Ardeley St Lawrence C of E Primary School

**Newsletter**

26th March 2020

Dear Parents

**Good news…**

So here we are at the end of another strange term and a year on from when this all began! Reflecting back it hardly seems possible that, a year ago, we all thought schools would be back to normal after Easter, definitely after May Half Term 2020. And yet here we all still are, adapting, coping and hoping.

I would like to thank all my staff for their tireless work over the last year, keeping the care and education at Ardeley on track, to the absolute best of their abilities. I would like to thank you for all your support but especially the home education support you have given to the children. And finally I must pay tribute to the children; throughout this all they have been so resilient and cheerful. They have ‘returned’ on many occasions, in a variety of groups and ways, always happy to be here and ready to learn and see their friends again. They are tired after this latest long and strange term and I hope you all get a relaxing Easter time, with no home schooling and hopefully some nice weather!

Staff have chosen a ‘Star of the Week’ each, recognising the wonderful attitudes and efforts as the children have returned to school; we are so proud of them!

This week’s stars are:   
George, for trying new experiences.  
Jack W, for awesome maths.  
Molly and Daniel for working incredibly hard in an unusual week.  
Stan G, for a fantastic attitude to his assessments.

We will return to our Merit system after Easter, giving the children time to build up some merits in school.

**Covid tracking…**

We will continue to be tracking and tracing Covid cases that affect anyone in the school community over Easter, up until 1 April. If anyone in your family develops symptoms over Easter, or tests positive, please inform us on [covid@ardeley.herts.sch.uk](mailto:covid@ardeley.herts.sch.uk) . This is the only mail box checked over Easter. We will then inform any other families who may need to isolate. This will be done by email so please do check over Easter. Thank you.

Herts County council have asked us to share this information with you:

From Monday 29 March, you can;

•         Meet up outside (including in private gardens) with six other people, or as two households

•         Take part in formally organised outdoor sports with any number of people (outdoor sports venues and facilities will be able to reopen)

•         Childcare and supervised activities will be allowed outdoors for all children

You and your family can continue to keep yourselves and others safe by:

•         Washing your hands regularly, for at least 20 seconds with soap and warm water or using an antibacterial hand sanitiser if soap and water isn’t available

•         Keeping socially distanced, staying at least 2 metres away from those not in your immediate household

•         Wearing a face-covering where required and when it is difficult to socially distance

•         Self-isolating and getting tested if you develop symptoms or receive a positive lateral flow test (LFT) result

•         Not socialising indoors with anyone who isn’t in your immediate household. You’re not allowed to have sleepovers or playdates, even if your child is in a school bubble

•          Not sending children back to school ill or with symptoms of Covid-19 after the Easter break – if your child is sick, please keep them at home

**Rota…**

Children are often outside for an entire morning or afternoon – please ensure they wear joggers rather than shorts on these days as the weather is still chilly!On forest school days, old clothes, lots of layers, waterproofs and wellingtons please!

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| **Week B** – 12th – 16th April **(AFTER EASTER)** | | | |
| Tuesday – Forest School Session | | Thursday - PE | |
| UKS2 (1 hr) | LKS2 | KS1 | EYFS |

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| **Week A** – 19th – 23rd April | | | |
| Tuesday – Forest School Session | | Thursday - PE | |
| UKS2 (1 hr) | KS1 | LKS2 | UKS2 |

**Online safety…**

We have been made aware of some quite nasty online ‘challenges’ on TikTok. As with all social media please help your child to use this safely and tell you about any concerns they may have.

[https://www.internetmatters.org/](https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/6-10/) have a good range of advice on their site.

**Finally…**

Easter is a time of great hope for Christians, of renewal and thankfulness, after what seemed like the lowest moment.

This verse by Laura Fanucci reminded me of this, when we can be better because of the worst:

When this is over,

May we never again

Take for granted

A handshake with a stranger

Full shelves at the store

Conversations with neighbours

A crowded theatre

Friday night out

The taste of communion

A routine checkup

The school rush each morning

Coffee with a friend

The stadium roaring

Each deep breath

A boring Tuesday.

Life itself.

When this ends,

May we find

That we have become

More like the people we wanted to be

We were called to be

We hoped to be

And may we stay that way –better for each other because of the worst.

With all my best wishes,

Mrs Connolly

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**Summer Diary Dates**

Monday 12 April Start of Term

Friday 30 April INSET day – school closed

Monday 3 May Bank Holiday – school closed