



# Lower Park

## Lower Park Beacon

Issue  
536  
Fri 4<sup>th</sup>  
Sept  
2020

Dear Parents,



The last Beacon – number 535, was sent home a week before lockdown and was followed by thirty-five updates. Keeping in touch was important during those months and will continue to be so in the future.

This edition will look different, but just writing it feels like we are recovering, not to normality as it was, but despite the virus.

The weekly Beacon will continue to be the place that brings together all the news about the school and the school in the Poynton community.

I feel it is so important that parents are fully informed of what is going on in school and what is coming up in the future for the children and for you. Education is not one-sided but is a partnership between parents and staff and I would like to think that we value the roles and trust we have in bringing up the children and preparing them for their lives ahead.

A Very Special Welcome!



Welcome  
Glad you're here!

I would like to begin by sending a special welcome to the parents of our new reception starters. For many, this is the beginning of a seven-year relationship with Lower Park and I hope it is an enjoyable and supportive time for us all.

The new children have made a magnificent start. They are confident and have adjusted to the 'unfamiliar arrangements' extremely well.

It is so regrettable that our extensive induction programme was denied them due to the pandemic, yet they are happy and already enjoying their time in our reception classes.

We still aim to keep as close to that programme as possible and we had a series of pre-school Zoom meetings, for both parents and then children in their homes. We are making a movie of their first few weeks in school and hope to show it to parents if we can find the technology.

The next planned Zoom meeting for the new intake parents is on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October at 7.00pm

### Times, They Are A-Changing!

For those of us old enough to remember our primary school days and sitting in rows, seeing our school classrooms set out in rows with teachers at the front is a déjà vu from the past.



Funnily enough, children's attention facing the front has been commendable but cooperative learning in groups is not as easy.

We listed many changes in the parents' and children's handbooks that we sent out again on Friday, so I will only emphasise some developments here:

1) The necessity for parents to leave their children at the gate is not what I would have wished for, as I have always had an 'open-door' policy. However, for the safety of everyone, we have to stop cars moving along

Hazelbadge Road to get close to school for dropping off and picking up. We will continue to restrict traffic movement and parking as much as we can and when we remove the cones, it is vital that parents continue to park away from the school and not on Hazelbadge Road outside school.

Thank you to everyone who responded to that request this week – there was 100% cooperation – Lower Park at its best! Our PCSOs turned up this morning and were pleased with how it went and the response of our parents. I have requested a visit from the highways department, and they will meet me on Monday.

2) We are continuing to provide hot mostly finger food at lunchtimes to minimise transmission possibilities. Children's lunches are brought to them by staff, and whilst they sit in two's side by side, the children seem to enjoy their lunches just the same.

The school meal has proved to be very well-received and I would urge parents in KS2 to purchase a school meal for your child. The Harry Ramsden's fish and chips that everyone enjoyed today was simply delicious. Having watched a complete pork joint being taken out of the oven and sliced by Mrs Laffey yesterday, and then tasting the baguette full of the meat, it was as good as a restaurant meal. I highly recommend that you purchase a meal for your child if you can.

If for any reason, as a result of the current fall in employment, you feel you may be entitled to free-school meals for your child, you can check for eligibility by visiting the Cheshire East website at the following link [https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/schools/free\\_school\\_meals.aspx](https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/schools/free_school_meals.aspx) or telephone 0300 123 5012 for help. The process is very straightforward and confidential throughout.

3) On PE or games days, it makes sense for the children to come to school already wearing jogger pants and training shoes. This would mean that they do not have to change within the classrooms, which tend to be full of children's bags, coats etc at the moment. The joggers should be black or dark grey and no designer make is necessary. The tops should be the uniform polo and school sweatshirt on these days.

4) We have found that small rucksacks are far better to keep the children's possessions in, as they can be hung around the back of their chair, instead of the floor. If you have a small one or intend to purchase one soon, it would be ideal. In some shops, they can be bought for under £10.00. The next bag you are due to buy, please choose a small rucksack.



### IMPORTANT NO NUTS IN SCHOOL



Just a reminder that we are a nut free school. Please do not send your child in to school with nuts or anything that contains nuts. We do have children in school with a nut allergy and this could be very dangerous for them. Thank you for your support.

### After School Clubs & music

We are not introducing clubs immediately as we feel that our priority is to ensure the children are safe and happy and learning before we introduce clubs gradually. Guidelines tell us that clubs should be for children in the same bubbles, so we are working with our providers to develop in that way.

Our peripatetic music teachers have been teaching lessons using Zoom. The guidelines are changing about music lessons and rehearsing / performing in an ensemble or choir due to the increased potential risk of blowing wind or brass instruments and the proximity of other children and the teacher to the pupil. We are working with our peripatetic teachers and will re-commence lessons when risk assessments and locations allow it.

### Residential Visits

The guidelines do not allow schools to have residential visits this term, so, unfortunately, the Kingswood Year 6 visit will not take place this autumn. In respect of Ilam, Tattenhall and Menai residential visits, we have planned these in the hope that they can go ahead. The bookings are just before Easter and two in June. We will wait and hope they can proceed.



### To Make Us Smile

The children have been working hard in class and have provided many superb pieces of work. Parents (and teachers) have been doing a fantastic job during lockdown and we have been pleased with the quality of handwriting and focus on learning.

### Lessons this week

We have begun the programme of the 'Recovery Curriculum.' It has two elements. The first, which is what we have been concentrating on this week, is to encourage the children to address any anxieties, worries and questions about the current situation. Some children may just want the security of routine in familiar surrounding with their teachers. Attachment issues may be there for a while and so the programme of work is encouraging children to express their thoughts to grow in confidence and feeling safe and secure.



I have always believed that the first priority for a new starter, is that the priority is that the children feel safe and happy. Once that is achieved, learning is much more wholesome and successful.



Phase two is to implement a catch-up programme and the whole school will be following the same literature themes in the reading books over the next three weeks; While We Can't Hug, Stanley's Stick and Leaf. The children's work will emanate from those books.

This week, Mrs Hughes has been in school and has assessed all the

children in KS1 to see what areas of phonics the teachers need to teach. This is called 'baselining.'

Due to the current pandemic, there will also be a new way of providing feedback for the children, which will modify the way we mark children's work. Much more emphasis will be placed upon 'Live Marking' including instant verbal feedback, which research says is more effective for the child whose focus is already on that piece of work.

Already, there has been some stunning work produced by the children.

### Commendation Awards



Commendation Awards will begin again next week following a Zoom Commendation assembly on Mondays – watch this space!

### Reminders

#### Lunch Menus

At the end of this Beacon will be the menu for next week's school lunches. All children in KS1 and the reception children will have Universal Free School Meal – ie, a school meal. Parents in KS2 whose children have a school meal pay for these using the School Money system.

Children do not need to bring in the sheet with their choices on. They will order their lunch at morning registration time. It would be good if parents could discuss the choice of meals when you receive the menu.

#### Forgetting items

We can no longer take items to classes if they have been forgotten in a morning. Please ensure your child has everything they need for the day (including 2 bottles filled with water). However, if it is a forgotten lunchbox, we will provide a school lunch for your child that day and request that you pay for the meal.

### Letters this Week

- Email updates 2, 3 & 4 about changes in arrangements, particularly arrival and departure arrangements.

### This Week in School

- On Tuesday, the staff had a training day, which focussed on child protection and safeguarding, Mental Health, COVID updates and school arrangements, planning for the future and the transition of information from last year's class teacher to this year's class teacher.

Lunch was provided for the staff as a thank you from last year's Year 6 parents. It was a much-appreciated gesture and the food was wonderful – thank you very much from us all.

- On Wednesday, the school reopened after many months of being open only for key workers and vulnerable children.
- On Thursday, we changed the arrival and departure arrangements, which seemed to work much better and safer.

### Next Week in School

- On Monday, our new reception children will have their first full day in school.
- On Monday, we will have our first live Zoom commendation assembly.

- We will have a fire evacuation practice next week, now all the children are back in school.
- On Wednesday, the full governing body is meeting to receive an update on the first six days of the full reopening of school.
- On Thursday, there will be the first School Council meeting (again via Zoom). Children will have held elections in their classes to appoint representatives.

### *After-school activities taking place – Autumn Term 2020*

	On or Off?	Activity	Time	Yr Group	Venue	Organiser
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*After-school activities will not commence for a short while*

### *Diary Dates for the first half of the Autumn Term 2020*

Date	Event
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> September	Mandatory Safeguarding Update for <u>All</u> Staff COVID update and new arrangements / updates in staff handbook, priorities for Autumn 2020 Recovery Curriculum – PSHE Transfer of records, Diary Dates
Weds 2	School Re-opened –
Weds 2	New Intake began (1/2 days)
Mon 7	1st full day for new intake.
Weds 9	Governors Meeting 7.00pm Agenda – Update on reopening
Thurs 10	1 <sup>st</sup> school council Zoom meeting following class elections for school council reps.
Mon 14	PTA Zoom at 7.30pm
Thurs 17	Music Taster Zoom evening 7.00pm in hall <b>TBC</b>
Thurs 1 October	School Census D
Thurs 1	New Intake Zoom meeting for parents at 7.00pm
Mon 5	Chairs of Govs 6.30pm
Mon 5	Full Governors' meeting 7.00pm
Mon 12	Pupil & Curric Govs at 6.30pm
Mon 12	Environ & Comm Govs at 7.45pm
Mon 19	Family & Individual photographs am
Mon 19	Personnel Govs' meeting 6.30pm
Mon 19	Finance Govs' meeting at 7.45pm
Tues 20	Parents' Evening Zoom meetings
Weds 21	Parents' evening Zoom meetings
Fri 23	Harvest Festival Loom assembly (KS2)
Fri 23	School closes for half term
Mon 2 November	Review Day – staff and governors
Tues 3	School reopens after half-term

*Further activities are being planned for this term and will be added to the list above  
Every effort will be made not to change dates however, if necessary, any changes/ additions are highlighted.  
TBC means To be confirmed. TBF means To be Finalised.*

## School Calendar Dates 2020 – 2021

### SCHOOL CLOSES

Summer 2020	Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July
Autumn Half Term 2020	Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October
Christmas 2020/21	Friday 18th December
Spring Half Term 2021	Friday 12th February
Easter 2021	Thursday 1st April
May Day 2021	Monday 3rd May
Summer Half Term 2021	Friday 28th May
Summer 2021	Friday 23rd July

### SCHOOL OPENS

Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November
Monday 4th January 2021
Tuesday 23rd February
Monday 19th April
Monday 14th June

INSET DAYS: Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020, Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020, Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021,  
Monday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2021, Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2021

**If you would like to join our email distribution list and receive the Lower Park Beacon by email, you need to inform me of your email address. Your email address will not appear when the Beacon is delivered and it is protected by the data protection policy here in school. So why not join our growing number of parents receiving email Beacons? Just write to me via email. My email address is: [head@lowerpark.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:head@lowerpark.cheshire.sch.uk)**  
*The Lower Park Beacon is also available to read on our School Website at: [www.lowerpark.cheshire.sch.uk](http://www.lowerpark.cheshire.sch.uk)*

**Kind regards Ian Coulson and the Staff at Lower Park**

## My School Lunch Menu

Week commencing 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020

School Meals are free for Reception & KS1 and £2.35 for a larger portion in KS2

Please pay online at [www.schoolmoney.co.uk](http://www.schoolmoney.co.uk)

Please choose one item from each section and remind your children what to order at registration each morning. (Please don't return this menu sheet).

<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>
Name	Name	Name	Name	Name
Cheese Quesadilla & Jacket Wedges	Beef Burger in a Bap & Jacket Wedges	Vegetable Sausage Roll & Jacket Wedges	Gammon Baguette & Sauté Potatoes	Hot Dog Sausage & Chips
Wrap Ham Tuna Cheese	Quorn Bap & Sauté Potatoes	Sandwiches Ham Tuna Cheese	Quorn Baguette & Sauté Potatoes	Quorn Dog & Chips
Cucumber & Carrot Sticks	Sandwiches Ham Tuna Cheese	Cucumber & Carrot Sticks	Sandwiches Ham Tuna Cheese	Sandwiches Ham Tuna Cheese
Shortbread	Cucumber & Carrot Sticks	Melting Moment	Cucumber & Carrot Sticks	Cucumber & Carrot Sticks
Fruit	Vanilla Sponge	Fruit	Lemon Bite	Doughnut
	Fruit		Fruit	Fruit