



# St Leonard's C.E. Primary School

"Nurturing Faith and Inspiring Success"

Southwark Diocesan  
Board of Education  
Multi-Academy Trust



Mitcham Lane, Streatham, SW16 6NP  
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Headteacher: Mr Simon Jackson BAQTS (Hons) NPQH  
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Laura Akhtar BA(Hons) PGCE

28<sup>th</sup> January 2021

## School Update

Dear Parent / Carer,

My continued thanks go to you all for the time and effort that you are investing to support your children at this time. You will no doubt have heard that the next key date for us to be aware of is **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March**, when the government are hoping that some schools may begin to increase the number of pupils attending on site. We receive updates in the same way as you do, via TV, internet and radio as the Department for Education are far too busy briefing journalists to communicate with school leaders in advance of a public announcement.

In the meantime, we wish to carry out a two-week trial increasing our online offer, during which we will also be asking for your observations.

Beginning on **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February** and lasting until **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February**, there will be the **option** for all pupils to engage in a *Google Meet* session each day with either their class teacher or another familiar adult.

A timetable for these sessions is under construction and you will receive further information separately. This is a trial and, as such, everyone needs to be aware of and accept the following:

- 1) Teachers are being encouraged to experiment with different approaches and content so that we can learn what works best and what doesn't. You will have a chance to complete a survey at the end of the first week, which will help us understand the experience from your perspective and that of your child.
- 2) Sessions may vary in length according to their purpose but, typically, will last around 20 minutes or so.
- 3) These will not be *live lessons* replacing the content on Google Classroom. If a session is timetabled in the morning, it may be an introduction to what is online; it may be feedback on the work completed the day before; it may be a mixture of both; it may be a story. If the session is in the afternoon, it may be a discussion about the work completed or a feedback



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session or a story. **This is for the teachers to decide.** What's important is that there is the opportunity for that daily contact between home and school and between classmates.

- 4) Sessions need to be at different times so that households with children in different year groups can manage the use of devices amongst their children. It will not be possible for a class to have the same time each day necessarily. Also, in the same way that teachers are sometimes unable to attend school due to illness, please be aware that some sessions may need to be amended or cancelled at short notice due to staff unavailability.
- 5) **THESE SESSIONS ARE OPTIONAL.** We are not requiring pupils to attend and, whilst we will be monitoring attendance for our own purposes, children and families will not be negatively judged for non-attendance. We are acutely aware that, within our community, we have some families who consider the current workload as pressure and others who feel that more is required.

I trust that this trial will develop within the spirit of experimentation and cooperation rather than judgment. We are going to approach this experience positively, and are particularly looking forward to being able to see more of our pupils on a daily basis.

As mentioned earlier, details of the management and organisation of these sessions will be sent shortly and I thank you all in advance for your support.

Kind regards,

Mr Simon Jackson

Head Teacher



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