



Our Value for July is

## UNITY



### School Update

We have now received the government guidance regarding the full return to school in September. We are delighted that once again our school will be full of our whole Laburnum family and are busy planning to ensure that the return for all pupils is successful and as safe as possible. As the guidance was only published yesterday, it needs to be further considered in the context of our school and there are still some decisions and arrangements to be made, but by the end of term we hope to share full information regarding our September return to school and any specific arrangements that affect our families directly – e.g. staggered starts/end timings, can we operate breakfast club/after school clubs? what can and can't come into school? (and go home) etc.

We are confident that we can adapt again and are really looking forward to getting back to direct classroom teaching and learning (with full classes), driven by our desire to engage and support all children and provide the very best educational experience that we can. We know the last few months have been tough for parents, pupils and staff, but I know that we will continue to work together to overcome any barriers and challenges we are presented with.

### Transition Arrangements

We are very conscious that we have not had the usual opportunities for move up days and transition meetings this year. As a fairly small school, most children know most staff, at least by sight – but we know this is not the same as spending time in a classroom with them. Some parents have asked if the children can return to their old classes for a week at the beginning of the term in September, but there are several reasons that this will not be possible e.g. not all teachers will be in school, social distancing and maintaining 'bubbles' and of course we have 30 new children joining us in Reception and 15 in Nursery.

A successful transition to a new class and different teachers sets a child up for a positive year in their new class, so this year it is even more important that we ensure children have the time and space to settle. Most of our children will have spent over 5 months learning at home by the time we return in September and even those who are in school are used to smaller classes and a higher adult to child ratio. With this in mind, we are doing things slightly differently this year – year groups refer to September years:

- **Nursery** children will not start back until Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September. This will allow each of our new families the opportunity to meet staff and visit the setting (as we will not be able to undertake our usual home visits). Appointments for parents of children new to Nursery will be issued next week.
- **Reception** children will all be full time by Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September, but will be part time, with gradually increasing numbers of children and time in school for the first 7 days of the new term. Reception parents have 'virtual' transition meetings next week

## LABURNUM PRIMARY SCHOOL

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- **Years 1-6** will also be part time initially. Children will either attend for the morning or afternoon for the first 3 days and be full time from Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September. Exact timings and groupings will be communicated next week, but we will of course take into account siblings, to avoid multiple pick-ups and drop-offs. By attending part time initially, your child will benefit from:
  - being in a smaller group where they can share their experiences of lockdown – if they would like to (for some this has been really positive and others has been extremely challenging);
  - having increased time and attention from the adults in class while they adjust to being back in school;
  - having a little more time and space to adjust to new routines (and different ways of working) and build/rebuild relationships with adults and children;
  - gradually build their stamina (we all know how hard it is to go back to school or work after a few days away, let alone 5 months);
  - a slightly less pressured beginning to a new school year;
  - an environment that is less likely to make them feel overwhelmed on their initial return.

We do understand that many parents will be under pressure to return to work in September, possibly after 5 months away from work themselves, which is why we have given you 2 months' notice of this adjustment to the beginning of term. We also know that you care deeply about your children's education and their mental health, as we do, so we are confident that you will understand our decision for the initial 3 days to be part time.

**It will be challenging for all children in September, but if you have specific concern about your child's return to school and think we may need to make additional plans or adjustments, please contact us. You can email [office@laburnumprimary.co.uk](mailto:office@laburnumprimary.co.uk) for general concerns, [SEND@laburnumprimary.co.uk](mailto:SEND@laburnumprimary.co.uk) for Special Educational Needs & Disabilities or get in touch with current class teachers using Class Dojo.**

### **Free School Meals (& vouchers) – Could you be eligible?**

Have your financial circumstances changed? If you have been furloughed, are on reduced pay or your household income has reduced due you may well be eligible for Free School Meals and the Pupil Premium Grant. **We would urge as many of you as possible to apply for Free School Meals as school receives additional funding and we can use it to support your child and their learning.**

Parents of children eligible by the summer break will receive a £90 supermarket voucher for each child. To be eligible for the summer holiday supermarket voucher, your child needs to be registered as eligible for Free School Meals by the 10<sup>th</sup> July as we have to submit all voucher requests by then. It really does only take 5 minutes to apply.

**We would encourage all families with children in Year 2 (because you start paying for meals next year) and Nursery (because you may be eligible from Reception onwards) to apply. Parents of children from Reception to Year 6 can apply now and Nursery parents can apply for Reception from the beginning of the Summer Break.**

### **School Uniform**

The government guidance states that from September, children should wear their usual school uniform in line with school policy and that this does not need washing or treating in a special way (other than the usual washing to ensure children are clean and feel proud of themselves). Wearing a uniform is a sign of belonging – in this case belonging to Laburnum. We therefore do expect by September that all children will have the correct year group uniform (ties and shirts from Y3-6 please). If your child is already in receipt of Free School Meals (see above) you should have received your code for £50 worth of uniform from Price and Buckland (our uniform supplier). If you become eligible for Free School Meals, then do contact us and we will issue you with a uniform voucher.

Please remember that the school office has a supply of school ties available if you only need to purchase a tie. If you wish to purchase a tie, please email or telephone the school office in advance. Please also remember that uniform delivered to school does not carry a delivery charge – we are happy to do this and can arrange socially distanced collection once it arrives.

# PLEASE HELP!

## **WE NEED YOUR HELP TO ACCESS FUNDING TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILD**

Could your child be entitled to free school meals?

**We know that lots of parents have not applied, but are eligible and their child is missing out on the support they could be receiving.**

We could offer your child many benefits if they are entitled –

- Free breakfast club
- £50 school uniform voucher per year
- Reduced costs on school trips, music lessons, after school clubs
- Free break-time milk
- Extra learning support in and out of class.

All of these benefits could make a significant difference to your child.

All children in reception class, year 1 and year 2 automatically qualify for a free school meal under the Government's Universal Free School Meals scheme **BUT** any child in Reception – Year 6 could still qualify for free school meals (and therefore the benefits listed above) if you are in receipt of the following:

- Income Support, or
- Income Based Job Seekers Allowance, or
- Employment and Support Allowance (income-related), or
- Guarantee Element of the State Pension Credit, or
- National Asylum Seekers Support (NASS), or
- Child Tax Credit (but not Working Tax Credit) and have an annual income that does not exceed £16,190.

**IF YOU THINK THERE IS ANY CHANCE YOUR CHILD COULD BE ELIGIBLE - PLEASE APPLY**

**IT MAKES A BIG DIFFERENCE TO OUR SCHOOL BUDGET AND THE SUPPORT WE CAN PROVIDE**

**Once your child is identified as eligible their school receives additional funding each April (in the budget) for the next 6 years.**

**You can apply by phone on 0300 300 8306**

Mon-Thurs 8.30 am – 5.30 pm and Fridays 8.30 – 4.30 pm

**PLEASE DO CALL – IT ONLY TAKES 5 MINUTES BUT CAN MAKE A HUGE DIFFERENCE**

All you will need is:– National Insurance numbers for you and your partner, along with your dates of birth and dates of birth for your children (and NASS number if you have one).

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# ***Being a Parent***

## **a FREE 9-week Parenting Programme**



**A FREE 9 week programme run by parents for Mums, Dads  
& Carers of children aged up to 11 years.**

**Booking essential**

**Starts on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2020 at 8pm – 9.30pm  
Via Zoom**

**A link will be sent to you at time of booking.**

For more information and bookings please contact our EPEC Hub Co-Ordinator

Colette Fletcher

Tel No: 01582 660061

Email: [office@home-startcentralbeds.org.uk](mailto:office@home-startcentralbeds.org.uk)





# THE FAMILY WELLBEING PROGRAMME

## THE FAMILY WELLBEING PROGRAMME

**Free WEBINARS**

6TH - 13TH JULY 2020

The Family Wellbeing Programme is an exciting and timely new initiative devised by outdoor learning and wellbeing specialists, Wild for Life, aimed at parents, grandparents and primary carers of children aged 4-12 years old.

Wild for Life, in partnership with Frosts and with support from Greensand Country, will deliver three sets of three 1hr long webinars for parents, grandparents and primary carers in July, which will focus on how to manage the wellbeing of their children, with a particular focus on the detrimental effects of lockdown. The **FREE** webinars will demonstrate how outdoor environments and activities can be a catalyst for better mental and physical wellbeing.

The Family Wellbeing Programme series will take place over three days, with activities to complete in between sessions, and will cover:

- ✦ How to assess your own wellbeing.
- ✦ How to assess, understand and improve your children's wellbeing.
- ✦ Outdoor and nature-led activities to try with your children to help them understand and reflect on their thoughts and feelings.
- ✦ How and when to seek help.

Lockdown has had a huge impact on wellbeing: for some it has been a positive experience, but for others it has been a complex juggling act, a strain on finances and relationships and period of uncertainty, stress and frustration. Children will be greatly unsettled by this period as they have had their regular routines turned upside down and, often, they struggle to process and express their thoughts and emotions. The free webinars will equip parents and carers with the tools they need to assess and improve the wellbeing of their families in order to move forward out of lockdown positively. They will also encourage and inspire families to explore, discover and reap the benefits of spending quality time outdoors in gardens and local natural landscapes.

**Sign up TODAY!**

### BOOKING INFORMATION

#### Part ONE

Mon, 6 July 2020

10am, 1.30pm, or 7.30pm

#### Part TWO

Thurs, 9 July 2020

10am, 1.30pm, or 7.30pm

#### Part THREE

Mon, 13 July 2020

10am, 1.30pm, or 7.30pm

To find out more information about the programme or to book your place, please visit the booking page: [wildfamilywellbeing.eventbrite.co.uk](http://wildfamilywellbeing.eventbrite.co.uk) or email [info@wildforlife.co.uk](mailto:info@wildforlife.co.uk)



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## VIRTUAL WELLBEING DROP-INS

Do you want to learn more about feeling happy and calm at home?

Activities and information will be aimed at all children. Younger children may need support from an adult.

Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> July 2020	Managing anxiety through uncertainty	Please book through Eventbrite: <a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/promoting-positive-wellbeing-managing-anxiety-through-uncertainty-tickets-110134003770">https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/promoting-positive-wellbeing-managing-anxiety-through-uncertainty-tickets-110134003770</a>
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> July 2020	Managing overwhelming feelings	Please book through Eventbrite: <a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/promoting-positive-wellbeing-managing-overwhelming-feelings-tickets-110136388904">https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/promoting-positive-wellbeing-managing-overwhelming-feelings-tickets-110136388904</a>

For more information please contact the Early Help team via Eventbrite



### Promoting Positive Emotional Wellbeing Drop-in

Find ways to support the children and young people in your life

Free to attend  
Via Microsoft Teams

Young People

17:00-17:30

Parents

17:30-18:00

Gain information, support and guidance  
Resources will be sent out after each session