



Coronavirus Update 2 – Thursday 27th August – Curriculum Update

Good Morning

Amongst all of the talk about restrictions and measures, I wanted to reassure you that we are still very much focussed on teaching your children to the highest standards. Teachers are acutely aware of the huge amount of learning time that the children have missed and are keen to maximise the time ahead once the children are back in school.

During lockdown there were a number of virtual meetings around the impact of this gap in learning and the need to drive the curriculum once the children are back into their routine. We have also had many conversations around the impact of lockdown on children's mental health. Therefore we intend to have a balanced approach to the first four weeks back in September, looking at the missed learning whilst also nurturing the children back into the new routines. We feel there will be a need to rebuild children's concentration skills and attention spans whilst also developing their pace and resilience. The Lammack Values will play an important part in this 'Return To Learn' Curriculum.

Obviously, due to the restrictions in place we have also had to make some enforced changes to the curriculum which are beyond our control. For example, there will be no swimming for the children in Year 4, although if the rain keeps up we may be able to organise this on the field ourselves! We are also unable to sing in groups of more than 15, so this is impacting on the music curriculum.

As Blackburn with Darwen is in tighter restrictions we are unable to work in Year Group Bubbles and so we have had to plan our logistical organisation around our 18 class bubbles. This has an impact on breaktime and lunchtime in such a large school. Therefore the hall is currently out of action for PE until at least half term in October. I will be sending further information regarding lunchtimes later this week.

Therefore, during the Autumn term children will be taking part in one outdoor PE lesson per week. This lesson will be focussing on skills and fitness as we are unable to teach any contact sports. In order to maximise the learning time for this lesson and reduce the to-ing and fro-ing in cloakrooms etc we would like children to **attend school on their PE day in their games kit**. This is a track suit, or hoody and tracksuit bottoms (any colour), with the usual school indoor PE T-shirt (with logo) and trainers. **They will wear their kit all day on their PE day**. Teachers will inform you of the PE day during the first week, but **we will not begin PE lessons until the week commencing Monday 14th September**. (Reception children will not be changing for PE at all in the first half term at least and so will only require trainers (kept in school)).

Teachers are planning an intensive catch up program for the first four weeks working on objectives which the children should have covered during the summer term. Following this four week period we will then be assessing the children to inform us of any individual gaps in your child's learning. We feel this will enable children to return to school and settle in before we attempt to establish any formal assessment. However, teachers will be continually assessing the children informally from the first day back, in order to inform their planning and develop work that is set at the correct level for every child.

We intend to reinstate reading books within the first week back in school for all children and return to hearing children read individually as well as whole class reading. We have put 'sneeze guards' in place (similar to screens you may have seen at shop counters) to enable teachers and support staff to work closer to individual children, whilst maintaining the protection we all require to remain safe. Reading books will be coming home, along with reading diaries for parents to complete. Once a reading book is returned to school it will be quarantined for a number of days before being put back into circulation. We have invested in our reading books over the summer in order to ensure we have

sufficient books at every ability level. We are also looking into electronic products to enable children to read on tablets and laptops to support the traditional reading books. One difference you will notice is that teachers/support staff will not be recording notes in the diary but rest assured they will be keeping detailed notes which will be reported to you hopefully at parents evening or in a simple written during the coming term.

Teachers will also be giving more verbal feedback to children regarding their work rather than writing comments in their exercise books. Teachers have instead got a class mark book to keep track of children's achievements and areas to develop. We will still have the same high standards but a new way to record them.

Lastly, we have invested in pencil cases for all children throughout school so they can keep the individual stationary we will provide them with, safe and secure. They will not be sharing any daily equipment with anyone. There will be a need to share less frequently used equipment, such as protractors, for example, but these will be wiped after use and quarantined between bubbles.

Along with all of the measures we are putting in place, we will also be looking at utilising the government's catch up fund to impact on the children's learning as soon as it is available and explained to schools in more detail.

We are all very excited to get back to doing the jobs we love and hope that the children are excited to return to the classroom. Yes, there will be some changes but there will also be many things which the children are very familiar with:

- Inspiring lessons
- Caring friendships
- Supportive teamwork
- Dynamic teaching
- High standards
- Positive attitudes
- Motivated learners and dedicated staff.

Once we put all this back in place we will soon forget lockdown and team Lammack will be up and running again at full steam ahead! Bring on 2020 -2021!

Regards

Mrs Duckworth

Paula Duckworth
Headteacher
Lammack Community Primary School