



Lower Park

Lower Park Beacon

Issue
545
13th Nov
2020

*It is important that you inform school if someone in your household has tested positive and you should do this by emailing me on head@lowerpark.cheshire.sch.uk
When this happens, the whole family must isolate.*

Dear Parents,

Second Lockdown – Would this Help?

I am conscious that during this second national lockdown, it may be challenging to find things to do to occupy the children. Perhaps this may help:



Blue Peter is the longest running kids' TV show in the world, and they are uploading videos to it that are suitable for 5-11 year olds. They have world record breaking challenges, arts and crafts, environmental videos, cooking and baking 'how tos', inspirational films, gaming, celebrity appearances, dance routines and music performances. They also feature ways of getting a Blue Peter badge, behind the scenes footage and extra content about our incredible presenters Adam, Lindsey, Mwaksy, Richie and Henry the Blue Peter dog.

To subscribe for free, go to: <https://www.youtube.com/bluepeter>
There is also a live programme on CBBC at 5.30pm every week or on BBC iPlayer.

With the producer's name being Dave Coulson, it has to be a good idea!! ☐

Chicken Korma Returns

Mrs Laffey's chicken korma has for a long time, been a favourite school meal for the children. It is returning next week (on Wednesday). With it

will also be the hot meals, including a roast dinner that I know parents (and children) have been hoping for. We are bringing them back on the menu next week, even though it will be 'Meals on Wheels' down the corridor'

It is a good time to start taking school meals again after a period of time. KS2 can order on the day and pay via School money. KS1 and reception children are entitled to universal free school meals and order weekly in advance.

However, because of the lockdowns, you may now be in a position to qualify for free school meals. It is easy to apply and you can do this online at the following link https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/schools/free_school_meals.aspx



Thanks to Marcus Rashford, some of those children entitled to free school meals may continue to have vouchers during the Christmas Holiday. Details will follow when I receive the guidance.

In the meantime, you will find the menu at the foot of this Beacon.

Sports Coaches

We are gradually building up our curriculum this term and responding by being outside as much as possible. Recognising that some classes would benefit, our usual sports coaches will be taking some groups of children for additional, socially distanced sports activities in the day, at the end of next

week. Initially four classes will begin; Miss Cork, Mr Cunha, Mrs Hughes/O'Hara and Mrs Marshall / Ralph. They will still go out for these half hour sessions if the rain is very light, so they will need their better water resistant coats and hats.

Anti-Bullying Week Next Week. Yellow Friday Next Friday.



Every year we invest in anti-bullying week and it sometimes lasts for two weeks. Usually have a visiting theatre company to deliver the message, but this year, that isn't possible. However, we have lots of activities lined up that should help us to remind the children about what bullying is. Part of the programme of events is to finish the week reflecting on what the children have learned about bullying and how to deal with it the right way. If the children have something yellow they can add to their school uniform, please encourage them to wear it (a 'yellow' badge or sticker or scarf will do).

The parents' questionnaire return was a positive endorsement that any bullying here (and it is rare) is dealt with quickly and well.

COVID Masks, Space and Crufts

With a record number of cases testing positive yesterday in the country, it is doubly important that we play our part in minimising the risk of transmission in our community. The shocking statistics are that increasing

numbers of children are having to isolate and miss coming into school – several thousand this term in Cheshire East schools. Research is suggesting that transmission takes place primarily from adults rather than the children and this would indicate that our request to wear masks in Hazelbadge Road is a precaution that we can easily do. Thank you for wearing face coverings at the school gates whilst waiting for the children and for distancing from each other too. The response of our parents is much appreciated.



I also appreciate that parents do try to maintain 2 metres apart whilst waiting and I see you standing that distance from each other while waiting – well done and thank you! It would also make sense to maintain the one-way system we introduced at the start of the term – approaching school on the footpath nearest school and returning away on the opposite side.

Like the children, I have been fascinated by the variety of our canine friends who come to collect the children too, and it has become HazelCrufts Road at times. Of course most children love dogs but I would urge parents with dogs not to encourage crowding of children to pet them so children can maintain their social distancing.

Children in Need



Thank you for the kind donation to the Children in need appeal today. It was a more low-key event this year but we still had an abundance of silly socks and raised a magnificent **£378.59 for the cause.**

Commendation Awards



Commendation Awards are presented to children on Mondays in

assembly. The staff, including midday assistants, nominate children (one from each class and one from the midday assistants) each week and they receive a commendation badge. They also receive a certificate which is displayed on the internal noticeboard outside my room. After a week, the certificates are given to the children to bring home to keep. They are used to promote exceptional attitude, approach to work, exceptional kindness, behaviour, helpfulness, consideration and attitude.

This week's winners were:

Bobby W, Charlie C, Rosie L, Sam S, Ava P, George A, Jessica H, Thomas P, Ruby G and Matthew B.

Well done to all those children!

School Council Meeting



Yesterday, The School Council met (via Zoom) and discussed two items in depth: Could they have home-made pizza for lunch and could there be a school pet.

After discussion, they voted not to change the pizza as the majority liked the recipe that Mrs Laffey uses for pizza. They voted not to have a school pet as they already have pets with the tropical fish in the library. They did, however, want to assign a fish to each class.

Democracy in action!!!

**Xmas Wreath Night
2020 style**



In the absence of a physical wreath making night, this year why not support the PTA by organising your own virtual one with our DIY wreath making kits? The kits come with everything you need to make your festive door decoration at home. Each kit is £25 and there are three styles to choose from. Please see the attached leaflet for more information on how to order. Wreath kits will be available to collect after school on Thursday

3rd and Friday 4th December and examples of each design will be hung at the school gates from next week. These kits are great to make as a family, with friends or to gift as an unusual early Christmas present.

**PTA Meeting on Monday 16th
November (next week)**

On Monday, the PTA will be putting some finishing touches to the Christmas plans, so I hope to bring you news about them next week. If you would like get involved in the planning for the Christmas events, join in the meeting (by Zoom) on Monday by giving your email address to the PTA chair Charlotte Fazackerly on: charlf@hotmail.co.uk or call her on 07884 208045

**Poppy Appeal
What a great Response!!!**

I would just like to express my thanks and appreciation for the response to the appeal. This year, we sold more poppies than ever before and had to ask for another box to be delivered. I am sure you would like to know that we marked the occasion in four ways'



Firstly, we sold poppies and there has been a great response. Secondly, children in KS1 and FS made poppy wreaths and on 11th November placed them on the fence by the main gate. Thirdly, the whole school observed 2 minutes silence at 11.00am on Wednesday 11th and the school fell eerily silent. I commended the children for the respect they showed for this observance. Lastly, I presented an assembly to the children about why we have poppies. Thank you for your support – 'We will always remember them!'

**My Child's Art
PTA Fundraiser**



Remember to have a look online and place orders for the wonderful Christmas Robin artwork by 14th December to receive all products before Christmas. Did you know that you can also use the PTA portal to upload additional artwork, not just for Christmas, and order any products from those

available? What a lovely idea for an art activity to do with your child at home. A copy of the flyer with the unique code sent home previously, is being sent as an attachment with this beacon.

Thank you for your support.

Lower Park Lotto



The winners of the Lower Park PTA lotto for November are:

1st George Steele
2nd Paul Brislane
3rd Amy Cusick

Photograph Order Deadline extended

To allow time for parents to submit their orders the deadline for both online ordering and by returning to school has been extended to 9.00am on 23rd November.

Reminders

What should you do?

It is more than likely that more children (and parents) will have to isolate at some point over the next few months – it is something that we can try to avoid but it is difficult to stop. So, if a Lower Park child in the family has tested positive, it is doubly important to contact me (head@lowerpark.cheshire.sch.uk) so that close contacts or bubbles can be traced and asked to isolate in order to stop it spreading in school. In all our cases so far, this has happened correctly and we want to keep as many children in school as possible. When you keep your child off school because you have been informed that they have been *in contact* with a person who has tested positive, you can contact the office by phoning 01625 872560 or email admin@lowerpark.cheshire.sch.uk to inform us.

For your convenience, I have attached the quick guidance to this Beacon email again

Doodle Maths Change

After a period of time using Doodle Maths, we have upgraded to using School Jam in Key Stage 1 (but we are continuing with Mathletics in Key Stage 2). When bought for the whole school, these programs have been expensive. However, we know that some parents still use Doodle maths at home. We would like to make you aware that individual licenses can still

be bought to use it and cost around £5.00

Nut Free School

Just a reminder that we are a nut free school. We do have children in school for whom nuts can be dangerous.



Please ensure nuts, or anything containing nuts, are not sent in to school.

Applications for places in Reception 2021

I am pleased to announce that parents are able to make an application for a place at Lower Park for the reception class in September 2021.

Applications are made on line via the Cheshire East website, the following link will take you to the relevant page for September admissions <https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/schools/admissions/start-school-september.aspx>

I would like to remind parents who already have older children in the school, that they must also apply for a place for a younger sibling – it is not automatically allocated.

The closing date for applications is 15th January 2021.



Lower Park's PTA is now set up on Amazon Smile. When you buy through the Smile portal, you get access to the same products, at the same prices, but on qualifying products, Lower Park will earn a 0.5% commission. Just follow these 3 simple steps:

1. Go to smile.amazon.co.uk
2. Select charity - Lower Park Parent Teachers Association (Poynton)
3. Always use smile.amazon.co.uk to start your Amazon shopping.

Just by buying birthday gifts, household items, etc, you can help us grow the size of our funding pot, so we can do more to enrich the lives of the children who attend Lower Park School.

Lower Park Hoodies, Joggers and Fleece



We have asked Ann at PSU to make up some Lower Park hoodies in blue. The children will be permitted to wear them over their normal sweatshirts in class so we would recommend buying them in a slightly larger size than you might normally order. We have also added Lower Park joggers to the items available, which may be useful for PE days. The school fleece, which has always been available, can also be worn in school if you prefer. We are advised that new stocks of these will be available mid-December. There is, however a shower proof fleece as an alternative. Please note the joggers and hoodies are now available.

Costs:

Joggers: £11

Hoody: £14.00

All of the items are optional and any parents wishing to order one, will need order as usual via the PSU website.

THE HOODIES ARE NOW IN STOCK

You can order the hoodies now from:

www.lowerpark.uniform4you.co.uk

Letters this Week

- To All My Childs Art Flyer for Christmas fundraiser by email & sticker
-

This Week in School

- On Wednesday, the whole school observed two minutes silence for Remembrance Day.
- There was a school council meeting yesterday.
- Today was a non-uniform / crazy socks day for Children in need.

Next Week in School

- On Monday, we begin our annual anti-bullying week's activities.
- On Monday evening, there is a PTA Zoom meeting at 7.30pm
- Friday - Add something yellow (no matter how small) to your uniform to recognise that the school does not tolerate bullying.

After-school activities taking place – Autumn Term 2020						
	<i>On or Off?</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Yr Group</i>	<i>Venue</i>	<i>Organiser</i>

After-school activities will not commence for a short while

Diary Dates for the first half of the Autumn Term 2020

Date	Event
Mon 2 November	Review Day – staff and governors
Tues 3	School reopens after half-term
Tues 10	Personnel governors’ meeting
Weds 11	Two minutes silence at 11.00
Friday 13	Children in Need – non uniform with Silly Socks
Mon 16 week	Anti-bullying week
Mon 16	PTA meeting (by Zoom) at 7.30pm
Fri 20	Bring something yellow to mark anti-bullying week.
Mon 23	Full governors’ meeting at 7.00pm
Fri 27	Flu Immunisations take place for all children.
7 – 19 Dec	Christmas events, activities and celebrations (details to follow)

*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 CLOSURES

Christmas 2020/21
Spring Half Term 2021
Easter 2021
May Day 2021
Summer Half Term 2021
Summer 2021

Friday 18th December
Friday 12th February
Thursday 1st April
Monday 3rd May
Friday 28th May
Friday 23rd July

SCHOOL OPENS

Monday 4th January 2021
Tuesday 23rd February
Monday 19th April
Monday 14th June

INSET DAYS: Tuesday 1st September 2020, Monday 2nd November 2020, Monday 22nd February 2021,
Monday 26th July 2021, Tuesday 27th 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
The Lower Park Beacon is also available to read on our School Website at: www.lowerpark.cheshire.sch.uk**

Kind regards Ian Coulson and the Staff at Lower Park

My School Lunch

Week commencing 16th November 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

Please choose one item from each section and remember to indicate which filling you would like for your sandwich/potato

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Name	Name	Name	Name	Name
Organic Beef Burger in a Bap & Jacket Wedges	BBQ Pork Wrap	Chicken Korma & Rice	Roast Turkey Dinner	Fish Fingers with Chips
Quorn Burger in a Bap & Jacket Wedges (V)	Pizza & Sauté Pots (V)	Pasta Italienne (V)	Quorn Fillet Dinner (V)	Popcorn Chicken in a Soft Tortilla Boat (optional)
Tuna Pasta Bake	Jacket Potato with Tuna <input type="checkbox"/> (v)Beans <input type="checkbox"/> (v)Cheese <input type="checkbox"/>	Jacket Potato with Tuna <input type="checkbox"/> (v)Beans <input type="checkbox"/> (v)Cheese <input type="checkbox"/>	Turkey Baguette Quorn Baguette	Katsu Curry Sauce <input type="checkbox"/>
Jacket Potato with Tuna <input type="checkbox"/> (v)Beans <input type="checkbox"/> (v)Cheese <input type="checkbox"/>	Wraps filled with Tuna <input type="checkbox"/> Ham <input type="checkbox"/> (v)Cheese <input type="checkbox"/>	Sandwich filled with Tuna <input type="checkbox"/> Ham <input type="checkbox"/> (v)Cheese <input type="checkbox"/>	Jacket Potato with Tuna <input type="checkbox"/> (v)Beans <input type="checkbox"/> (v)Cheese <input type="checkbox"/>	Jacket Potato with Tuna <input type="checkbox"/> (v)Beans <input type="checkbox"/> (v)Cheese <input type="checkbox"/>
Sandwiches filled with Tuna <input type="checkbox"/> Ham <input type="checkbox"/> (v)Cheese <input type="checkbox"/>	Carrots	Cauliflower	Sandwich filled with Tuna <input type="checkbox"/> Ham <input type="checkbox"/> (v)Cheese <input type="checkbox"/>	Sandwich filled with Tuna <input type="checkbox"/> Ham <input type="checkbox"/> (v)Cheese <input type="checkbox"/>
Sweetcorn	Chocolate Muffin	Melting Moment	Mixed Vegetables	Baked Beans
Coconut Oatie	Fruit	Fruit	Shortbread	Ginger Oatie Cookie
Organic Yogurt			Yogurt	Fruit
Fruit			Fruit	