



Please remember that tomorrow, Fri 23Oct, is an INSET day, as well as Mon 2Nov – academy closed to pupils on these days

Our Recovery Curriculum in Action

A few weeks ago, we outlined how we are providing a 'Recovery Curriculum' across our academy to ensure that our children's emotional well-being is cared for and their academic progress and gaps are addressed after the unprecedented recent times. As a very successful half term draws to a close, we wanted to explain what our Recovery Curriculum looks like in action! The Recovery Curriculum concept, put forward by Professor Barry Carpenter, outlines five key 'Recovery Levers' as the ways to best support children at this time:

1. Relationships

We are very aware that, in order to do well academically, our children need to feel safe and happy coming in to school. Our teaching staff have spent this half term really getting to know your children, building strong, positive relationships, as well as supporting them to re-build their relationships with each other. This has been achieved through regular referral to our Academy Values, giving time for collaborative and talk-based learning opportunities for pupils to share ideas, thoughts and feelings, exploring relationships in key texts and even teachers spending their lunch breaks eating and chatting with their classes.

2. Community

In such uncertain and different times, we are very aware of our responsibility as a community school to provide support not just to our children but to our wider family too. This half term we have recognised the potential dis-connect that could have been caused by the lack of 'at the door' contact between parents and teaching staff. To address this, we have ensured that we make phone calls, reply to emails, send out written correspondence and provide 'virtual' meetings to keep all stakeholders aware of how their children are doing and what initiatives are happening within the academy walls. Alongside this, our broad and bespoke curriculum has continued to allow children to explore and celebrate the diversity and culture within Lindfield and beyond.

3. Transparent Curriculum

It is inevitable that children and families will have had very different lockdown experiences and that each child has returned to school with a different 'story'. In order to best support all our children academically, we first assessed their emotional readiness to learn through our well-being questionnaire. Teaching staff have then been able to assess, through creative low-stakes approaches, where any academic gaps lie which need to be addressed. Across the academy, children have been re-learning key content, vital for their future understanding. We have ensured that our usual broad curriculum offer has not been diminished or narrowed with continued focus on the arts, physical activity and technology.

4. Metacognition

We truly believe that, in order to be able to learn effectively, children must first have the skills for learning. With a prolonged period of absence, teaching staff have worked hard to re-instil these core skills so that all children can make good or better progress. Teachers have taught, scaffolded and modelled effective learning attributes such as planning, problem solving, self-evaluating, monitoring and adapting learning approaches in lessons across the curriculum, providing children with ample opportunity to practise these vital skills. Some children in Year 2 have even been learning about the important jobs of the different sides of our brains!

5. Space

After a prolonged period of disruption and absence, we are aware that children may need time and space to re-engage with school life and their learning. Therefore, we have planned in many opportunities for activities where children can reflect, play and enjoy being at school with their friends again. These include daily runs, active brain breaks, added use of the outdoor spaces around the academy, mindfulness, self-reflection time and more. Learning has often been around an enquiry in order to allow children to think deeply, discuss with friends and actively experiment. Teaching staff have also skilfully used creative and highly engaging resources to re-ignite imaginations and a love of learning.

Recovering from the disruption of the past few months will take time and we will continue with our Recovery Curriculum initiatives after half-term, supporting high-quality academic progress and emotional well-being for all our children.

Black History Month

Across the academy we have been celebrating Black History Month. It has been wonderful to hear the conversations taking place from Reception to Year 6.

In Reception the children focused on learning about Martin Luther King. They created some beautiful dream catchers and drew pictures of their dreams for the future, inspired by Martin Luther King's "I have a dream" speech.

In year 2, the children's topic is Australia so they explored the aboriginal writer, David Unaipon. It was interesting for the children to explore why he remains unpublished due to the barriers he faces.

In year 6, the children are learning about World War Two, therefore they explored the history of black soldiers that are too often forgotten. Henry Cotton, from Elm Class stated "I was shocked to hear how hard it was for Mrs Hall to find information about black soldiers, even though they contributed so much towards the war".

Harvest

Last week, we celebrated Harvest Festival. Thank you for all your generous donations which will be going to support the work of 'UKHarvest'. This fantastic organisation provides meals and supplies to local families and foodbanks across the South-East. The children collected an incredible amount of food!



Didgeridoo Demo

Year 2 had an exciting visit in the playground on a sunny morning from Mike Edwards, who came in to teach the children all about the didgeridoo. We found out how didgeridoos are made and we were so lucky to be treated to a performance!

The visit tied in nicely with our topic on Australia. We had a wonderful time!



PTA News

Our virtual Annual General Meeting was a great success, thank you to everyone that attended. We are now busy planning some new fundraising events and we look forward to sharing the details soon. A big thank you to Becky Downie, Anna Ashley and Lynne Roberjot who all step down from their roles as Co-Chairs and Secretary. We are delighted to welcome our new Co-Chairs Victoria Tischendorf and Sharn Smith, as well as Tasmin Broadstock who will become Secretary. Vice-Chairs Carrie Faraday and Julia Barham-Wick, along with our Treasurer Steve Hall, will all continue in their roles and we thank them for their continued hard work.

Don't forget to get your Christmas card designs in.

As always, keep in touch by email lindfield.pta@gmail.com or find us at www.facebook.com/LindfieldPTA.

Thank you.

Safeguarding

There are 4 very important safety issues to remind you of:

- 1) School Lane is still used by cars accessing St Nicholas Court and private houses. Please supervise children closely and do not let them run or ride their scooters in the road.
- 2) Please be aware that staff vehicles continue to access the staff car park at the start and end of the day.
- 3) Please do not congregate in groups on the Common and surrounding green space or in School Lane – maintain social distancing at all times.
- 4) Please park considerately. We have notified the Police and WSCC regarding parking issues that have been reported and expect patrols imminently.

STARS
of the Newsletter

Musical brilliance

Oak class were treated to a clip of Lance Santana playing his cello. He has only been learning the instrument for one year and ten months but has already mastered some Grade 8 pieces. It was a wonderful, inspirational performance from a very talented young man.



Sunday 8th of November is Remembrance Sunday and with the help of our School Councillors and House Captains, we are taking part in this special day by doing a number of different things.

What are we doing to celebrate Remembrance Day?

- We are sending a wreath to All Saints Church with a special message from all of us at school written by Year 5 and 6 School Councillors and House Captains. Val Upton from the Royal British Legion is kindly laying our wreath on our behalf.
- Each class will be able to buy poppies from their School Councillor and we will be donating the money collected to the Royal British Legion.
- There will be a Remembrance Day stall in front of the Co-op in the village from 2nd November where you can buy Remembrance Day bracelets and other items.
- Year 3 and 4 School Councillors will be writing Remembrance Day Poems for a display at school and for the school newsletter.
- Year 2 School Councillors will be drawing poppies for a display in school and for the school newsletter.

