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Headteacher's Newsletter Autumn Term 2020

Dear Parents,

This year has got off to a rather unusual, but great start with children settling well into their new classes, and we would like to extend a particularly warm welcome from all of us at Loughton Manor First School to our new pupils and their families.

We usually begin the year with Home Visits for our Nursery and FS2 children. Due to the current situation we adapted these visits to become visits for each family to come into school instead. These were successful and enabled staff and families to meet (socially distanced!) and to talk about each child, prior to their start. The children in the Foundation Stage are settling in really nicely and it is a real joy to see them so calm, so happy and enjoying spending time with their new friends.

Our older Year 1 and Year 2 children have also settled fantastically well and have adapted to the new ways in which we find ourselves working. It is a pleasure to open the gates each morning and to see them happily coming (and in several cases skipping or running) into school.

I would also like to thank all of you for your flexibility and support in helping us to follow our procedures.

New staff

We welcome three new staff members this term:

- Fern Bunton, class teacher in Giraffes class
- Graduate trainee teachers Lorraine Smith, based in Year 1 Lions, and Amy Parsons, based in Year 2 Wolves, who as post-graduate student teachers will work in a supernumerary capacity alongside our experienced team of teachers

Macmillan Coffee Morning

This charity is one that is very special to us at the school. The work that Macmillan Nurses do is magnificent, so although we were unable to invite parents to our coffee morning, we felt that we wanted to continue to show our support to this charity. We hosted our own staff cake sale, lunch and raffle, throughout this morning, to enable us to raise some money for them, during this



challenging time. If you would like to make a donation, please hand this to a member of staff on the gate.

Reporting Absence

If your child is unwell and unable to attend school, it is essential that we are informed immediately. Please use the email address absence@loughtonmanor.milton-keynes.sch.uk

In order to ensure the Safeguarding of children, schools must know why any child who is not in school is absent, and, of course, we promote good attendance so that children get the most from their school education. Thank you for your support.

ParentMail

Newsletters, and letters to particular classes or year groups will be sent regularly throughout the year. The surest way to get information is to sign up for **ParentMail** and we strongly urge everyone to do this. Ask at the school office how to sign up if you don't yet get **ParentMail** emails from us. It's really useful, and we can also use it to send useful text messages to you. It is much better for the environment, and the school photocopying bill! Also, with **ParentMail** you never have the worry of whether you may have missed a letter if your child is absent.

Please **always** make time to read letters from school. That's the surest way of your children being happy and taking part fully in what's on offer. It also helps you to know and understand what's happening at school, and can save worries. If you have a reply slip to return, please make sure it is given to the staff at the gates.

Labelling Uniform

Please, please name your children's clothes, especially red tops!!! It's not 100% fool proof in making sure your child doesn't lose items, but makes a huge difference in how well we can help you retrieve missing items. You can help further by checking that names haven't washed off. Also, if your child comes home in someone else's named school jumper (*they do this occasionally if they haven't followed instructions about how to leave their clothes neatly on a chair when changing for P.E.*) please return it to school straight away. Better still, use **Stikins** – these are great, do not wash off and earn money for our school.

No nuts here, at Loughton Manor, please!

Please be aware that we are a 'nut free' school. This is because we have pupils who have severe allergies. Thank you for your co-operation with this, and helping to keep our children safe.

Please don't hesitate to ask if you need to know more about anything in this Newsletter...or indeed, something that isn't – we're always happy to help!

Best wishes,



Daniela Thompson
Headteacher