

## LEECHPOOL LINK January 2017

Headteacher: Mrs Nicola Davenport



Dear Parents, Carers and Families

Happy New Year to Everyone. Let's hope that 2016 is a happy and prosperous New Year for everyone connected with Leechpool Primary School.

The term is getting off to a great start as all the children and staff are really interested and involved in our International Fortnight. International Day will be celebrated on Friday 13 January when we will all "jet off" around the world and find out what we have all been learning!

### Staffing Updates

Congratulations to Miss Hewins in Penguin class who has announced that she is expecting a baby in June. She will continue to work until the end of the summer half term in May. We are currently advertising for a senior teacher to cover her maternity leave.

Miss Wylie and her partner are pleased to announce the birth of their son Raphael Andreas Michael who was born on 12 December weighing 7Lbs 8oz. All are doing very well and had a lovely first Christmas!

Mrs Vowels has informed the school that she will be returning from maternity leave on Wednesday 1 February 2017. She will be teaching Jaguar Class on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

### Don't forget Leechpool School Mobile and Tablet App is available to download

We are always trying to find better ways of communicating with our whole school community and wish to remind everyone of our smartphone app. The app is free to download for Apple and Google devices.

You can download the app by either searching in the relevant app store for "Leechpool Primary School" or by using the following links:

**Google Playstore App:** <http://bit.ly/1PKZ8IN>

**Apple Appstore App:** <http://apple.co/1PKZuiB>

Remember to allow "Push Notifications" when you install the app, so you never miss out on important and urgent updates.

Please note that the app is also compatible with iPads and other leading Google tablet devices.

### Inset days

The Inset day on 3 January was used for both staff and governors to review different aspects of Leechpool's work and to identify the school's strengths, areas for improvement and highlight priorities for the future. A continuous focus of the day

was the development of writing and the progress we had made with this since Ofsted.

### 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 March 7 and 9 March 2017 3.30 – 7.00 p.m. and profile reports will be shared.

It is very important that we are all working together to ensure the children achieve the best they can with their learning.

### Curriculum Information

Teachers in all year groups are currently posting their Spring Term Topic plans on e-Schools. Information on e-Schools and in the Home School booklets is very helpful and will assist you to support your child's learning. Please use your e-School log in.

### After School Clubs

These will begin week commencing 30 January with the exception of Dance, Karate, Tri-golf, Table Tennis and Chelsea Football. The dates and times for all these clubs/activities are on the school website and displayed in the club noticeboard at the main entrance. Sign-up sheets will be displayed at the front entrance of the school from week beginning 16 January 2017.

### English Workshops for Parents of

**Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 and 2  
Tuesday 7 February 9.00 – 10.00 a.m.**

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

We will be organising English workshops for all parents to visit the school and see the children working on their reading skills. Reading is a big 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.

### Sporting Updates

Last term the boys A team football team came 3<sup>rd</sup> in the local Horsham competition. We currently have a girl's football team who are completing their league fixtures this term and a Year 5 hockey

league team who have entered their first ever competition.

Starting this term, we will be entering competitions for cross country running and tag rugby. The school has been the Tag Rugby Horsham Champions for the last two years!! Representing Horsham at the county finals so we have a lot to live up to!!

### Toys

Please could we remind all families and children that toys or theme cards for trading 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](http://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

#### Easy Fundraising

A new way of donating money to our school is to register with "Easyfundraising.org.uk" and choose Leechpool Primary School. Each time you buy anything online via websites such as Amazon and Marks & Spencer, the company donates a percentage of the purchase to our school.

#### 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.

Mr Jackson our volunteer at the school gate is continuing to encouraging children to earn special awards for pushing scooters and bikes.

### 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. 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. We do expect 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.

### 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 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.leechhpool.w-sussex.sch.uk](http://www.leechhpool.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 5 June	INSET Day 3
Mon 24 July	INSET DAY 4
Tues 25 July	INSET DAY 5

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