



Number 1
Monday 6th September 2021

LPPS Newsletter

Web www.ladygrove-park.oxon.sch.uk

Email office.2609@ladygrove-park.oxon.sch.uk

Phone App: Search "School Jotter"

This is our weekly newsletter which is sent out on Fridays. It is the main place to read the news and notices about the school. The document named 'Full Opening Guidance' is a parent update focused on informing you of changes regarding Covid and is sent out as soon as changes are made in school.

Please download our **mobile app called 'School Jotter'**. It's linked to our website so you will receive an alert as soon as a school communication is sent out. Details on how to download our app are on our website under the 'communications' tab, 'newsletters' or search for 'School Jotter' on your phone.

It was lovely to see so many excited children returning to school on Friday, along with quite a few excited parents. The children spent the day being introduced to the plans for their learning and our school expectations for this new year. I've summarised some of the relevant school features here:

Ladygrove Standard
Be safe and help others
Show respect and tolerance
Listen and follow instructions
Be responsible for possessions
Show good manners
Be school ready
Have a Positive Mental Attitude

School Rules

Children can be awarded Life Skills Certificates which are aligned with the school rules "The Ladygrove Standard". These awards are for demonstrating exemplary behaviour in each of the specific areas. Children awards and achievements (of any kind) are celebrated at assembly time at the end of each week.

Nevertheless, the school rules also remain in place to address any poor behaviour. Any child persistently demonstrating low-level poor choices (such as talking over the teacher, running in the corridor, etc) will be issued with a Sanction Slip by the teacher. If the child continues to receive Sanction Slips the teacher will communicate this with the parent in order to work together to address the issues. As always, more serious breaches in behaviour are escalated to Senior Leaders immediately and parents subsequently involved.

Above is the basic version of the 'Ladygrove Standard'

You might like to consider referring to the rules at home, to facilitate consistency between home and school. There is a more detailed version of the Standard on the website.

The Honours Awards

Children gain gold stars for academic achievement (well improved test score, big improvement in writing, consistently high quality work, etc) and purple stars for life skills (putting in much more effort, helping others to achieve, etc). The stars add up to certificates. We developed these certificates to reflect a range of the national Honour Awards given in the UK. Certificates start with 'Merit' stages, move up through 'Member of LPPS' stages until becoming a 'Knight/Dame' of the school. Further than this, children receive a metal star pin badge to wear and finally just a few each year will get a personal letter of recommendation (for reaching 150 stars). It's not a competition between classes or siblings because teachers will have different standards for awarding stars. The children are essentially in a competition against themselves, not others. The important thing is how each star was achieved, not necessarily how many you have.

Assemblies

These offer the chance for us to address school and societal questions with children in a group larger than just their classmates. Assemblies are currently all prerecorded for the children to watch in their classes but eventually they will take the form of key stage groups in the hall in addition to online updates.

We cover many issues and questions through the year and include guest speakers. We approach the topics through story, values debate, mindfulness, appropriate news items and research. We periodically return to more important topics such as good mental health practices, diversity, etc. This term we address the school motto and rules:

- You and the **School Rules**: Why have rules? Democracy and Electing House Captains
- You as a **role model**: the Honours Awards, famous British role models
- You, the **thinker**: how to reflect and learn, metacognition, mindfulness
- You and everyone else: **collaborators**, working together for success, supporting and being supportive
- Diversity and Equality- putting our motto to work while ensuring equality

School Development Plans

All schools deploy a School Development Plan each year which outlines the areas they have evaluated as necessary to develop and enhance further. It is a good idea for parents to know the main points of our strategic plans as you may be able to help with your child at home. In 2019

we began to focus on opportunities for the children to deepen understanding in all our curriculum subjects by taking a 'mastery' approach to all topics as well as using Learning Organisers to share their curriculum (Curriculum Letters on the website). This continues while we also focus on the areas which educational research shows are necessary post pandemic, including ensuring any academic gaps are filled and children are stretched further academically. Chromebook use was being ramped up in our SDP before pandemic and became significantly more important thereafter, so we continue to focus on this integration. Also, during pandemic, we made more consistent use of our wider environment with more focus on physical activity and Forest School, this will continue.

PTA School Events

The PTA have been extremely effective with virtual events over the past year but have now exhausted these opportunities. At our last virtual meeting in the summer term we agreed that the next meeting would consider the schedule of in person events for this academic year. Look out for news of the meeting date and thereafter a range of exciting events will be scheduled. More information will follow when possible.

School Site: Children are now able to use the climbing frames and all other outdoor facilities. Therefore we need to remind parents that children should not use these or loiter in the playgrounds before or after school. There are two main reasons for this: there is no one available to supervise at these times if anyone was to get into difficulty or hurt themselves and we have to close the gates after school so that After School Club children can play safely.

Reminders

Here are the standard 'start of term' reminders. We have tried to make the information more accessible by putting it in topics. You aren't expected to remember all of this but certainly keep this newsletter for reference.

We will always keep you up to date with any changes through the weekly newsletter (and the parent covid update if necessary).

Site Safety:

- **Gates:** School gates are being locked and unlocked based on our temporary staggered start and end times. There will be staff on the gates to help you. The staff car park is now being used as normal again so please be road aware when crossing. During the day we **close** the main reception gates, path gate (by the kitchen) and the car park gates. **These gates are not locked** but we ask that you close the gates behind you when you leave.
- **Home Time** – Children in Foundation Stage and KS1 are always handed over to their parents by a member of staff at the end of the school day. Children in KS2 exit through their class doors and are instructed to find their parents. They are told that if they cannot find their parent/childminder they are to come back into their classroom and tell their teacher. Please can you reiterate this to your child. If you happen to be late picking up please let the school office know. Your child will be with the teacher in class or sat outside reception.
- **Dropping Off and Picking Up:** Parents are respectfully asked to park with care and consideration at the beginning and end of the school day. These are busy and sometimes frustrating times as it gets very congested- the roads were not designed for the number of cars we now use. Please also give consideration to our very young or disabled children when you bring your child into school. Some of our children have mobility issues and may lose their balance if jostled. I go out to monitor the road when possible but this is not part of the school's remit therefore we involve the PSCO if necessary.
- **Safety Drills-** Fire drills take place during the school day and the congregation area has been altered slightly to allow more space for the class lines. Lockdown (invacuation) practice might also take place- children are escorted into safer spaces inside school. These practices are highly beneficial. Please assume that there will be a drill practice at any time during the year.
- **DISABLED PARKING BAYS:** We have parents and children in school for whom it is essential to use these spaces - please do not use the car park and these bays unless you are eligible.
- **Dogs:** Dogs are NOT ALLOWED on school premises. Please leave your dogs tied up outside by the school gates- the best area is to the left of the car park gates.
- **Face masks** are now optional: it is prudent to carry one if you feel that you are too close to others for comfort.

Online and Home Safety:

- **Safeguarding:** We are committed to safeguarding and promoting welfare of the children at the school. If you have any safeguarding concerns myself, Elaine Li-Koo, Carly Clarkson and Carrie Barringer are the main designated safeguarding officers at school. Anne Addison, Alex Meyers and Gill Ollenbuttel are also designated safeguarding officers at our Extended Schools/After School Club. Posters with pictures of these staff are all around school and on the website.
- **Social Media:** Any inappropriate or disproportionate comments regarding the school or any of the pupils, parents or staff, on social media sites such as Facebook, are not in the best interests of the whole school community. Parents should be aware that even flippant comments can be vastly misinterpreted when in print and are often shared beyond your online friendship groups, negatively affecting others. Any concerns you may have should always be made through the appropriate channels by speaking to the classteacher, headteacher or office staff, so they can be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned.
- **Cycle safety** – please ensure your child wears a helmet at all times, evidence shows that these can save lives and previous local incidents have shown that injuries from falls while cycling around Ladygrove estate have been minimised by the use of helmets.
- **Online safety** – the potential dangers of social networking sites are often highlighted in the news. <http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk> has sections for parents and children. We talk to children about online safety in assemblies and during computing lessons but you should follow this up at home. At home, the important aspect is ensuring children have the skills and understanding to deal with an issue if it arises, since it is becoming harder to monitor what they are doing on personal devices. Some aspects of online activity are helpful, especially socialising when in isolation, but some media practices have been linked to mental health issues, especially for adults. Please take care of yourself as well as being a role model for all our children.
- **Food Allergies:** We have children in school who have various complex food allergies or needs and special lunchtime procedures to help keep them safe. If your child has a packed lunch please ensure they know they are not to 'share' food or eat food from another child's packed lunch.
- **Mobile phones:** If it is necessary for your child to bring a mobile phone to school (usually only Year 6) then please speak to your child's class teacher. All mobile phones must be switched off upon entering the school gates and remain switched off all day. Your child is expected to hand their mobile phone to their teacher upon entering the building so that they can be kept in a safe place. If your child does not hand their phone in the school cannot take responsibility for any loss or damage.

Absence:

- **Holidays/Absences:** As you can imagine, we are monitoring absence meticulously. If your child is not in school, whatever the reason, you must notify us by leaving a message on our answerphone before 9am each day or by sending an email to the school office at office.2609@ladygrove-park.oxon.sch.uk. **We need very clear details from you if your child is absent. This includes being clear whether your child is absent because they have the main covid symptoms, if they are absent because someone in the household has symptoms or if they**

are ill with any other illness. Any absences during term time for a holiday will be recorded as unauthorised absence in line with government legislation. If you are hoping to take your child out of school, you must request this in writing beforehand. Please note that we monitor all absence and when below 95% we may contact parents to discuss attendance expectations- depending on specific circumstances and not including Covid illness/isolation. Below 90% we may need to involve external services- depending on specific circumstances and not including Covid illness/isolation. Over a whole school year 90% attendance is 10 school days absence.

Use of Images:

- **Photographs:** We take photographs or videos of the children at our school mainly for educational but sometimes for promotional reasons. For example- promotional images may be used on our school website, in publications that we produce or on displays in school. Educational images may be used to allow teachers to reflect on their teaching. In normal (non covid times) our school may be visited by the media who will take photographs or film footage. Parents can take photographs at school events but strictly for their personal use, these cannot be made public unless you have gained permission from everyone in the image.
- **School Photographer:** In normal times, twice a year we commission a company called Tempest to take individual photographs and class photographs for parents to purchase. It is currently under review whether this happens in the Autumn due to covid restrictions (provisional date for individual and sibling photos is Monday 18th October).
- Please see the tear off slip at the end of the newsletter if you would not like your child to view PG rated films (vetted by their teacher) during this year.

Trips:

- **Trips:** We are carefully assessing the viability of each potential school trip through risk assessment and trying to anticipate future covid guidelines. If a trip is planned any payments are required via ParentPay. A letter will be sent home detailing information about ParentPay for new children starting school this term. The letter will have an activation code on it for you to use. Please note that Years 4 and 6 have residential trips during the summer and we are expecting these to go ahead. We allow ample time to pay for these trips but often make a loss due to one or two parents failing to pay the balance. This year we will need to pay even closer attention to achieving financial balance to continue running trips.
- **Local Area Trips:** The government has confirmed that schools do not need to ask for parental consent for school trips during the school day. We won't, therefore, ask your permission for local trips (e.g. to the park or local library) but you will always be made aware in advance that they are taking place. Children are always accompanied by an appropriate number of school staff members and risk assessments undertaken.
- **ParentPay:** Please check your parentpay account to see if you have any outstanding monies due to be paid.

Medical:

- **Inhalers:** Children must have their 'named' and 'in-date' inhaler at school at all times (this is a parental responsibility). If, over the holidays your child has been given an inhaler for the first time please speak to one of the ladies in the office as you will need to complete relevant paperwork.
- **Medical Conditions:** Whatever medical conditions your child has please ensure we have this information in writing. If your child requires antihistamine or an epipen please remember it is your responsibility to ensure medication is replaced when it expires.
- **Medicine:** Whilst we appreciate the difficulty parents may face, I'm sure you understand that we have over 400 children in school and staff cannot be responsible for administering prescribed medicines to individual children at individual times unless there are special circumstances. Thank you for your understanding.

Breakfast/After School Club and Extra Curricular Clubs:

- Breakfast Club runs from 8am till school start time; children are provided with a breakfast and social time. We have a varied menu that will meet the needs of even the most selective of children! Breakfast Club costs £4.70 per session and is open to all children.
- After School Club runs from school end to 5.30pm. It ensures a smooth transition from school to child-care. The children are offered a snack on arrival and a light meal halfway through the session. It costs £10.20 per session and is open to all children in school.
- Fees are reflected via ParentPay on a weekly basis. Payment must be made via ParentPay or childcare vouchers only. Please ensure you pay any outstanding money in a timely manner, no later than at the end of each calendar month. It will be necessary to chase non-payment. Any queries please see Heather in the office.
- Parents are respectfully asked NOT to use the school car park or entrance to car park to drop off their child to Breakfast Club.
- If you need to book places in our Breakfast Club or After School Club please email Anne or Alex at extendedschools@lpps.org.uk or call 07926 002 189.
- Please can bicycles belonging to After School Club child be left in the cycle racks outside the main reception area. Thank you.

Extra Curricular Clubs: Clubs usually take place straight after school, they are run by staff covering aspects such as science, art, gardening and various sports. These will be outlined in our newsletter when they become available- we are currently analysing the survey responses about clubs and will tailor the provision to this.

Uniform

- **School Uniform Shop:** Our school uniform is available to purchase from Trutex in Didcot. They are based at Cockcroft (opposite Northbourne School). Book bags and PE bags are also available at Trutex.
- **PE Kits:** We have a sharp and smart look for PE and children currently wear their kit to school on PE days. Pupils wear their house colour t-shirts as standard PE kit. Children will be expected to wear a house coloured t-shirt with logo, blue shorts, trainers for outdoors, warm top and jogging bottoms when it is cold. Kits should also be labelled.

Food

- **School Meals:** School meals are £2.45 per meal
- **Healthy Snacks:** Children in KS2 (Yrs 3-6) can bring in a piece of fruit (or veg) to eat at breaktime. Children in KS1 and Foundation Stage are offered a piece of fruit/veg every day through the Government funded Fruit and Vegetable Scheme.
- **Fruit Trees:** We have some fruit trees in school that bear fruit such as apples. Whilst they are edible, we ask you to reiterate at home that children are not to pick/eat anything off trees unless an adult has said it is safe to do so.
- **Cake Crumbly Dates for this academic year:** For parents new to our school *Cake Crumbly* is a way year groups fund raise money by selling cakes. This normally happens on a Thursday on a year group rota basis. On the date your child's year group has their cake crumbly we ask parents to donate cakes to sell in the courtyard after school for 30p per cake. This is temporarily suspended due to Covid restrictions.

Admissions (including moving to Secondary)

Admissions to school (Academic Year 22/23): If your child was born between 1st September 2017 and 31st August 2018 you must apply for a school place for your child for entry in the academic year September 2022. You will be able to apply on-line from 2nd November 2021. Please visit www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/admissions for further information. NB The deadline line date for online applications is 15th January 2022.

Please remember the following:-

- It is the responsibility of parents/carers to apply for a school place by the deadline of 15th January 2022
- If your child is attending nursery classes within a primary school, you must still apply for a place in the main school
- You can list three different schools in order of preference. We strongly advise you to use all three preferences
- We advise you to enter your catchment (or designated) school as one of your preferences
- Attending your catchment school does not entitle you to free home to school transport if it is not your closest school and / under 2 miles away
- If your application is late, you are far less likely to get a place at one of your preferred schools.

Click on this link for easy access to OCC website <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/schools/apply-school-place>

Admissions to Secondary School:

Year 6 parents can now apply on line for secondary schools and the closing date is 31st October 2021.

Remember, to ensure your child transfers to the school that you consider most appropriate, you must apply before the closing date.

Please visit secondary schools websites for information about 'virtual' tours/parent meetings.

Click on this link for easy access to OCC website. <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/schools/apply-school-place/secondary-school>

For transport information click on this link <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/schools/travelling-school>

Current Timings

As a reminder, below is drop off and pick up times. This will be reviewed and school times are likely to revert to normal on 20th September. This decision and timings will be communicated in the newsletter by 13th September.

Reception 9am drop off 2.50pm pick up	Years 1, 3 & 5 8.40am drop off 3pm pick up	Year 2, 4 & 6 8.50am drop off 3.10pm pick up
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Breakfast Club starts at 8am
After School Club finishes at 5.30pm

Andrew Markham and the school team

PG ratings **NON PERMISSION slip (send this to the office or send an email with the information)**

At various times through the year we will use **video clips/DVDs** to enhance our curriculum. The clips/DVDs are either suitable for all ages (U) or will, on occasions, be a PG. All PG films will be vetted for their content before showing them to the children. We would like your permission to allow your child to watch a PG film (which will have been vetted by staff). Please email us OR complete the slip below only **if you are not** willing to allow your child to watch a pre checked PG film in school.

✂.....

Child's name:.....

Class:.....

I **DO NOT** give permission for my child to watch a PG rated film in school.

Signed:..... Date:.....