



Lavant

C.E. Primary School

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Dear parents and carers,

As we approach the end of a challenging week, we thank all of you who have contacted us with kind words of support and encouragement. Please be assured that although it has been a tough week for schools, we do not underestimate the huge impact the decision to close schools to so many pupils has on you as parents and your family life. As the pandemic continues to grip our nation, we understand the huge level of anxiety that people are facing; not only parents trying to juggle work and home learning, but also the parents who are needing to send their children into school but would much rather keep them in the safety of their own home. At times like this, our strong community spirit is needed more than ever, and a kind word, or a listening ear, can make a huge difference.

We currently have an average of 35 children in school each day with teachers dividing their time to provide quality remote learning for children on line, and also teaching in the classroom. Children in school therefore, are being partly supported by their class teacher and partly by a teaching assistant whilst class teachers are engaging with our online learners.

In addition to our provision in the last lock down, teachers will be posting daily teaching videos to support learning at home. As a staff team, we have given much thought into how to best provide learning for our children. We know that many of our families need to share devices and many parents are juggling supporting their children's learning around work commitments. We therefore hope that by receiving pre-recorded videos, this provides each family with the flexibility to access and replay teaching inputs at a time that is convenient to them. We will also be providing regular zoom sessions for the children to interact with their class teachers but these will have a more social / emotional emphasis, rather than focussing on academic learning. This decision has partly been taken in response to feedback from parents last year, who reported that they, and their children, struggled with participating in live teaching sessions. We will be regularly reviewing our provision and will try our best to ensure it is meeting the needs of our whole school community. We welcome your feedback on what is working well and the challenges you are facing, once we are in the swing of our new routines.

Computers and data allowance.

You may have seen reports on the news today regarding donations of laptops for families in need. Although I cannot promise anything yet, if your ability to engage with online learning is limited due to lack of access to technology, please email me directly, in confidence, and I will do my very best to source a device for you to use. head@lavant.w-sussex.sch.uk

You may have also heard in the news that, working with Government, a number of mobile networks are offering additional support to families who are struggling to access remote education due to data limits or poor internet connections at home. This scheme temporarily increases allowances for mobile phone users on certain networks.



As a school, we are able to request mobile data increases for children who:

- do not have fixed broadband at home
- cannot afford additional data needed to access educational resources
- have access to a mobile device that uses a participating network
- are experiencing disruption to their online learning.

These increases are limited by the firms offering them which are:

- Three
- Virgin Mobile
- Tesco Mobile
- Smarty
- EE
- Sky Mobile

Others providers may join the scheme at a later stage.

Each provider will vary in how quickly they process requests. Once a network provider has processed a data increase, they'll send a test message to the account holder.

If you believe you may be eligible to apply for access to this scheme, please email the school office by Friday 8 January. We will then contact you again for further information.
office@lavant.w-sussex.sch.uk

We are very aware that there may be more challenging times in the weeks ahead and, as ever, are committed to working with you to provide the best possible support for you and your children. I will soon be launching regular whole school zoom assemblies, to enable those that wish to, to come together as a whole school community a couple of times a week. Further details about this will follow soon.

My thanks go to our staff team who are working incredibly hard behind the scenes, and also in front of pupils.

Praying for safety, protection and strength for you all,



Adrian King
Head teacher