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Friday 27th March

Dear Parents and Carers of pupils in Year One and Two,

We hope that you are all well and adapting to the new situation that we all find ourselves in.

We will be launching our online learning portal with you on the first day back after the Easter break, Tuesday 14th March.

We are going to be using the Seesaw home learning portal to support your children while the school is closed. We are very impressed with the opportunities that it presents for both teachers and pupils; as an exciting way to keep the children's learning going and to keep children in touch with their teachers. Seesaw allows us to use various ways of communicating learning with the children, including audio recordings, videos, pictures, Powerpoint presentations, e books and much more. There is also a drawing package where we can present work screens which children can work directly onto and then send them back to teachers. Children can also record messages, upload videos and photographs and write notes directly to their teachers. As everything is online it means that you DO NOT need a printer as there will be no need to print anything off. We will be adapting our approach to make it suitable for home learning and as manageable and fun as possible. We are hoping that Seesaw is going to make home learning fun and easy for both children and parents alike (and teachers too).

On the morning of Tuesday 14th April, you will receive a ParentMail, which will contain instructions on how to access Seesaw and your own personal activation code. You will then be able to download the programme and use your code to log in to your child's class. Here you will receive a welcome message from your child's teacher/teachers. After you have logged in that first time then you shouldn't need to use the code again.

There are going to be three 'Learning drops a week' on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 10am. This staggered approach allows children time to respond to the activities and submit them back to their teachers.

We understand that there are a multitude of pressures on families at the moment and so we are colour coding the activities so that you know which activities to priorities and others that could be optional.

Red      = must do this task

Amber  = should do this task

Green   = could do this task

Each learning drop has been designed to cover a range of developmental skills, whilst securing some of the 'must know' knowledge, so that the foundations for the children's learning continue to be established. Each learning drop will be self explanatory and easy to follow.

Seesaw is a portal for communication between your child and their teacher/teachers. If you should want to contact the teacher about anything please continue to use the year groups emails and teachers will respond within 48 hours. When you write an email can you please put the name of your child and their class in the subject box.

Year1support@ladysmithfederation.net

Year2support@ladysmithfederation.net

We are encouraging our families 'to take a break' over the Easter holidays and enjoy their time together (albeit in the confinement of their homes). However, we would love to see what you have been doing together as families. When you receive your activation email and log into Seesaw on Tuesday 14th April your child will see a welcome message. This will also be an opportunity for you and your child to 'have a go'. You can upload any photos or videos that you have taken over the Easter period and also write a message back to your teacher if you would like to. Seesaw is very child friendly and simple to use. However, we are also writing some support guidance to detail how to use the various functions. This will be available on our school website from the launch date.

This is a steep learning curve for all of us, and we would really appreciate your feedback and communication to let us know how Seesaw is working for you. We will endeavour to refine and develop our approach as the weeks pass, so that we have a platform that is working for everybody.

After the welcome, the first Learning Drop will take place on Wednesday 15th April at 10am.

We wish you all well and are really looking forward to learning with you all and communicating with the children once again.

Best Wishes

The Ladysmith Team