



19th April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I cannot believe we have now had two weeks of home learning followed by two weeks of Easter holidays....and now we are at the start of the Summer Term and home learning is about to start again. I hope you are staying safe and healthy and that your children are coping without their friends and their normal routine. We are certainly finding it difficult and strange not seeing all of them every day but at least the sun is shining most days 😊

Teachers have been busy preparing a range of activities for the children and plans will be posted at the beginning of each week. It is entirely up to you how you organise learning for the week – please do not feel under pressure to do every single thing. As you know we are all tackling this differently and you have to do what is right for you and your child. If there's one bit of learning that you can do alongside your child, it is to keep hearing them read – there are links to Oxford Owls within the home learning information if you have run out of reading material at home.

Teachers are very happy for you to email them with questions, with ideas and with pictures of what your child has been doing at home, and they have given you their email addresses again in this week's plans.

You will see that each teacher is hosting a story time session via Zoom this coming week – I will be sending a text with the code for each one for Y1 and Y2 to keep it secure. Reception parents should have received an email from Mrs Corden or Miss Parkin with this information in the last couple of days.

Don't forget there is also a wealth of ideas on our Facebook page: Lodge Lane Home Learning Support. Please try and keep posts on this page linked to home learning as that is specifically what it has been set up for. In line with school policy, staff are not permitted to be 'friends' with parents on Facebook so if you want to contact them directly, please do so by email.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

There has been a lot of confusion about free school meals and the voucher system that the government has put in place – I will try and explain it! As you know, all infant aged children get a free school meal every day at school if they want one. This is called Universal Infant Free School Meals. In addition to this, there are some children who are eligible for Pupil Premium Funding, this is linked to family income and benefits. At Lodge Lane, those children also benefit from a uniform allowance, free trips and clubs. Once those children are in Junior School, their free school meals will continue. Those children are also eligible for the meals vouchers during lockdown and have been notified about this.

There are other children who trigger Pupil Premium Funding e.g. if they are from service families, if they are in care or if they are adopted but none of these children qualify for the vouchers.

FAMILY SUPPORT WORKER

Rachael Aitken, our Family Support Worker is working from home and is very happy to support you via email or phone at this challenging time. This is for anyone, not just those of you who have already worked with her.

Her email is raitken6bra@nsix.org.uk

Finally, I would really like to have a record of everything that the Lodge Lane school community has been doing during lockdown – not quite sure what yet, but maybe a time capsule or a display of work, activities, photos, quotes.....so please start thinking about what you would contribute to this and I'll let you know once I've thought about it properly.

I think it is very apt that the school value that we are introducing this term is 'CHALLENGE' – we are all being challenged at the moment! I will do a Facebook live story/assembly again this week and talk about this to any of the children who are able to join me – it'll be on Tuesday at 9.45 am.

Please stay in touch with us via email and Facebook,

Best wishes and stay safe,

Beccy

