

The Leys Primary and Nursery School Newsletter

★ Accelerating progress

★ Enriching wellbeing

★ Promoting partnerships

12/02/21

Star of the Week

	Pod	Remote
Zephaniah	N/A	Lucie
Anderson	Nova	Isabella
Sendak	Alex	Nathania
Carle	Elsie	Alyssa
Hargreaves	Emma	
Ahlberg	Erin	
Dahl	Emmy	Mya
Freedman	Ella	Ivy
Strong	Leo	Apostolas
Pratchett	Luke	Jamie
Morpurgo	Jayson	Frankie
Tolkien	Malakai	James
Lewis	Beatrice	Edward
Rosen	Isabelle	Lily
Shakespeare		Kodey & Tilly
Dickens		Divine
Kipling		Alfie Fou



新年快乐
HAPPY NEW YEAR

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you to all parents and carers who have collected their books and learning packs ready for the new term! We are expecting to find out more on the 22nd February about the end of lockdown and our return to school. We are prepared for both scenarios. We understand the pressures you are under as families at home, however we are so grateful for the support you have given us with remote learning. The situation has been challenging but I see a lot of happy children online. However everyone is different, and we really do want to help any family out there who are struggling any way we can. Please contact your child's teacher; myself/ or another senior leader; or our family worker Mrs Clibbon at admin@leys.herts.sch.uk or call us at school.

Check out the list of ways you can support a Reluctant Learner at home in the newsletter today. (this will also be on the Home Learning Page). Thank you to Mrs Clibbon who has put together a list of ideas and tips to help you survive the rest of lockdown. We hope that you have a restful half term! We have chosen half term challenges that your children can do by themselves!!! A member of the family just needs to take a photo of them taking part and upload to google classroom!

Class of the week	Year 5
Friendship Cup	Josh Horner
Headteacher Awards	YEAR
Ethan H	TWO
Emily O	FIVE
Darci M Hannah J Maxwell E	SIX



A BIG SHOUT OUT this week to our Administration and Premises Team who have worked all through both lockdowns keeping our school afloat, looking after our site, checking emails and sending letters during weekends holidays evenings, managing our school finances...and much much more!!!! Whatever is needed! They have the same challenges as everyone managing working from home and school, and the same COVID related worries, so we are very grateful to have such a dedicated team! **THANKYOU** from all of us in the Leys community!



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Coming up during half-term!



We were all so sad at the passing of our national hero Captain Sir Tom Moore! He was an inspiration to us all !!!!!

Join us to celebrate his memory by taking part in the

700

challenge over half term! Your child can decide on their challenge activity- their fastest 100 steps, 100 star jumps, 100 skips, 100 jumps, 100 hops on one foot! Remember to take a photo of your child and upload it to the Google classroom or on Tapestry! Don't forget to add what challenge they chose!



Over the half term we challenge our pupils to READ READ READ! Read somewhere creative... in your homemade den, under the stairs, behind the couch...! They need to use their imagination to find a comfy spot in the house...or outside if they are brave enough!

Just take a photo of your child and upload it to their Google classroom or on Tapestry!

Congratulations to Sadeya C (Tolkien class) who has run 50 miles in the last month and so far raised £540 for Children with Cancer. Inspirational Sadeya!!!!



If you would share or donate to this GoFundMe, Sadeya's run for children with cancer

https://www.gofundme.com/f/sadeyas-run-for-children-with-cancer?utm_source=whatsApp&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=m_pd+share-sheet



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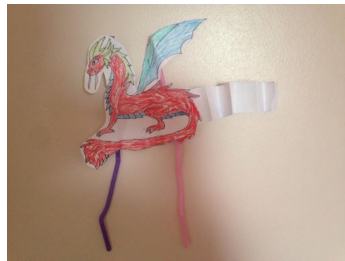
The Leys Primary and Nursery School Newsletter

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Highlights of the Week! Chinese New Year and E-Safety Week

Reception

The children at home have been really busy this week creating dragon, chinese lanterns and fans during busy fingers. Our Chinese maths challenge was to write the number zero to nine in chinese then count out the correct amount of money for each number.



In class this week the children have learnt about how children celebrate Chinese New Year and have been very creative. This morning during busy fingers we worked on our folding skills to create our own chinese fans. This afternoon we are looking forward to taking part in the scarf dance and learning to write numbers in Chinese.



Year 1

The children at home have been getting crafty! We have had Chinese New Year Dragons made from Lego, Chinese New Year lanterns made from paper and tissue paper, colouring and more! The children have also worked hard this week to create a poster all about Chinese New Year including facts, traditions, the foods they eat to celebrate and much more.



The children have really enjoyed learning all about Chinese New Year. We read the story about how the Jade Emperor named each of the years after a different animal. The children found out what animal it was in the year they were born. Some were the year of the horse and some were the year of the goat. They found it very funny that Mrs Fathers was the year of the pig. We even had a treat with a Chinese fortune cookie. YUM

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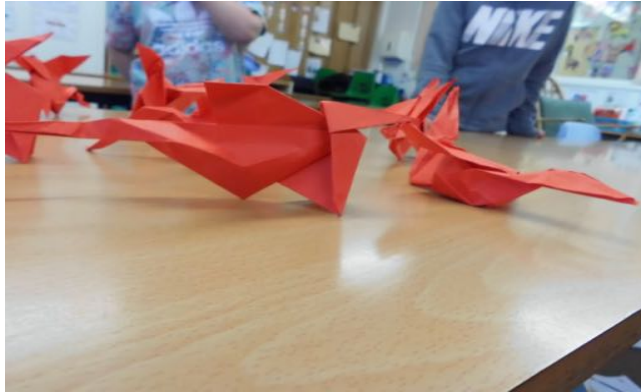
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Year 2



In the year 2 pod this week we made Chinese origami dragons. This was a challenge but we didn't give up and were very happy with the end results.



Year 3



Year3 have had a lovely day celebrating new year, celebrating Chinese New Year by making Chinese lanterns and tambourines they drew dragons, and the biggest challenge of all - they ate prawn crackers, spring rolls, noodles and cake with chopsticks!!!

Year 4

To celebrate Chinese New Year, we all dressed up today in red and yellow. All of the children have been working really hard this week, learning about Chinese New Year and getting crafty by making lanterns.

In the Year 4 pod this week, we have been focusing on Chinese New year. For example we have been writing a News Report about the story of the Zodiac in our English lessons and we have also created different pieces of fantastic Artwork including these chinese dragons:

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The Leys Primary and Nursery School Newsletter

★ Accelerating progress

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★ Promoting partnerships

12/02/21



Year 5

The year 5 children completing remote learning have been learning about Chinese New Year all week. They have read the story of Nian and written fantastic letters about Chinese New Year and all of the amazing celebrations involved. The children have also completed some excellent artwork to celebrate the Year of the Ox.



Samuel, Abigail and Lois' artwork



Ethan & William's artwork

Year 6

Year 6 have been learning about the Zodiac story this week, and completing lots of activities based around Chinese New Year. We have had children making spring rolls and fortune cookies! Year 6 wrote some fantastic poems, as well as news reports about the animal race!

The great race

By Aruba Ismail, Chinese reporter

Last week, an extremely exciting and unique event occurred at the yellow river in China. The Jade emperor wanted a way to measure time so he put a competition in place where different animals would compete for a place in the zodiac calendar. In this competition, the animals had to cross the yellow river and whoever crossed first would be given the first time period and whoever came second would be given the second place in the zodiac calendar.

The twelve animals who took part in the contest were: Rat, Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Sheep, Monkey, Rooster, Dog, and Pig.

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The Leys Primary and Nursery School Newsletter

★ Accelerating progress

★ Enriching wellbeing

★ Promoting partnerships

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Chinese New Year

The Chinese new year commences on a weird date
But for this occasion, none must be late

There are magical creatures everywhere you look
They seem just like they came out of a book

People rejoicing, laughing, dancing, prancing, sparkling, thrilling,
pleasing, delighting.

It starts in the cold season
But the warmth that you get is another reason
To join this lovely parade
It's an experience you'll never want to trade.

Roses are red, violets are blue
The Chinese new year
Is something you should do



Ella made some tasty fortune cookies to help celebrate Chinese New Year.



Writer of the Week-
Lily W - Rosen Year 5

Thursday the 11th February 2021

Dear Granny,

How are you? I am writing this letter to you today because I wanted to tell you all about my Chinese new years celebration and what I did although I really wish you were there and that we could celebrate it together. Anyway I hope you are well and staying safe.

This morning I woke up, got dressed and brushed my teeth then it was time to start the fun. I had a lovely family breakfast and after that we made red and gold paper chains, which we then used to decorate our house. We use the colour red as this colour represents luck, joy and happiness. We then dressed my black and white puppy, Penny, in a dragon jumper to represent Nian the man eating dragon. Once the house was all festive and covered in red and gold we all worked together to sweep and clean the house. We did this so that we could sweep all the bad luck away. We then hid all the cleaning stuff away so that the good luck is not swept up.



WELLBEING



Mental Health and ICT use

This week has been internet safety week and whether you love computers or view them as a necessary evil they are very much part of our children's lives and with Covid, even more so now than ever before. Last year the [Royal College of Psychiatrists published a paper on](#)

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★ Accelerating progress

★ Enriching wellbeing

★ Promoting partnerships

12/02/21

Technology use and Mental Health of Children and Young People and here is a summary of their guidance for parents (with some very useful suggestions).

- Maintaining a **dialogue with your child about the pros and cons** of the use of technology is important, as well as thinking about the **needs and vulnerabilities of your individual child and their stage of development**.
- From a young age **encourage discussions within the family on content viewed online**.
- Pick your battles, be flexible and choose the right moment to discuss technology with your children.
- Remember, the **younger the child the easier it is to develop good habits around technology use**, for example around no screens at bedtime.
- You may feel that your children know more about technology than you do but remember you know a lot about being a parent and this is just another opportunity to use your parenting skills.
- Think about the **images that you post of your children** and remember that they may see those images in years to come.
- Be open about your concerns and **seek advice if your child is engaging excessively with online activities and becoming more withdrawn**.
- Think about the developmental needs of your child. Try to decide what is the right age for your child to own a smartphone or tablet. If your child is using your smartphone or tablet **ensure that you have set the controls for appropriate content access**.
- **Screens should be kept out of the bedroom and children should spend one hour away from all technology conducting relaxing activities before bed**.
- Try to **promote offline activities** e.g. talking and playing games together. Try to encourage your child to **take breaks** from the screen and **take regular exercise**.
- Ensure that you build in **times of the day without devices** e.g. mealtimes.
- You can **model good screen use** by moderating your own use of technology and avoiding phones at certain times e.g. at mealtimes and during face-to-face conversations.
- Think about your child's online safety, for example: by **reviewing privacy settings**; sharing of their location; sharing of personal information and images; and discussing how children can block unwanted messages.
- Provide general guidance about the internet and ways of **interacting safely online**, for example, oversharing information, online identities and meeting people they don't know offline.
- If **appropriate boundaries are set at an early age** then it may be easier to support children to develop routines.
- Keep very young children's use of screen time to a minimum: the World Health Organization (WHO) recommends that **1-year-olds should not have access to screen time and 2 to 4-year-olds should have a maximum of one hour a day**, although 'less is better'.
- Ensure that children are using **age-appropriate** apps, games and television.
- Dialogue around boundaries becomes increasingly important as a child becomes older. Maintaining a positive parent-child relationship is important in providing a **space for children to be open and discuss any worries they may have related to technology use** e.g. cyberbullying, unwanted messages, inappropriate images, worries about missing out. If your child is able to discuss their worries this will be an opportunity to offer support and help your child with maintaining boundaries around screen use.

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The Leys Primary and Nursery School Newsletter

★ Accelerating progress

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★ Promoting partnerships

12/02/21

- Work with your child to set boundaries around the amount of screen time and the times when screens can be used. Encourage self-observation of screen time involvement through the use of **self-monitoring apps**.
- Support young people to manage the potential impact of hurtful comments and other experiences which may be stressful, such as viewing distressing content, comparing themselves to others, worries about their self-image and the impact of fear of missing out.

The full paper can be accessed here

<https://www.rcpsych.ac.uk/docs/default-source/improving-care/better-mh-policy/college-reports/college-report-cr225.pdf>

Spiritual, Moral, Social, Cultural and British Values

The children in Reception have been working really hard at home and at school during this time. The children have had a busy fun-filled week learning all about Chinese New Year! The children have been learning about the celebration, the food they will eat to celebrate, the red lanterns, the different animals we will see each year and plenty more! For the children's busy fingers activity they have made their own Chinese lanterns and dragons and some have even decorated their homes ready to celebrate!



COMPUTING

UPDATE

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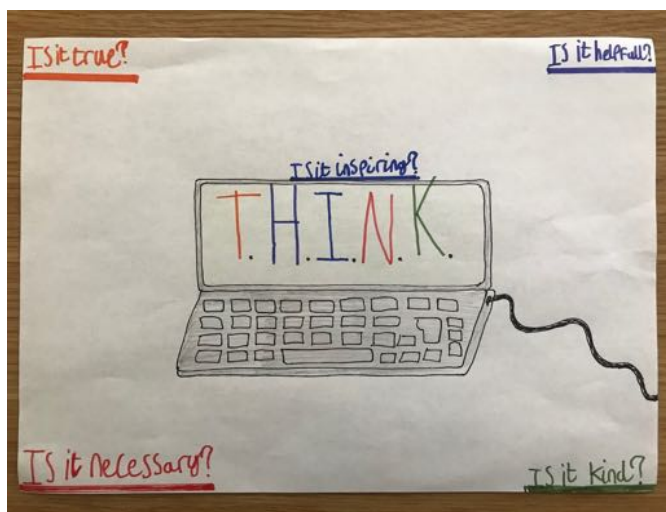
The Leys Primary and Nursery School Newsletter

★ Accelerating progress

★ Enriching wellbeing

★ Promoting partnerships

12/02/21



SAVE the DATE
Safer Internet Day
2021 | Tuesday
9 February
www.saferinternetday.org



Safer Internet Day 2021

This week we have been looking at how we can keep safe on the internet, this part of a national programme that teaches children the essential steps they need to take to be safe online. Each year group has chosen a different activity based upon the children's use of online facilities. KS1 have been focussing on the basics like safe passwords, reporting problems and how to know if a website is safe. KS2 have been focussing about online games, chat forums and responsible posting. The T.H.I.N.K moto is especially important as shown by this wonderful poster by James (Yr5 Tolkien class). Our aim as a school is to make sure our children are prepared for the online world in which we live. We know that they are currently spending more time than ever online and we just want them to be safe. If you would like to know any more about how to keep your children safe online please visit the e-safety page on the school website

<https://www.leys.herts.sch.uk/parents-e-safety-parents.html>



IDEAS TO ENCOURAGE RELUCTANT HOME LEARNERS

- Invest in a routine - make a realistic timetable - don't ask for the impossible
- Get washed. Get dressed. Everyday - like getting ready for school.
- Avoid competition - between siblings or with their friends. What is right for one child is not necessarily right for another
- Little & often can be better for a child who struggles to concentrate. If they sit for hours doing something they're not enjoying it will be harder to get them motivated next time
- Have break times & don't forget to move away from the learning area - make sure you have lunch too
- Negotiation is key - you don't need to win all the battles to have success
- Don't make it a battle unless it's something of vital importance & a complete non-negotiable - choose carefully & wisely.

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Inspiration

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The Leys Primary and Nursery School Newsletter

★ Accelerating progress

★ Enriching wellbeing

★ Promoting partnerships

12/02/21

- Try to avoid issuing ultimatums. They usually backfire as the child immediately sees a situation where they control the outcome & you are in a lose lose situation.
- There are good days & not such good days - that is life whether there is a pandemic or not
- Give a little to get a little back- if you can spend time doing learning or activities together it will help with understanding what might be causing issues
- Believe it or not - things aren't all taught the same way as when you were at school! Don't insist they do it your way. Get them to explain how it's done - they might surprise you - be open & receptive to 'doing it their way'
- Encouragement - if we can finish this bit then we can... (e.g.go for a walk)
- Responsibility - important as we all like to feel we are making a difference. If reading is becoming an issue, suggest the kids read to each other, they could take it in turns to read the bedtime story. Get them to read you captions from the TV, the football scores or the 'crawler' along the bottom of the screen. It's ok to play word games too, this counts, honestly it does.
- Responsibility again - ask them to help with household tasks- don't delegate but to help alongside you developing cooperation & teamwork. Children learn by the examples set to them by us adults.
- Make an agreement - if we've completed our remote learning this week then... on Saturday we will make a cake/pizza/get a takeaway etc... whatever floats their boat & motivates them to complete the task.
- Keep it positive with lots of praise. Threats demotivate people so it's just the same for children. Tell them their teacher doesn't want to miss seeing how clever they are because they're not at school
- Avoid humiliation too - like threats this is just demotivating & will make a child even more reluctant to have a go another time.
- If they are being negative... don't rise to it. Have a non committal phrase to repeat to them. For example if they refuse & say something like 'Miss never thinks my work is good anyway' try responding by saying 'I'm sure that's not true - I bet she's looking forward to seeing the progress you've made while at home'.
- Try to rebut refusals from your child in a positive & non judgemental way. E.g. 'I'm not doing it' response could be 'Well let me know when you are ready & we can try & work it out together'
- No one knows everything. We are all learning everyday. It's ok to make mistakes, as adults we do it all the time. Making mistakes is how we learn. If everything is 'easy' we are not making progress. If they say it's too hard ask 'Now you're older how would you feel if you were still just doing the same things as when you were at preschool?'

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Inspiration

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The Leys Primary and Nursery School Newsletter

★ Accelerating progress

★ Enriching wellbeing

★ Promoting partnerships

12/02/21

- Acknowledge it if you don't know something. Set a challenge of finding out about it together.
- Look for ways to make things fun - Studying the solar system? Make a model using all your recycling - Working out money sums? Ok let's play shops (you might be able to tidy the kitchen cupboards at the same time!!)
- Let them - write or draw about things you've seen when out walking, make lists, play libraries, run their own school - let them be the teacher if you can, then join the toys as one of the pupils - they'll love it!
- Turn the negative into positive as much as possible - you're doing a great job - don't forget you're their parent not a trained teacher (well ok some of you might be) & teaching is a different job to helping them learn. Teachers wouldn't be able to do your job either!
- Patience - easy to write, harder to achieve when in lockdown with someone determined not to cooperate.
- Remember above all else - the young person in your home is a child. We should not expect them to behave like an adult, they are not yet an adult. They still have quite a journey to travel before then - hold their hand & help them along the way - they will be all grown up soon enough.

Term dates

<p>Start of term: 3 September 2020 Inset day: 2 September Term: 3 September -23 October <u>Half term holiday: 26 October 2020 - 30 October 2020</u> Inset day: 2 November Term: 3 November -18 December Occasional Day: 7 December <u>Christmas holiday: 21 December 2020 - 3 January 2021</u></p>	<p>Inset day: 4 January Term: 5 January - 12 February <u>Half term holiday: 15 February 2021 - 19 February 2021</u> Term : 22 February-26 March 2021 <u>Easter holiday: 29 March 2021 - 9 April 2021</u></p>	<p>Term: 12 April - 28 May <u>Half term holiday: 31 May 2021 - 4 June 2021</u> Inset Day: 7 June Term: 8 June-21 July Inset day 22 July <u>Summer holiday: 23 July 2021 - 31 August 2021</u></p>
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