



Little did I know that when I finished off Newsletter 241 as we broke up for Christmas, it would be the last one I'd write for over two months. The closing of school to the majority of pupils after only one day back in January came as something of a surprise to us all and I must thank you all for the way you embraced home learning via Tapestry and Seesaw for those children who were not in school all the time.

I also want to thank my staff again: everyone has pulled together once again and done their utmost to provide a quality level of support for children, both in school and at home. My cleaning team, my lunchtime staff, the kitchen staff and our fantastic teachers and teaching assistants have done themselves proud, not forgetting the woman who really runs the school ... Mrs Dearlove in the office.

Hopefully we are now in a position where we can continue with education without interruption for the remainder of the academic year: this will depend entirely on the levels of infection across Stockton to a certain extent and therefore we must all remain vigilant around the restrictions that are in place, both within school and in the wider community.

It has been fantastic to see so many happy, smiling children back at school this week – they have settled in really well, whether they are coming back after two months at home or whether they've been in school throughout. There has been some great work going on across school and I've been particularly impressed with some absolutely gorgeous sunflower art from our Y3s.



A word from our Head Pupils!

Earlier this week, I asked Sam, Josh, Caitlin and Annabel (our Head Boy/Deputy and Head Girl/Deputy) to share how they felt after the wider return to school.

"At first we thought that lockdown would be interesting, but then the fact dawned on us that we would not see family and friends."

Caitlin: "One of the reasons why I liked lockdown was because we got to be with family all the time and I was able to see my pets more. Seesaw was really good because it is easy to access and it was very easy to upload work. On the other hand, being at home all the time isn't very fun because you can't see your friends and other family members. In conclusion, I am really excited to be back at school."

Annabel: "I was incredibly lucky to have horses who kept me busy through lockdown but it wasn't just my pets who kept me entertained. So did my family. Seesaw was easy to access and use. I missed my friends so much and it is nice to be back. At first, I felt it would be exciting not being at school, but now I realise it was actually the opposite."



Josh, Annabel, Caitlin and Sam wearing their Leavers Hoodies, courtesy of the PTA

Sam: "Lockdown has been hard for me. Even if you liked it, I did not. At first, I enjoyed it. One week in and I realised that I would not see my friends and family for a while. There was quite a bit of distraction for me which was not convenient! I only had my brother and dog (not including parents) to talk to. At night in bed I wished I was back at school. That was the only time I had peace and quiet! I am glad I am at school again (even though I sometimes want to lock down school) and I hope it will not happen again."

Josh: "Lockdown school was different. There were less people and it was more laid-back compared to 'before' school. It was fun but I missed my friends. The work was easier as well with the teaching. I enjoyed it but without seeing everyone for many, many weeks made it different. I was happy to be in school as I found it easier to work."

Statutory educational testing

As part of the wider implications of the most recent COVID disruption to education, the Government announced that all statutory testing and reporting in primary schools would not go ahead in 2021 (i.e. Y1 phonics check; Y2 phonics check resits; Y2 SATs; Y4 multiplication check and the Y6 SATs). However, we will still be testing and assessing in all year groups in line with our in-house assessment protocol and will also be gathering evidence for pupil attainment and progress from a range of other sources to inform accurate teacher assessment. These other sources will include statutory tests from previous years for some year groups. Further details will be sent out as appropriate.

Parent consultations

As we only have two more weeks before Easter, there will not be formal consultations taking place this term: these will be organised for early in the Summer Term so that we can get the children fully settled back in and get a good appreciation for where work needs to be focused. We will be trialling an add-on to our current online booking system which will use video calling rather than telephone calling – more details to follow.

COVID update

You will be able to recite this by rote now, I'm sure but **please do not send your children in to school if they display any of the three official symptoms of COVID**, even if you believe the symptoms are indicative of an unrelated ailment. The three symptoms are: an elevated temperature (Government define this as where the chest/back feel hot to the touch, although a temperature of 37.8°C or above remains a useful benchmark), a new persistent cough and/or a loss of taste/smell. A test should be sought at the earliest opportunity. **This also applies to any other member of the household if symptoms are evident: children should not be sent into school where a member of the household is symptomatic until a negative test result has been obtained for that household member.**

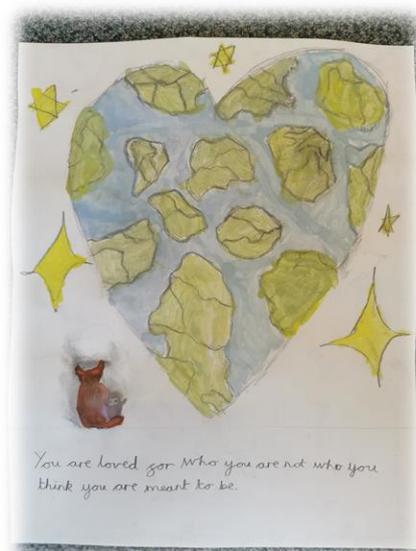
Reporting of symptoms/test results can be done either by calling the School Office (01642 783684) or by emailing the dedicated email address that was set up last year: covid@levendale.org.uk. It is of particular importance where a positive case has arisen that we are informed of the date symptoms first started, the date of any test and then the date that the test result was obtained. This then allows me to liaise with Public Health and make an informed decision as to the wider impact of any positive cases on the school community. Your vigilance around isolating symptomatic children and seeking tests is vital to breaking any chain of transmission within school.

Classteacher Golden Awards (March 5th)

Nursery: Gabby and Frankie
Reception: Fynn and Eleanor
Year 1: Hannah & the whole class and families!
Year 2: Holly R and Lewis
Year 3: Seth and Alice
Year 4: Lydia and Evie R
Year 5: Lily, Cameron and Spencer P
Year 6: Miles and Jonathan

I gave Headteacher Awards to Casey and Cleo in Y2 plus Charlie in Y5.

Well done everyone!



A beautiful piece of artwork by Sophia in Y3, based on the story, 'The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse' by Charlie Mackesy.

Dates for your diary

March	18	Y5 Level 1 Bikeability
	19	Y6 Level 1 Bikeability
	22-26	Y6 Level 2 Bikeability
	26	Break up for Easter
April	12	Start of Summer Term 1
	15	Mr Thoburn (Conyers) in school for a Science lesson with Y5.
May	3	May Bank Holiday – school closed
	17-19	Y6 residential at Robinwood
June	28	Break up for half-term
	7	Start of Summer Term
July	16	Break up for summer