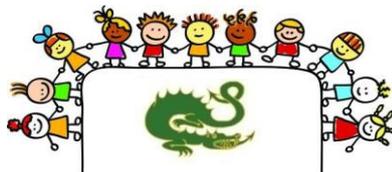


LEECHPOOL LINK January 2018

Headteacher: Mrs Nicola Davenport



Dear Parents, Carers and Families

Happy New Year to Everyone. Let's hope that 2018 is a happy and prosperous New Year for everyone connected with Leechpool Primary School. The Christmas Fund raising collections at the end of term raised an amazing £1,157.90 for our chosen charities - so a big thank you for everyone's generosity.

The term is getting off to a great start, with all the children and staff really interested and involved in our International Fortnight. International Day will be celebrated on Friday 19 January when we will "jet off" around the world and find out what we have all been learning about the different countries we have studied!

Staffing Updates

Mrs Gray and Miss Currington are now teaching Giraffe Class following the end of their maternity leave. We are enjoying having them back as part of the school team. Mr Chapman is supporting learning across the school in a range of subjects.

Music Box

This is nearly completed and we are working to ensure that the building is signed off by the council, so that we can start using it for lessons and for club sign ups etc. We are all very excited about the many new activities this will enable us to introduce.

Playground Developments

We are currently planning additional work to the infant playground and this should be starting at the end of January/early February. We will be installing a new bike and scooter track for the foundation stage playground. In the infant playground and school field we will be adding new climbing equipment for the children to use during break times, to make the playtimes more interesting and challenging. Plans of these can be seen on the school website.

In addition to this, we will be increasing the size of the infant playground to incorporate the new outside classroom that was built before the end of last term.

Getting information about Leechpool

Over the last term we have stopped financing the school app that was linked to our website. In future if you have an IOS device you can connect directly to the school website.

To do this go to the Leechpool website on a browser on your device. Then press the middle button along the bottom of your device. You can then add the website to the home screen of your device by pressing 'Add to home screen'. This will provide access to the website just like the old app worked. If you have an android or windows device, follow

[this link](#) and it will guide you through the installation.

Progress of children

If you have any questions about your child's progress, please contact the School Office to make an appointment to speak to your child's Class Teacher.

Updates about the children's progress will be given at the Parent Consultation Meetings on **Tuesday February 27th and Thursday 1 March 2018 3.30 – 7.00 p.m.** when profile reports will be shared. Sign up for parent consultations will be by eSchools and will be available from Tuesday 20 February 2018. If you have any problems with signing up for an appointment please contact the school office.

It is very important that we are all working together to ensure the children achieve the best they can with their learning. Attendance at these meetings will help us to achieve this.

Curriculum Information

Teachers in all year groups are currently posting their Spring Term Topic plans on eSchools.

Information on eSchools and in the Home School booklets (available on the school website) is very helpful and will assist you to support your child's learning. Please use your eSchools log in – we will also be ensuring that all homework and activities are included on eSchools every week by each class.

After School Clubs

These will begin week commencing 22 January with the exception of Dance, Karate, Tri-golf, Table Tennis and Chelsea Football who have individual starting dates. The dates and times for all these clubs/activities are on the school website and displayed on the club noticeboard at the main entrance. Sign-up sheets will be displayed in the outside classroom by the junior playground from Tuesday 9 January 2017.

Mathematics Workshops for Parents

**Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 and 2
Wednesday 31 January 9.00 – 10.00 a.m.**

The workshops will focus on how to support your children with arithmetic at home.

We will be organising mathematics workshops for all parents to visit the school and see the children working on their arithmetic skills. Mathematics is a key focus of the school and we would like to show you how we are developing this and how you can help your children at home to achieve further and meet the national expectations.

Sporting Updates

Last term the girls' football team came 1st in the B League for the Horsham Area. The hockey team improved on last year and came second in the B League. All competitions were highly competitive and we were very pleased with the effort and participation of all our children taking part. Starting this term, we will be entering competitions for cross country running and tag rugby, as well as a new addition to our calendar – indoor cricket.

Toys

Please could we remind all families and children that toys should not be brought to school for any reason. Your support of this would be much appreciated.

Reporting illness to the School Office

Could we please ask that all families report to the School Office what is actually wrong with their children e.g. fever, headaches etc. as we do have to keep a record of the different illnesses of our children. Thank you.

Lost Property

Please could you check that **ALL** of your child's belongings are named and labelled so that they can be returned if they do get lost. To help you, it might now be a good time to get organised! Consider "My Nametags". The clothes labels and stickers are extremely hardwearing and save a great deal of effort and helps avoid potential lost property.

For every order of personalised labels "My Nametags" will contribute to the school. Order online at www.MyNametags.com and use our unique School ID number 28918.

School Uniform

Could we please remind all families that school uniform and smart black shoes must be worn at all times. **Children must also have their PE kits in school all week and wear the listed kit only.**

During the cold and wet weather it is very important that all children have a coat, preferably waterproof. A full school uniform list can be found on the school website.

Reminders

Riding Bikes and Scooters to school

Permits need to be collected from the School Office for all bikes and scooters.

We would like to remind families that no children should ride their bicycles or scooters on the school site. We would also ask all families to be considerate to all pedestrians on the way to and from school.

Up-to-date information/Contact Details

Could we please ask for all families to ensure that the School Office has up-to-date contact information for all children, especially any changes of phone numbers and medical information.

Going home arrangements

Could you please ensure that your child knows who is collecting them from school. If arrangements are different to normal, could you please ensure a note is written to the Class Teacher or that the duty teacher in the infant playground is told. Juniors are expected to tell their teachers independently at the start of the school day. This will help to avoid confusion and the added time it takes to check out pick up details for individual children.

Telephone calls just before pick up are very difficult to deal with as this is a particularly busy time in the school office. We do accept that on occasions an emergency may occur and that you will need to contact the school office to notify us of changes **but this should not be a daily occurrence and calls should be made before 2.30 p.m.**

Parking outside

Parking outside the school continues to be a concern. Illegal and thoughtless parking does put our children at risk so please ensure that you do park safely and considerately at all times. Reversing at peak times is particularly dangerous and we would ask that you do not do this by the school gates. We have had a number of reports of near misses as a result of cars reversing.

Cars should not be parked on yellow lines at any time.

If you have any questions regarding any information in this newsletter, please do not hesitate to contact the School Office.

With best wishes

Nicola Davenport
Headteacher

Further information about the school can be found on the school website: www.leechpool.w-sussex.sch.uk , LEAF on [Facebook](#) or on our new school app. You may also follow the activities of our school on [twitter @leechpoolschool](#).

Closure Days for this Academic Year

Mon 19 February	INSET Day 3
Mon 16 April	INSET DAY 4
Mon 4 June	INSET DAY 5

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