

At Lobley Hill Primary School we aim to 'Be the Best We Can Be' through being curious, adventurous and respectful in order to achieve personal excellence.



10 March 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

It has been such a long time since we have been able to welcome you into school, so I am delighted that we are able to do so for parental consultations w/c 14th March. I think the last time we were able to hold face to face consultations was 2020 so this is long overdue. While it will be great to see everyone again, we still have to follow guidelines set out by the local authority so I would be grateful if you could read the guidance below and ensure you follow this carefully when you attend your consultation.

- We will offer a hybrid approach to appointments – this means that while we are now offering face to face appointments you are still able to opt for a telephone call or Teams Meeting if you would prefer.

Face to Face Appointments

- If you or someone in your household has Covid-19, please do not attend your appointment, please contact school to rearrange
- If you have been in close contact with someone who has Covid-19, please do not attend your appointment, please contact school to rearrange
- Please arrive 10 minutes before your appointment as this will allow you time to look at your child's books or Learning Journal (EYFS only)
- Classrooms will be set up so parents/carers and teachers are social distanced from each other. **Please note, Nursery and Reception class meetings will take place in the SCITT training room so you will need to enter school via the main office.**
- Please wear a mask/face covering when you are in school and while waiting for your appointment. You will be able to remove this when in the classroom, meeting with the class teacher but you may keep it on if you wish to do so
- Please enter school via the main office entrance – you will then leave following your appointment via the fire exit in your child's classroom – this is to prevent large gatherings in school corridors
- Hand sanitiser will be available outside each classroom, please ensure you use this before you look at your child's books/work and before you enter the classrooms. For children in Years 2 to 6 Maths, English and Science books will be available for you to look at prior to your appointment.
- Your child can attend the appointment with you, but it is not necessary

Responding to work

Since Covid we have had to make a number of changes to our practice in school, some of which we have kept as they have proven to be beneficial to both children and staff. One of these is 'live marking' – this means that teachers and teaching assistants provide children with feedback within the lesson rather than providing written feedback in their books after the lesson has taken place. The purpose

of this immediate feedback is to:

- Create opportunities for further teaching
- Inform pupils of what they have achieved
- Inform pupils of any corrections to be made and provide time for self-assessment to take place
- Inform pupils of editing requirements and scaffold them to self-edit/mark work
- Challenge pupils through questioning, application or reasoning
- Encourage the child through intrinsic motivation
- Build pupil confidence
- Support all pupils in being independent learners.

Staff then use a marking grid to track which children have met the objective or who may need additional support the following day. This method of marking and responding to work has been monitored closely by Mrs Wood-Williams and Mr Beattie during standards' meetings and the feedback from both staff and children is extremely positive.

Children in Year 1 follow a Continuous Provision approach to learning which promotes independence and focused group teaching. The children often learn in practical and active ways and assessments of their learning comes through teacher judgements and reflection with the Year 1 team at the end of the day rather than through recorded work in books. The work you will see in books is only a fraction of the learning which takes place.

Similarly in Nursery and Reception, you will not see children's books as their learning comes through interaction with others, adults, and the environment. The daily routine has opportunities for large group and small group focused teaching time as well as play-based learning linked to the children's interests. Assessments are made based upon observations and reflection with the team. A snapshot of their experiences can be found on the Learning Journal which you can view on the night. Please note, this is a working document and captures a fraction of the learning taking place.

While we are able to have parents/carers in school for face to face appointments for parental consultations, can I ask that you continue to use email or telephone for any other queries or concerns. We have been advised to continue to limit the number of visitors in school for the time being. Our school email address is lobleyhillprimaryschool@gateshead.gov.uk

Thank you for your continued support in this matter.

Yours faithfully

Johanna James

Johanna James
Headteacher