

## LEECHPOOL LINK December 2017

Headteacher: Mrs Nicola Davenport



Dear Parents, Carers and Families

Christmas has certainly started at Leechpool and what a busy time we will be having in school over the next two and a half weeks!

### Staffing Updates

Miss Currington and Mrs Gray visited today to start planning for their return from maternity leave. They will be teaching in Year 5, Giraffe Class from the beginning of January as a job share. Miss Currington on a Monday-Wednesday and Mrs Jenkins on a Thursday and Friday.

Miss Kelly Norton has also now joined the Reception Class Team and will be working full time as a Learning Support Assistant.

### Trussel Trust Thank You

We recently received a note to say thank you for your recent donations to the Horsham Foodbank during the Harvest Season.

The donations totaled 194.9 kg which will provide 464 meals to local people in need.

This financial year, the Trust have fed 1,499 people. A slight increase on last year, of which 564 are children.

Thank you once again for your support.

### Literacy Open Mornings

This term's literacy morning was a big success and photographs and comments from the sessions and how to teach children improve their writing are available on the school website.

We are planning to add more workshops for parents over the coming months, to ensure that families understand how best they can help their children with their learning.

### School Christmas Fayre

The Christmas festivities began with the wonderful Christmas Fayre last Friday which was organised by LEAF, staff and children of all classes. The event was fantastic and put us all in the spirit of Christmas.

A big thank you to everyone who helped and supported the fayre. The money raised by LEAF will be used to further improve the playground areas for all children. See the plans for the playgrounds which have been worked on by LEAF and the School Council. The new playgrounds will be developed in January 2018. At the end of term, we will start to build the new outside classroom donated by TESCO at the beginning of this term.

### Christmas Productions

#### Foundation Stage, Years 1 and 2

The first events are "A Little Nativity", organised by the Foundation Stage Team at 10am on Wednesday 6 December.

The Year 1 and 2 performances of "Santa's on Strike" are on Tuesday 5 (Penguin Class main cast) and Wednesday 6 December (Seal Class main cast) at 2pm. All performances will take place in the School Hall.

**At all productions we will be raising funds for Children in Need, Chestnut Tree House and Winston's Wish. Please bring some small change for donations. A big thank you for everyone's generosity.**

#### Years 3 and 4

On Thursday 7 December the children in Years 3 and 4 will be holding two performances of 'Time Traveller' at All Saints Church at 2pm and 6 pm. **All children are expected to attend both performances.** Tickets for the event can be arranged with the School Office.

#### Years 5 and 6

The production of "Countdown to Christmas" will be on Thursday 14 December at 2pm and 6.30pm in the School Hall. Tickets for the event can be arranged with the School Office. The production will run with a different cast for each show!! So make sure you sign up for the right production!

### Pop-Up Leechfestive 12 December 2017

To celebrate the completion of the new music room we will be holding a short concert at 3.00 to 3.30 p.m. in the school car park using the Music Room as the stage.

All are welcome to this free event. Refreshments will be on sale to keep everyone warm.

### Film Night 18 December –The Nativity (1)

We will be holding our first film night from 3-5pm on the last Monday of term. The event will start once the school day is over and children will go straight to the cinema in the hall. Tickets for the event will be £4.00 and will include a refreshment and snack. Places are limited to 200. Ticket sales will be available from 11 December until Thursday 14 December from 8.35 – 9.00 and 3.00 – 3.15 p.m. in the main school entrance.

### Christmas Lunch

Tuesday 19 December is our Christmas Lunch and the Infant Christmas Parties. All Children are encouraged to wear a Christmas hat or bring a Christmas cracker to school if they wish too for the lunch-time celebrations.

### **Last Day of Term**

On Wednesday 20 December we will be having Christmas Jumper/Glitter and Sparkle Day. All children are invited to wear a Christmas themed jumper or a glitter/sparkly top to replace their school sweatshirt with either their school trousers or skirt.

### **End of Term Games/Activities on the last day**

Small games may be brought into school by the children on the last day of term to share with their friends once they have tidied up for the end of term and finished all of their work. **This is the only time toys should be brought to school. Please ensure that no toys are in school on other occasions. Thank you.**

Please do not bring in any electronic operated games. The school cannot be held responsible for their safe keeping. Please ensure whatever is brought into school is not valuable or sentimental. Thank you.

### **After School Clubs**

Our Spring term teacher led clubs start the week beginning 22 January 2018 – please see the school website for the activities on offer.

From 9-12 January the sign up sheets will be outside on the playgrounds at the beginning and end of the school day. Please remember only 1 club per child and if a club is over subscribed we will pull names out of a hat.

Once clubs have been allocated, additional extra spaces will be allocated to ensure all clubs are full.

### **Reminders**

#### **Approaching Staff or the need to clarify something**

Could we please ask all families that if they have a concern about an incident in school that they ask to speak to the member of staff concerned appropriately.

It is not appropriate to do this whilst staff are involved in greeting/dismissing children from the school at the beginning/end of the day. Once children have all been dismissed or a teacher has finished seeing children safely to their families/classroom, staff will be more than happy to speak to families to discuss quick queries. Alternatively, you can arrange a time with the School Office to speak to teaching staff. **Thank you.**

#### **Lost Property**

We have organised a lost property table at the entrance to the junior playground. Please check the table for any missing items. We currently have a great deal of lost property and this needs to be collected/reunited with owners.

Any additional lost property will be put on a table outside the Main Office on Monday 18 and Tuesday

19 December. Please come along and check that something has not been left behind.

### **48 hour recovery period for sickness and diarrhoea**

Children can only return to school 48 hours after the last period of sickness or diarrhoea. This rule is strictly upheld to ensure the good health of all children and staff.

### **Threadworms**

Please be aware that we have had several reports of children with threadworms. We are reminding all children to wash their hands regularly and if you suspect your child has threadworms, please treat them and all your family, just to be safe. Thank you.

### **Parking outside**

Parking outside the school continues to be a concern. Could we please ask everyone to make a special effort to be considerate to each other and to our neighbours. Illegal and thoughtless parking does put our children at risk so please ensure that you do park safely and considerately at all times. We have also been asked by the cottages behind the school to ask families not to use the private lane at any time. Please make every effort to park away from the school. **We would ask that families do not reverse their cars in the road outside the school during drop-off and pick up times. This will help to keep everyone safer.**

### **Easy Fundraising**

An on-going way of donating money to our school is to register with [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk) and pick Leechpool Primary School. Each time you buy anything on-line via websites such as Amazon and Marks and Spencer, the company donates a percentage of your purchase to our school. Please support the school by using this website. Many thanks.

### **Twitter**

To keep up-to-date with all the many things happening, please sign up and follow Leechpool on Twitter. We currently have 293 followers. Find us @LeechpoolSchool.



We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

With best wishes



Nicola Davenport  
Headteacher

And all the Staff of Leechpool Primary School

#### **Closure Days for this Academic Year**

Mon 19 Feb	INSET Day 3
Mon 16 April	INSET DAY 4
Mon 4 Jun	INSET DAY 5