

Ladysmith Federation

Junior School News

Friday 17th July 2020

This week's 'virtual Home Learning Stars of the Week' are... EVERYONE!!



All of our teachers wanted me to say how proud they are of each and every child in their class and so this week's star of the week award goes to each and every one of the children here at Ladysmith! In many different ways, the children have shown amazing resilience, commitment and positivity over the recent weeks and months. Everyone has faced their own challenges along the way but we have come through it and we are finally able to look forward to a near normal return to school in September.

We are all really looking forward to seeing you and the children again in September.

Key Updates

September



We have sent out some information about opening in September. The details are also available on our website—[please click here](#). We will be in touch again in August to confirm these plans or to make alterations pending any further guidance.

Summer Holidays—Finding Childcare and summer provision

Parents can find out what childcare will be available on the [Pinpoint](#) Site. If you are unable to find childcare, you can complete the [Unable to Find Childcare Form](#) and someone will get in touch with you. Updated information on those settings that will be open in the Summer holidays will also be posted on the Devon County Council website soon. Please note this is parent funded provision.



Mental Health and Wellbeing

Please have a look at the [school website for ideas and information](#) on how to support your child's mental health and well-being during this time.

Useful Emergency Contact Numbers

Over the summer, if you are concerned about your own safety or that of a child or young person, contact MASH—Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub—on **0345 155 1071**
National Domestic Abuse Helpline (Devon): **0808 2000 247** (24 hours) Use **999** if you are in immediate danger.

NHS Helpline: **111** Use **999** if a medical emergency.

Samaritans (24 hours): **116 123**

Citizens Advice Bureau National Helpline: **03444 111 444**



Rushton Dog Rescue—a message from Brody in year 5.

Hi I'm Brody and I really want to help the animals that are being used for meat. I feel sad when I think about it.

Dogs are born to be a part of a family and deserve a good home. I have dreams to be an artist and I have painted a canvas to raise money for the Rushton Dog Rescue.

If you would like to help, [please click here to donate £1 per ticket](#) for a chance to win my painting pictured here.

Thank you.

More information about Rushton Dog Rescue: We are a dog rescue charity helping dogs around the globe, we have recently started an extra project saving dogs from the meat trade in China and dogs in the UK.



Excellent 'beehaviour' Henry!

To be a bee keeper you have to concentrate, have an eye for detail, and remain calm under pressure. Henry did really well, when he opened a very aggressive hive, last week.

Well done Henry—what a great 'Adventure and Achievement'!

Martin's Pie Shop is now open!

Mr Broad and Mr Wilkinson have been really pleased to see that Martin's Pie Shop has now reopened for business! Please see the attached flyer for a free doughnut at Martin's Pie Shop when you buy a coffee!



@Home Sports Day

Well done to everyone who had a go at some of the sports day challenges this week—we have seen some fab pictures! Fingers crossed for a more traditional sports day in the Summer of 2021...



Governors' Annual Report 2020

The 2019/20 academic year got off to a very successful start for both of the schools within the Ladysmith Federation. Both schools made excellent progress on developing their existing wider curriculum, without compromising core subjects, in line with the change of emphasis of OFSTED to quality of education rather than a reliance purely on SATS results. Both schools, prior to Covid-19, continued to invite parents in to school, the infant school with its Partnership for Parents and the Junior school with parent curriculum workshops.

The Federation provides many enrichment activities which could not have happened without the support of Children, Parents and Teachers Together (CPTT) whose involvement and fundraising activities make a huge difference to both schools. Many thanks to everyone involved and keep up the good work.

2019-2020 has been a year where the whole school community has been incredible in support of each other. This has benefited the children in what is an unpredictable time and unprecedented time.

Both schools have benefited from their involvement with the River Exe Learning Partnership (RELP). This is a group of similar schools within the local area that have a similar ethos, who work together to share good practice and to ensure continuing improvement in the education that they provide. RELP has been of particular value during the current pandemic giving staff opportunities to share concerns.

Ladysmith Infant & Nursery School

At the start of the year the Infant and Nursery school continued its journey to increase opportunities for children to become independent in their learning. From Nursery to Year Two, children's interests have increasingly been the driver for the learning that happens across the school. Teachers and staff are excited about the next steps as they continually extend the provision offered. Children have had greater access to the Forest School areas through the OPAL programme; play is rich and exciting and fitness levels have improved. The school site has been developed, with refurbished outside areas for Reception and Year One and baby trees forming a screen around the perimeter of the school.

Since lock down we have seen how brilliantly parents and staff have supported the children to continue learning, using Seesaw for the first time and developing Tapestry further. Support offered by the Family Support Worker has given families access to hampers from St Marks church and other agencies.

For the last four months we have missed having the whole school on site, but have been able to offer places to all key workers, all vulnerable pupils, all reception and nursery children. We have a "Recovery" curriculum under development ready for September, which has a focus on mental health and well-being, relationships and PSHE. We look forward to seeing everyone back in September, including 130 new children in Nursery and Reception.

Ladysmith Junior School

The ongoing development of the curriculum at the Junior School has been a positive feature this year and we are very much looking forward to building on this in September.

A substantial grant has been obtained to develop the reading bus on which work has already begun. There has been a continuation of the Grow Project and further development of the school grounds in order to provide an enriched environment for children to play and learn in. Many thanks to everyone involved.

Prior to lock down we have continued to offer a wide range of enrichment experiences across the school and luckily the Year 6 Beam House trip was able to take place.

Towards the end of term, we have been able to offer all the children the opportunity to say goodbye to their class and teacher in person. We have also been pleased that we have been able to offer a range of transition activities and that Year 6 have managed to complete a number of end of year celebration activities, such as the year book, leavers' hoodies and a celebration video.

Both schools operate on a fully inclusive equal opportunity basis and this is built into the policies and procedures that governors expect the schools to operate by. It is our responsibility to ensure that every child, irrespective of their needs, has the same opportunity to attain their full potential. Governors are fully updated on how identified needs are met. The schools also provide support and advice to parents.

Governors are volunteers who are working to support the schools and to ensure that they maintain the quality of provision that is expected for the children they educate. The governing body currently does not reflect the diversity of the school population so if you, or anyone you may know, are interested in becoming a governor and helping to support your schools please do get in touch to discuss this. Contact the governors' clerk clerk@ladysmithfederation.net.

In summary, 2019/20 has been a challenging year for both schools and the governors are extremely grateful to all of the staff for the hard work that they have put in to make this year successful. This task has not been getting any easier over the last few years because of budgetary pressures that have been put on Local Authorities and schools. Staff keep stepping up to ensure that all of the children get the opportunities that they require. However, it may be that in the coming year some major fund-raising may need to be undertaken to address some of the funding issues around building upkeep.

The Governors wish the children good luck when they move to their new classes or schools in September. Have a great summer holiday.

Chair of Governors



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We LOVE this poem, written by Tom in year 5 about life in lockdown and we thought it was a very appropriate way to end the last newsletter of the year!

Lockdown

This year there was a lockdown,
We stayed inside for weeks
To keep away from people
At times it was quite bleak.

I missed playing football
And seeing all my friends,
I worried that the lockdown
At times would never end!

Some things that made me happy
And passed the time away
Were football in the garden
And lots of time to play.

I wrestled with my sister
And beat her every time.
One day it was her birthday
And I pranked her with some slime!

My cat, Colleen, just lazed around
And enjoyed the sunny weather.
I loved our family BBQs
In the garden all together.

Teachers sent us lots of work
To do at home each day.
I quite enjoyed the English tasks
And tried hard to obey (my parents!).

I did daily maths lessons with my dad
And zoomed my friends a lot.
We went out on some scooter rides
And to the beach when it was hot.

Lock down wasn't all too bad
There were some things that I liked.
Like family time and late to bed
And playing on Fortnite.

Now that things are looking brighter
I look forward to some school
And meeting up with all my mates
Is going to be so cool!

By Tom I

The Redbrush Family



Wishing you
a happy &
healthy
summer
break.

Dates for the diary:

7.9.20—First day of autumn term

23.10.20—Last day of the first half term

26th—30th October—Half Term Break

2.11.20—First day of second half term

18.12.20—Last day of autumn term



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