections you may not have seen how much the garden has developed over the last couple of months thanks to the incredible amount of time and effort that Mrs Bowley, Mrs Hutchinson and all the other parents have given to make this area such a fantastic resource for the children. We had been hoping to get some staff training sessions in getting the most out of this area for the children and this remains a long-term objective. In the meantime, we will be taking children down to the garden over the remainder of the term. All the children in school had the opportunity to suggest a name for the retreat garden.

All the suggestions were handed to Mrs Bowley and Mrs Hutchinson and the name they have chosen is 'Hastings' Haven' which is the idea of Daniel Jennings in Class 5. Congratulations to Daniel for his excellent suggestion and thank you to all the children for their ideas! We are in the process of having a sign made for the garden and Daniel will be able to play an important role in the official reopening.



Bikeability Training

Bikeability week starts on Monday 27th June. Children can come to school in their PE kit.

Group A sessions

- Monday 28th June. Bikeability level 1 sessions on the school playground. Morning only.
- Thursday 1st July. Bikeability level 2 sessions on local roads. All day.

Group B sessions

- Monday 28th June. Bikeability level 1 sessions on the school playground. Afternoon only.
- Friday 1st July. Bikeability level 2 sessions on local roads. All day.

Dates for your diary

Monday 28 June	Bikeability Training week
Friday 23 July	School closes for summer holidays
Monday 26 July	Training Day
Tuesday 27 July	Training Day

Yours sincerely



Mike Smith
Deputy Headteacher