

Lent Rise School Newsletter

January 2017

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Happy New Year to one and all! I send out a warm welcome to Carol Wilson, our interim Deputy Headteacher. Carol is a highly experienced Deputy Headteacher and Senior Leader who will be with us for the remainder of the school year. I am delighted that she has joined our team at Lent Rise to support the whole school with a focus on raising progress and attainment.

- Extra-Curricular Clubs** Extra Curricular clubs start during the week of 9th January and run until 31st March. Please note that NO extracurricular clubs will run during parent consultation week (6th to 10th March).
- ICT Questionnaire** Mr Waldeck and Miss Johns are circulating an ICT questionnaire this week to support their understanding of your views on ICT and to shape their plans as ICT lead co-ordinators.
- Parent Questionnaires** Our annual parent questionnaires will be circulated via email over the next few weeks. The responses from last year's survey were used to support developments across the school so please do take the time to respond as your views are important to us.
- Fabulous Fun** The Santa's Grotto afternoon was a truly magical experience; thank you so much to all those that supported the organisation of the event and made this a special afternoon for so many children.
- Inset Days** Please note that we have one Inset day this term, on Monday 20th February and one in the Summer on Friday 26th May.
- Parent Consultation Week** Following feedback, we have moved our second formal parent consultation week from July to the week of 6th March 2017. There will be online booking as per the Autumn consultation week and letters outlining this will be circulated nearer the time.
- December's Attendance** Our overall whole school attendance figure for last month was 96%. The KS1 award went to classes 1G and 2H who both achieved 95.4% attendance and the KS2 award to 4S, who achieved a fantastic 99% attendance, for the month of December.
- Esafety Resource** The safety resources on our website have been updated so please do take a look. Mr Waldeck is running an esafety workshop for parents at 3.30 pm on Tuesday 31st January in the school hall and more information will be sent out about this shortly.
- Stay and Play** Mr Waldeck and Miss Johns have thoroughly enjoyed the Early Years Stay and Play sessions last term and there have been various requests for Stay and Play to continue during the spring term. Early Years parents have said that they would like to know more about how to support their child with phonics at home so we will be running Phonics and Play sessions on Mondays after school. This club will allow parents and children to spend 20 minutes engaging in phonics related activities and games and the children will then be able to choose their own resources to play with for the remainder of the session. This will not only help the children but also help you with ideas on how to support your child's reading at home.
- Severe Weather** Please take note of the following, **should** there be a school closure due to severe weather conditions:
- We notify Bucks County Council who announce any school closures on their website, www.buckscouncil.gov.uk.
 - We notify the parent body by text as soon as practicably possible.
 - Bucks County Council inform Radio Berkshire and Time FM who then broadcast any school closures.
 - We also ensure that a notice appears on our main website, www.lentrischool.co.uk.
- Work for pupils is put into their own year band section on the log in area of the website.

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What have we been up to? Year 1 Update

We have had a very busy and exciting term in Year 1 and have worked incredibly hard! Our overall theme this term has been 'Me and My Community' and we have enjoyed looking at this more deeply in different subjects.

In Science we have been identifying different parts of our body, including our senses. We have really enjoyed experimenting with our senses; taking part in tasting tests, using smelling pots and finding out all about the eye! We finished the term by looking at the changes in the seasons and enjoyed seeing the effect of Autumn as we walked through Burnham Park. We can now spot evergreen and deciduous trees and a different variety of common plants. This term we will be looking at 'The Animal Kingdom', which we're sure will be an exciting topic.



We have been learning to use lots of different operations this term in Maths! This term we have focussed on how we add, subtract and multiply using images to help us solve sums. We have also been learning how to use different tools in Numeracy, familiarising ourselves with number lines and squares to help us work with some really big numbers!



One of our favourite weeks of last term was Literacy Week where we learned about Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. We wrote wanted posters for an Oompa Loompa that escaped from the factory, invented and created our own sweets and wrote instructions for how to make them.

In Geography we have been thinking about our local community and creating maps of familiar places. We have also been evaluating our playground - discussing features we like and things we might want to change - to create a happy environment which all the children can enjoy.

In History we have been thinking about how things change over time. We gathered information about our family history and wrote a fact file. We then sorted objects into those we used when we were a baby and those we use now and then wrote a recount of our first day at Lent Rise School! We also loved the Battle of Hastings day which inspired some fantastic literacy work.



One of our highlights last term was visiting Burnham Library. We had so much fun reading different books and loved the librarian's stories! We chose some books to borrow which then inspired us to write our own book reviews.



In Art we have been using different mediums to create self-portraits such as charcoal, pencils and paints. We have also carefully practised how to make dark and light marks and use pencils to create different strokes. In Design and Technology we have been building on our artistic skills by designing our own mosaics for Lent Rise School! We evaluated some mosaics already in school and then worked to a design brief to create our own.

We are sure this will be another great term and we are looking forward to learning lots more!



Homework Questionnaire Feedback

We are delighted that in total we received 207 responses to our questionnaire which are summarised below.

How important do you think homework is to your child's learning?

Very important	Important	A little important	Not important
86	67	24	2
<i>Skipped Question 28</i>			

My child finds the level of homework

Answer Options	Response Percent
Too hard	4.6%
About right	75.1%
Too easy	20.3%
<i>Skipped Question 10</i>	

Are you able to support your child with their homework?

Answer Options	Response Percent
Yes	72.3%
Sometimes	26.2%
No	1.5%
<i>Skipped Question 12</i>	

On average how long does your child spend on their homework each night?

Answer Options	Response Percent
10 minutes or under	18.8%
10-20 minutes	27.9%
20-30 minutes	38.6%
30 minutes or over	14.7%
<i>Skipped Question 10</i>	

Overall do you support homework being given out during the week?

Answer Options	Response Percent
Yes	90.3%
No	9.7%
<i>Skipped Question 11</i>	

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Why do you feel homework during the week is important?

Answer Options	Response Percent
It helps to develop independent learning	30.3%
It reinforces work begun in school	43.3%
It is good practice for a primary school	4.5%
It raises children's attainment	6.7%
Parents are informed about homework	3.4%
It prepares children for future life	11.8%
<i>Skipped Question 29</i>	

If you disagree with homework being set during the week, why?

Answer Options	Response Percent
Children have worked hard enough	20.0%
Homework cuts into family time	15.0%
Homework can be a cause of friction/anxiety	15.0%
Less time for other activities	10.0%
Other	40.0%
<i>Skipped Question 187</i>	

Do you support homework being given out over the weekend?

Answer Options	Response Percent
Yes	47.4%
No	21.4
Sometimes	31.1%
<i>Skipped Question 11</i>	

If you feel homework at the weekend is important, why?

Answer Options	Response Percent
It helps to develop independent learning	35.7%
It reinforces work begun at school	33.1%
It is good practice for a primary school	3.2%
It raises children's attainment	8.4%
Parents are informed about homework	5.2%
It prepares children for future life	14.3%
<i>Skipped question 53</i>	

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If you disagree with homework being set at the weekend, why?

Answer Options	Response Percent
Children have worked hard enough	31.0%
Homework cuts into family time	33.3%
Homework can be a cause of friction/anxiety	2.4%
Less time for other activities	7.1%
Other	26.2%
<i>Skipped question 165</i>	

Do you support homework being given out over the school holidays?

Answer Options	Response Percent
Yes	57.1%
No	42.9%
<i>Skipped question 11</i>	

If you feel homework at the school holidays is important, why?

Answer Options	Response Percent
It helps to develop independent learning	39.3%
It reinforces work begun in school	28.6%
It is good practice for a primary school	6.3%
It raises children's attainment	11.6%
Parents are informed about homework	0%
It prepares children for future life	14.3%
<i>Skipped Question 17</i>	

If you disagree with homework being set at school holidays why?

Answer Options	Response Percent
Children have worked hard enough	40.5%
Homework cuts into family time	14.3%
Homework can be a cause of friction/anxiety	6.0
Less time for other activities	6.0%
Other	33.3%
<i>Skipped Question 95</i>	

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What do you like about homework?

The most common themes throughout the responses were reinforcing learning and helping parents to understand what the children are learning and progressing with.

Some examples of responses are below:

A Year 2 parent said:

"I think it's an important part of the child's learning curve to be able to take what they have learnt in school and apply this independently away from the school environment. It helps to reinforce their learning. Also it allows parents to get involved with the child's learning as well and see what they have been doing in school."

A Year 6 parent said:

"It is good to see my child enthusiastic about a subject and excited to research and produce their homework. It is also good to know what they are studying at school and see how things like their handwriting is improving"

Response Count 144

Skipped Question 63

What do you not like about homework?

The most common themes of responses were that homework is difficult to manage effectively around family life, it can be inconsistent across the school and there is confusion around online homework.

A sample of responses are below:

A Year 4 parent said

"Very difficult to fit other activities around it, especially for young children with early bedtimes. Which means my son's week becomes very academic with little time for creative/sport/outdoor/family activities."

A Year 6 parent said:

"Sometimes parents are unable to help children because they don't understand the curriculum way of teaching and can often confuse children. There needs to be a way to help parents understand the topic and how best to teach their kids, especially Maths."

A Year 4 parent said:

"Holiday homework especially October/February where you only have a week can encroach on family time and family holidays. Holidays should be for downtime, children to do their own activities and not school work. It prepares children for a good work/life balance in the future allowing them to differentiate between the two."

Response Count 134

Skipped question 73

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Do you have any further comments to make?

An Early Years parent said:

“I like how the homework links back to lessons in school, it increases her understanding and language around her lessons. It also keeps her interest and encourages conversations at home. She loves drawing pictures and writing about what she has learnt. Overall I think the level of homework is about right but I'd like there to be optional homework for children who are interested in doing more.”

A Year 3 parent said :

“The reputation around homework in Lent Rise is very well known in the local area and I am aware of families who have chosen not to send their child to Lent Rise for fear of the pressure of the homework. I feel the school needs to look very closely at what other schools in the area are doing, what current research says about the benefits of homework and reconsider who the homework is for. Is it for the benefit of the children or is it to placate parents who believe homework is essential for academic achievement? Also I'd like to say thank you for consulting the parents on this. We have all noticed that since the last Ofsted inspection the homework amount has got more sensible and that's good but it's still not right.”

A Year 1 parent said:

“Our young son (August birthday) found homework tiring in the reception year but a year on we are very glad he got into the habit from the outset. It seems important that the school and parents are able to support a child's learning and development together.”

A Year 5 parent said:

“I think I would like to see more focus on Maths and English and use homework as a revision tool with the weekend for more creative work.”

A Year 3 parent said:

“Finding a homework solution that everyone will be happy with and will suit every child is impossible. I like the homework grid which gives a choice of activities. It would help if holiday homework was optional.”

Response Count 98

Skipped question 109

The Governors are grateful to you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire and have commented on the level of detail provided in the responses.

The Governors and staff will be reviewing all responses carefully in order to shape any changes for the future. Any changes for September 2017-18 will be communicated through the year band parent packs and parent transition meetings.

Thank you once again for supporting this request for feedback.

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Term Dates

Spring Term 2017	Thursday 5 th January Tuesday 21 st February Inset Days	Friday 10 th February Friday 31 st March Wednesday 4 th January Monday 20 th February
Summer Term 2017	Tuesday 18 th April Monday 5 th June Inset Day Early May Bank Holiday	Thursday 25 th May Friday 21 st July Friday 26 th May Monday 1 st May

Diary Dates 2017

Inset Days - (staff training days)	Monday 20 th February, Friday 26 th May
Phonics Workshops for Y1 and Y2 Parents	Thursday 26 th January 2.30 pm Thursday 2 nd February 3.30 pm Tuesday 7 th February 5 pm
Esafety afternoon workshops	Tuesday 31 st January 2017 at 3.30 pm
PTA Pupil Film nights	Years 4, 5 and 6: Friday 3 rd February Years 1, 2 and 3: Friday 3 rd March
PTA fundraising non uniform day	Friday 10 th February
Spring Parent Consultation Week	Week commencing 6 th March
World Book Day (see next item date below)	Thursday 2 nd March
Book Character Dress up Day (non uniform)	Friday 3 rd March
Class and Group Photographs	Wednesday 8 th March
Red Nose Day - Non uniform day	Friday 24 th March
Y6 SATS Week	Week commencing 8 th May
Y2 SATs Month	Month of May
Phonics Screening Week	Week commencing 12 th June
End of Year Pupil Reports Sent Home	Friday 7 th July
Business Week in School - Fairtrade theme	Week commencing 3 rd July
Business Enterprise Sales Afternoon	Friday 7 th July

Please note that all dates are subject to change.

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