

# Lockyer's Middle School Newsletter

## October 2021

### Autumn Term - Issue Number 60



Headteacher: Mr M. Legge BEd (Hons) NPQH  
Deputy Headteacher: Ms F. Locke

### Headteacher Update

Dear Parents/Carers,

My sincere apologies for the delay in writing to families as the new academic year has begun. To say that our return to school has been hectic is a little of an understatement. However, the children have made a fantastic start to the new year. We are enjoying the opportunity to run our full timetable, participation at clubs has been excellent, peripatetic music lessons are underway and it was **wonderful to see so many families in school for our open evening**. We have much to share with you all and so please do take a few moments to share this newsletter as a family.

### Covid Updates

I would like to thank all of our families for their **continued support for twice weekly testing**. Working with our families, **we continue to support contact tracing** whilst working alongside Public Health Dorset. We are currently notifying families by telephone if your child is identified as a contact. Half-day absence to attend a PCR test will be authorised. A few further Covid 19 reminders can be found later in this newsletter.

### Staffing Update

I am delighted to **welcome both Mr Ronayne** who has joined our year 5 team and **Mrs Pugh** our full time **Pupil Well-being Champion**. **Mr Empsom** has also joined our Teaching Assistant team.

### Parent Evenings

We will be holding **Parent Evenings in the two weeks following the half term**

**break**. You will be able to meet each of your child's subject teachers. We will **continue to complete these evenings remotely** as this was so successful last year, **using School Cloud**, an online system through which you can make appointments to meet with teachers from home. **Details for booking appointments will be sent home shortly**.

### Reading @LMS - Whole Class Reading and Accelerated Reader

After such a successful first year using Accelerated Reader children have completed STAR testing and **DEAR** (Drop Everything and Read) **sessions continue to be timetabled across the school week** for all children. Please can you ensure that you continue to promote regular reading and engagement with Accelerated Reader from home. Children can still become a **Millionaire Reader** by testing after each book. Our year 7 and 8 pupils can also work towards becoming a **Hegarty Hero** and **Tassomai Titan** as part of their successful engagement with these homework platforms. **Whole class reading continues to be a real success at the start each day**. This is a teacher-led session that involves all pupils enjoying a class text with their teacher whilst following with their reading ruler.

We are very much looking forward to working with you throughout this academic year.

Kind regards

Mr M. Legge - Headteacher



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#### Child Protection

Our Designated Safeguarding Lead with responsibility for Child Protection is: **Mr M. Legge**

The Academy Committee member with responsibility for Child Protection is: **Mrs V. King**

Our Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads with responsibility for Child Protection are:

**Mr R. Ettlting, Mrs K. Whittaker, Ms F. Locke, Mrs H. Pugh**

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#### Uniform Reminders

Please can I remind you of a few of our uniform requirements. Full details of our school uniform expectations can be found in our school parent guide on our website.

- Skirts **MUST** be pleated and should be no more than two or three centimetres above the knee. Trousers should not be tight fitting.
  - **Black shoes should be worn. No trainers, slip on or high heeled shoes should be worn.**
  - Children should **not attend school with their hair coloured** or with any other extreme style.
  - Children should **not wear a hoodie to school**. Instead they should wear a school sweatshirt and coat.
  - Children are **not permitted to wear make-up or have any piercings** other than a single ear stud in each ear.
  - Children should **not wear expensive smart watches or Fitbit type devices** to school due to the cost associated with these items.
  - Children are **only allowed to drink water** from their school drinking bottle.
  - Black or grey ankle/knee length socks or black or grey tights. No sheer tights should be worn - traditional school tights only are permitted. No trainer socks should be worn.
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#### Rights Respecting School Award

On **Wednesday 29th September** we completed our **Rights Respecting Schools Assessment**. The assessors will now consider the evidence provided following meetings with children, staff and parents before notifying us of the outcome..





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## Covid 19 Reminders

### The main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

### What to do if your child has symptoms

If your child has any of the main symptoms of COVID-19, even if they're mild:

- Ensure that your child has a PCR test (test that is sent to a lab) to check if they have COVID-19 as soon as possible.
- Keep your child at home (self-isolate) until you receive a negative test result – only leave home to have a test.
- Your child can return to school once they have had a negative PCR test result or isolated for 10 days and no longer have symptoms.
- Your child's absence from school will be authorised if they have tested positive for Covid 19.

## Attendance

- Your child can attend school whilst somebody in their household has tested positive for Covid 19 as long as they do not have any symptoms. **We would ask that children continue to complete twice weekly LFT testing and report these results to school and the NHS.**
- From the start of this academic year the Department for Education has confirmed that **School attendance is mandatory for all pupils** of compulsory school age and it is a priority to ensure that as many children as possible regularly attend school.
- Lockyer's Middle School expects pupils to **maintain an attendance figure of at least 95% across the academic year** and we will communicate with families if their child falls below this expected level to work with the families and the Local Authority to bring about an improvement.

**IMPORTANT:** Please ensure that **children do not bring nut-based products into school.** Please also ensure that **children only have a healthy snack at break time each day.**





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### Ensuring that our children remain safe in school - Winter preparation

Please do remind your child to **attend school with the minimal amount of equipment each day**, and remind them to ensure that they **wash and sanitise their hands regularly throughout the day**.

It is important to remind your child to **attend school with extra layers under their uniform to ensure that they keep warm**. Classroom windows and doors will only be open by a small amount during lesson times as we move into Winter with doors and windows opened fully to provide good ventilation during break and lunch time. We will shortly be receiving our CO<sub>2</sub> monitors that will be placed around our site to keep our children safe.

### Pupil Safety

We regularly talk with the children about the importance of travelling to and from school safely. Please discuss the following particular areas with your children on a regular basis to ensure that they are safe when travelling to and from school:

- **Behaviour should be of a high standard at all times.**
- Pupils should not be using their mobile phones whilst walking to school particularly when crossing roads.
- Pupils must remain on pavements at all times and walk with care and consideration for others.
- Pupils using scooters or bikes should take care around other road users and those on pavements.
- Helmets should be worn on bicycles and scooters.



Please follow us on **Twitter and Facebook**. We seek to provide regular updates. You can also use our **school website to learn more about our school**.



**Article 3:** *All organisations concerned with children should work towards what is best for each child.*





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### Peripatetic Music Lessons

It has been **fantastic to see peripatetic music lessons recommence this half term**. Mrs Rice has been busy preparing our practice rooms with Mrs Farrow preparing a timetable. These **lessons are now offered by Absolute Music**. Please do contact the school office if you would like further information about signing your child up for lessons during this academic year.



### New car park crossing

We are really pleased to have a new zebra crossing in place outside our car park to help keep our children safe when walking to and from school.

### HeadSTART - Climbing wall sessions

It was fantastic to welcome children back to school ahead of the start of the new academic year to take part in our HeadSTART programme. Children enjoyed maths and English workshop sessions. They also enjoyed orienteering and tackling the climbing wall.



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## Term Dates 2021 - 2022

Our full school calendar is currently under review and will be published when it is appropriate to do so.

### Autumn Term 2021

Staff Training Day	<b>Thursday 2nd September</b>
Staff Training Day	<b>Friday 3rd September</b>
First Day of Term	<b>Monday 6th September</b>
Half Term Holiday	<b>Monday 25th October - Friday 29th October</b>
Staff Training Day	<b>Monday 1st November</b>
Pupils Return	<b>Tuesday 2nd November</b>
Last Day of Term	<b>Friday 17th December</b>

### Spring Term 2022

Staff Training Day	<b>Tuesday 4th January</b>
First Day of Term	<b>Wednesday 5th January</b>
Half Term Holiday	<b>Monday 21st - Friday 25th February</b>
Pupils Return Monday	<b>28th February</b>
Last Day of Term	<b>Friday 8th April</b>

### Summer Term 2022

First Day of Term	<b>Monday 25th April</b>
May Day Holiday	<b>Monday 2nd May</b>
Half Term Holiday	<b>Monday 30th May - Friday 3rd June</b>
Staff Training Day	<b>Monday 6th June</b>
Pupils Return	<b>Tuesday 7th June</b>
Last Day of Term	<b>Thursday 21st July*</b>

*\*Additional Queen's Platinum Jubilee Bank Holiday taken on Friday 22nd July.*

