



# Lavant

## C.E. Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Well done for getting to the end of another half term: for the majority, your first full half term of home schooling. Thank you to those of you who have sent in kind words and messages, and thank you all of you for continuing to help your child learn at home. It has been lovely to speak to many of you over this past week and I know the teachers have loved seeing your children during their zoom meetings. We do appreciate how difficult this has been for so many of you juggling the pressures of work commitments and home schooling. I also thank our fantastic teachers and TA team for all the great work they have been doing in providing so many exciting home learning activities and supporting your children who have been learning in school.

As things currently stand, we are still hoping to welcome back children in years R, 1 and 6 on the 1<sup>st</sup> June but I will keep you informed if the government makes any changes to these plans. We are aware of the huge news coverage that there has been regarding more children returning to school and the anxiety this is bringing to many. At Lavant, the wellbeing of our pupils remains our top priority. We have carefully planned the return of more pupils to **minimise risk** and to **maximise everyone's safety**, while maintaining the same Lavant school ethos. Of course, changes are having to be made, but this will be done in the most sensitive way possible. In our school, there will be no 'warning' tape (like a police crime scene) as seen on the news, but bunting to separate areas and celebrate that more children are back learning in school. Furniture in classrooms will be reduced, but our rooms will continue to look familiar and welcoming to the children. As the government has stated, we know that our youngest children will not be able to maintain 2m distancing at all times, but we will do all we can to inform children, encourage distancing and reduce risk by ensuring high levels of hygiene.

We are anticipating that some children may find it difficult returning to school after a long break at home, and ask that in order to prepare your child, you keep dropping school, and school friends, into conversation and reassuring them that school is a safe place to be. If, on return, your child has difficulty separating themselves from you, please take them for a little stroll and return slightly later, once the majority of parents have left. Please also ensure that your child knows that you are unable to enter school with them, as this will be very different for our youngest children. Children in Wren class should also know in advance that Mrs Yelland will be planning and coordinating their learning from home, but will be in regular zoom contact with them. Mrs Skeens, Miss Hayllar and Mrs Smith will be with the children on a daily basis.

After half term, we are making some changes to our curriculum to enable the same continued quality learning opportunities for the children at school and at home. We hope this new model will be easier for parents to manage, especially if they continue to have more than one child learning at home. For the first few weeks, we will be embarking on a number of shorter whole school learning journeys. Each one is based on a Disney film, kick starting with 'Moana'. We know that many children have already watched, and love, this film but for those of you who haven't seen it, you may wish to watch it over the half term break. If this is not possible, please do not worry as watching the film is not essential to be able to engage with the learning.

Here are some other key points for you to be aware of:

- Children will need to bring in their school water bottle (and lunch box if applicable), but no other items should be brought from home on a daily basis, including bags or book bags. Please could sun cream be applied before arrival.
- Hot meals will be provided for all children who usually have them.
- Children are encouraged to wear trainers with their school uniform, eliminating the need to bring in their PE kit on a daily basis. On Wednesdays all children should wear PE kit all day.
- Teachers would love to have a look at the children's home learning packs. Could children please bring them on the first day of school? These will then be put into storage for three days and made available to teachers when safe to do so.



- We will be operating a staggered pick up time at the end of the school day to reduce congestion. Wren and Pheasant children should be picked up at 3pm; Robins and key worker children at 3.15pm. Wren parents please gather on the school field by the gate.

The school will be shut over the half term break to enable us to prepare the building for more children returning to school for the second half of term but we do wish you and your children a great week and hope you get to enjoy the fabulous sunshine we are currently experiencing.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns or wish to discuss something in more detail.

Very best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adrian King'. The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Adrian King