



Loving to learn, Learning to love.  
For every child a chance to shine



LAYSTON C of E FIRST SCHOOL  
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Headteacher: Mrs A McMurrough

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Most of you will have heard the announcement by the Prime minister on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> Jan that the target date for schools to reopen will likely be 8th March. We appreciate that the last few weeks have been tough for us all; juggling jobs, our children's school work and generally surviving a pandemic. This is made harder with dark wintery days. We need to support each other as much as possible in order to get through this. With this in mind I would like to say a tremendous well done to you all. Whatever your personal circumstances we think you're doing a great job. We know our pupils are safe, loved and cared for and that is the most important thing at the moment. We know we have high expectations and have set a lot of work. All we ask is that you do your best. Please do not let school work take priority over yours and your child's mental health. Everyone's circumstances are different and we appreciate that. School may be 'closed' to lots of pupils but we are still here emotionally for all our families. If you need us please just ask.

#### Parent Conferences:

We are planning to offer phone calls to all our families with the class teacher in place of the usual teacher/pupil/parent conference. Teachers will be asking you and your child how they are getting on with their learning, about particular successes and/or difficulties and to offer advice where possible. You will be allocated a 10 minute window for discussions. Remember to book your slot by following the instructions in the email sent out earlier this week and read the information leaflet on the Home Learning section of the website 'Learning Conferences 2021.'

#### Mental health and well-being:

Next week is children's mental health week and the following week is Hertfordshire's 'Feeling Good Week'. Please look at the mental health and well-being section of the website for further information. Teachers will also be timetabling some well-being activities.

#### Covid 19:

**Remember as soon as your child or any member of your household develops symptoms, they must start self-isolating immediately and book a test. Main symptoms of coronavirus are:**

- a high temperature (37.8 deg C or more)
- a new, continuous cough - this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change to sense of smell or taste - this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If you're not sure whether symptoms suggest that they have COVID-19 or an everyday cough or cold, you can consult this online NHS symptom checker: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>





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**If your child is attending school please do not send children in to school if any of the following apply:**

- they have symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19)
- they, or any members of your household, have tested positive for COVID-19
- they haven't completed the full 10 day isolation period requested

Self-isolating is one of the most important things we can all do to help stop the spread of the virus and protect our loved ones and the vulnerable. You can read our helpful self-isolating guide at: [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/selfisolatingguide](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/selfisolatingguide)

If you or your family are affected by COVID-19 and need support locally with things like shopping, getting medication or financial advice, visit: [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/coronavirus)

Have a restful and relaxing weekend and stay safe.

Best wishes  
Adele McMurrough  
Headteacher

