

Littledean Church of England Primary School

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People with time for Children

6th February 2018

Newsletter 8

Dear Parents,

Firstly may we apologise for not writing sooner this term, it has been an extremely busy and challenging term from a management point of view.

We thank you for supporting us prior to Christmas with our school productions, pantomime, end of term discos and Christmas service, all went well despite the snowy conditions. The school choir have also enjoyed a successful visit to the Genting Arena in Birmingham at their Young Voices event. We will be holding a performance in school once the DVD has been released.

School Attendance / Absence

Hopefully we are over the worst of our varying illnesses that has disrupted all of our classes this term. Up to 70% of our children have missed at least one session of school this term due to illness, which is unprecedented. We ask that parents continue to keep children at home if they are unwell to stop this spreading to other children, families and staff. Please remember to ring the office if your child is not coming to school.

However we must congratulate the 36 children who have 100% attendance so far this term. Thank you to parents and pupils, keep up the good work.

Headlice and 'Nits'

Once again we have received complaints from parents that their child has headlice or nits. Please remember to check your children (and other family members) on a regular basis. Thank you.

Holidays in Term Time

A reminder that due to Government legislation the School is no longer able to authorise holidays in term time except in *exceptional circumstances*. Annual family holidays will not be authorised. All requests for absence from school must be put in writing to the head teacher detailing the reason for absence. A form is available from the school office. Where absences are unauthorised warning letters and penalty notices will be issued.

Communication with Parents

On 6th December we sent out a letter to parents giving details of how to access school letters electronically through personal email addresses, the school website and the school app, along with data collection sheets for your children. Unfortunately we have not been able to move forward with this as we have a high proportion of parents who have not completed and returned these forms. Only 6 parents have downloaded the eschools app. Please ensure that all forms are completed and returned to school before Friday 9th February 2018.

Unfortunately school funding has been reduced in real terms over a number of years, so like many families we have to spend more to get the same goods and services with very little if any increase in income.

We are always looking at ways to cut costs so that any money we have in school is spend on resources for the children. With the majority of parents having access to smart phones and computers we felt this this would be a good money saving opportunity, unfortunately we will have to have a rethink.

Head teacher: Mrs Hayley McGoldrick

Parent Governor Election

We have two vacancies for Parent Governor, closing date Friday 9th February 2018. No previous experience or qualifications needed just an interest in shaping the education for children in your local area. For further information please call into the school office.

Pre-School

We have a few vacancies in our Pre-School for children who are 3 or 4. Our opening hours have changed to: Monday, Thursday and Friday - 8.45 – 2.45, and Wednesday 8.45 – 1.15. Tuesday closed all day.

Nursery funding for 15 hours is available for all children from the first term after their third birthday. The Governments new 30 hour funding is also available for parents who work or those entitled to certain benefits. Alternatively we are able to invoice you for the sessions.

If you are interested in your child attending our Pre-School, or would like to put your child's name on the waiting list for when they turn three please contact the office. Priority will be given to children on our waiting lists.

Donations to Holly Leaves Class

Miss Pearson would like to thank parents for their donations of spare clothes for our Forest Schools sessions and for the jigsaw puzzles and games that have been donated, however we still need more. If you have any excess games, toys, puzzles, dressing up clothes etc. we will happily give them a new home. Also we ask for donations of hot chocolate and biscuits for the children for their forest school sessions. Thank you.

Friends Christmas Fair/Early Spring Fair – Wednesday 21st February 2018 - 3.15 – 4.30 p.m.

As the Christmas Fair was cancelled due to a number of inches of snow we have decided to have an 'Early Spring Fair' to use all the wonderful donated items before their use by dates. There will be the usual tombola's of bottles, chocolate, jazzy jars, fair trade, refreshments stalls etc. If you are able to help prior to the day, on the day running a stall or help to clear away afterwards please see Shelley Averis, Marie Williams, Emma Tattersall or call into the school office.

The Friends have also organised their Summer Fair date: **Saturday 23rd June 2018**. We will be holding our usual non-uniform days in the run up to the event for various donations. These will be held on:

- Wednesday 25th April PJ Day for Jazzy Jars
- Wednesday 23rd May Fancy Dress for Bottles
- Wednesday 20th June Beach Day Wear for chocolates

Also the Friends Dog Show at Littledean Community Centre has been organised for **Sunday 6th May 2018**. Further information will follow about these dates.

Diary Dates

Friday 9 th February 2018	End of term 3
Monday 19 th February	Inset day – staff only to attend
Tuesday 20 th February	First day of term 4 – No afterschool clubs this week
Wednesday 21 st February	Friends Fair
Thursday 1 st March	World Book Day – Information to follow
Tuesday 20 th March	Parents Afternoon
Wednesday 21 st March	Parents Evening
Thursday 22 nd March	Chestnut Class visit to Carleon
Thursday 29 th March	Last day of term 4, Friends Coffee Morning, Easter Service at St Ethelberts
Monday 16 th April	Start of Term 5

Term Dates for 2017/18

Term 3	Tuesday 2nd January 2018 – Friday 9th February 2018
Term 4	Tuesday 20th February 2018 – Thursday 29th March 2018
Term 5	Monday 16th April 2018 – Friday 25th May 2018
Term 6	Wednesday 6th June 2018 – Wednesday 25th July 2018

Head teacher: Mrs Hayley McGoldrick