



### Loanends Primary School

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#### OCTOBER UPDATE 2021

1 October 2021

Dear Parent

I should be grateful if you could please note the following:

- **Parent/Teacher Consultations:** Just a reminder that school will close for all pupils at 2:00pm each day, week commencing 18 October. Please ensure that you adhere to the mitigations included on your appointment letter. Just a reminder also that there will be no after school activities that week. I would ask that parents of children who use the school bus to advise Stephen if they intend collecting children themselves.
- **School Closures:** School will be closed for half term for pupils from **Monday 25 to Friday 29 October** (dates inclusive). School will close at the normal time of 2:00pm on Friday 22 October and reopens on Monday 1 November.
- **Breakfast Club:** Thank you to those who have been availing of this. The club is open from 8:00am until 8:45am. Breakfast and a range of games are on offer. We require 10 participants daily in order to make this viable. Unfortunately, there has been a rather low uptake and unless demand increases we will have to drop this provision after 8 October.
- **Voluntary Fund:** The Governors are very grateful to the number of parents who have contributed to the voluntary fund so far. This is an opportunity to invest directly in your child's education. We will continue to receive contributions for until Monday 11 October.
- **Jujitsu has resumed in the school Assembly Hall**

Tuesdays 6:00-7:00pm

Beginners up to and including Orange Belts

Tuesdays 7:00-8:15pm

Green Belts and above

Contact Sensei Lorraine Gault to make enquiries and book your place at Templepatrick and Loanends Jujitsu Facebook page or send an email to [Lorraine.gault@btinternet.com](mailto:Lorraine.gault@btinternet.com).

- **From Monday 4 October**, P1 parents are asked to leave their son or daughter at the side gate. A number of brave P1s are already making their own way round to the P1 classroom. That's just fantastic! For safety, no other parents should be in the playgrounds. I would just remind you about social distancing as this area of the school is likely to get busy. Also just a reminder that from 4 October school will finish for P1s at 1.50pm.
- **Car Park Safety:** ONLY PARENTS WHO HAVE PRIOR APPROVAL FROM THE SCHOOL ARE PERMITTED TO USE THE STAFF CAR PARK. It is frustrating that a few parents or those collecting children continue to flout the rules so please do not be offended if we give you a reminder and ask you to move your car!
- **20 MPH Zone:** Please remember! There is a 20 mph speed limit outside the school when the lights are flashing.
- **Protocols:** You are already familiar with the protocols of referring FS/KST1 matters to Mrs Watson and KST2 queries to Mr Hyde. Of course, your concern or query should always, in the first instance, be addressed to the class teacher. It would be most helpful, if you could give some indication of the nature of your query to the Secretary, so that the appropriate member of staff can prioritise responses. Any SEN enquiries should be directed to Mrs Hegarty.
- **Contacting staff:** Parents are asked not to contact staff regarding school/pupil matters on their personal mobile phones or through Seesaw. Staff have been advised not to reply. All enquiries or information should be done through the school office.

- **Absences:** Please ensure that you provide a reason for your child's absence. Whilst telephone calls to school are helpful and appreciated, I would stress the importance of sending in a written note, which will be held on file should there be any queries by the Education Welfare Officer. You should have received a tear off slip with the Annual Update so that you can provide a written explanation for the reason for absence.

Attendance is checked monthly in school. We are obliged to refer those pupils falling below 85% (unless they have had a prolonged illness) to the Education Welfare Officer. Also, a record of "lates" is kept on our internal computer system.

I would encourage you, as mentioned on the Annual Update to check out DENI: Miss School: Miss Out." <https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/consultations/miss-school-miss-out-strategy-improving-pupil-attendance>.

- **Timekeeping:** Most parents have been excellent in adhering to the allocated times. Thank you for that! Just a reminder though, that it is important that parents do not drop pupils off early. Should you arrive early, please wait with your child until it is time to enter school. There is a window of 15 minutes for everyone to get into school for a prompt start at 9:00am. Gates will be locked at this time so please make every effort to get pupils in on time. We are only a few weeks into term and already timekeeping, for some, has become a problem! Please also be mindful of prompt pick-ups at the end of the day. Whilst we appreciate that on occasion parents can run late, this should not become a habit.
- **Lost Property:** Already our lost property box is overflowing! The box will be left at the main front doors next week if you wish to call by and check for missing items. Please ensure all your child's items are labelled clearly.
- **November Dates-Open Day:** It is highly unlikely that we will be able to host an Open Day in the usual format. Similar to last year, it would be out intention, with the help of Mrs May, to create a video to share with prospective parents. We are currently taking the names of children who will be starting school in September 2022. If you, or anyone known to you, would like to enrol a child in Loanends Primary, please give the details to Mrs Bowman or myself, encourage them to visit our website and view the digital prospectus, or to get in touch with the school.
- **December Dates: Advance Notice-P3 and 4 Performances** will be held (all being well) on the mornings of **Thursday 9 and Friday 10 December**. For everyone's safety, P3 parents will be invited to attend on 9 and P4 parents on Friday 10. We will also need to limit capacity in the hall to maintain social distancing.
- **Head Lice:** Very occasionally parents report incidences of head lice; parents need to check children for lice on a regular basis. Research indicates that one in five children will have head lice at any one time. Responsibility to manage head lice lies with the parent and in an effort to help all parents do this, I would refer you to [www.onceaweektakeapeek.co.uk](http://www.onceaweektakeapeek.co.uk). This will help dispel some of the myths and enable you to be proactive in treating head lice should they occur. Advice can also be obtained from the Pharmacist.
- Please do not send **nuts or food items containing nuts** into school. We have a few children who have nut allergies. Please be mindful of this and other dietary needs if sending birthday cakes into school. Thank you!

Yours sincerely

*Linda Armour*

Principal