

Littledean Church of England Primary School

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People with time for Children

14th September 2018

Newsletter 2

Dear Parents,

Staff News

Unfortunately Miss Haile has been absent from school this week and will be for the foreseeable future. Mrs Lyons will continue to teach Chestnut Class on a Monday to Thursday, and Mrs McGoldrick will teach the class on a Friday.

Until the October holiday PE lessons for the classes will be as follows:

Monday – Holly Berries Class

Tuesday – Chestnut Class

Wednesday – Maple Class

If you do not wish to keep your PE kits in school please ensure that they are brought into school on these days.

Headlice

Once again we have received complaints from parents that their child has headlice or nits. Please help us to become nit and headlice free by tying long hair up whilst in school and checking your children (and other family members) on a regular basis. Further information can be found on the NHS direct website. Thank you.

<http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice/Pages/Treatment.aspx>

Road Closure

We have been advised that Elton Road will be closed due to resurfacing from 24th September to 5th October between 0930 to 1530. This should not affect the school directly however it may affect how parents and staff travel to and from school during these hours.

Clothing in School

We ask that all items of uniform, PE kit, bags and coats are **named** so that we can return items to the correct child if they lose them. Many thanks.

We suggest for all classes including pre-school that PE kit (trainers, shorts, t-shirt) are brought into school at the start of each term and kept in school in the cloakrooms.

Pre-School children will need a PE kit each day as their sessions will change weekly. Pre-School staff also request that wellies are brought into school so that they can play in the garden with the mud kitchen. Thank you.

We ask that children also bring a weather appropriate coat into school as we will go outside most days during lunch and break times.

Second-hand Uniform

Mrs Webb runs a second-hand uniform shop. If you have uniform that your child no longer needs please consider donating it to the second-hand shop. Many thanks.

Head teacher: Mrs Hayley McGoldrick

Bags to School

Our first collection of the year will be on Wednesday 26th September. They accept adult and children's clothes, shoes – tied together, bedding, towels, jewellery, belts, hats, scarves, gloves, bags, purses, wallets, tights, ties and new underwear. All donations help the school raise money for our children. Bags and information have already been issued, more available from the school office. Please bring your bags into school between now and 9.00 a.m. Wednesday 26th September. Thank you.

Sponsor Event

We have the Paralympic Sprinter Katrina Hart visiting the school on Wednesday 26th September to host the Sports for Schools Sponsor event. The children have been issued with information and sponsor forms. We hope you are able to support us in raising money for our sports equipment.

Communication

Communication is key to a good relationship between school, parents and pupils. Despite best efforts we know we do not always get this right but are continually reviewing how we keep parents informed.

- All letters and newsletters are posted on the school website, on the home page and on the letters page.
- We will email a copy to parents where we have email addresses. This will come from our website provider 'E-Schools' (please check spam and junk files as it may be sent there).
- A copy will be sent through the School App – if you can't remember your login details contact the Office.
- A copy will be placed in the folder outside the school office.
- Newsletters will be placed in the noticeboard in the rear playground.
- The oldest child in each family will be given a paper copy. If you are happy to receive email / app copies of letters and would like to opt out of paper copies please email the school on admin@littledean.gloucs.sch.uk.
- If you are not sure ask the school office staff.

We also have a text message service provided by E-Schools and will send urgent or important messages via text message.

If you have not received an email or text message by time you receive a paper copy of this letter please let the office know as we do not have the correct details for you. Many thanks.

Website – www.littledeanprimary.co.uk

Please take a look at our school website there are lots of useful information, reports and photos of the school. We endeavour to keep this as up to date as possible. If you login using the parents app you will also be able to keep track of your child's attendance data.

Communication between home and school.

We have an open door policy and encourage parents into school to share their children's learning. Teaching staff will welcome children into school at the beginning of each day where quick messages can be passed on. They are also available after school most day for more lengthy matters. Reading records can also be used for messages.

Collecting and delivering children

Children should not be in school unaccompanied before 8.30 a.m. we ask that all children and parents wait in the rear playground until asked to come into school. School starts at 8.45 a.m. and ends at 3.00 p.m. At the end of the day parents/carers should wait in the rear playground and children will be sent to them. If someone other than the norm is collecting your child please let a member of staff or the office know, we will not let them leave the premises with someone that is not known to us.

No-one should be parking in the playground as children are walking through it to arrive and go home. One or two parents have been given special permission to use the playground due to special conditions agreed by the school although they should not enter the playground if there are children there.

Whilst we encourage children to walk to school we know that this is not possible for all. We have permission to use Oak Way car park for delivery and collection, please be courteous to the residents and do not obstruct their garages and gateways. Thank you.

Head teacher: Mrs Hayley McGoldrick

Children arriving late / leaving early

Classroom doors will be shut at 8.45 a.m. If you arrive after this please use the main entrance doors and report to reception where your child will be signed into school. If your child leaves early during the school day a staff member will sign the children out.

Holidays in Term Time

We continue to implement the Government rules around holidays in term time. Whilst we fully understand the financial pressures on many families and the significant savings that can result from booking family holidays during term time, we would urge you to avoid making such bookings. The law states that parents do not have an automatic right to withdraw pupils for school for a holiday and have to apply for permission in advance. Such permission is granted in accordance with arrangements made by the governing body in line with the Department of Education's statutory guidance and department advice.

When an application is made for an authorised absence during term time the Head Teacher will give consideration to the following:

- The nature of the proposed absence/is this a truly exceptional circumstance
- The age of the child
- The timing of the absence
- The attendance pattern in the present and previous academic years

Some examples of what may constitute exceptional circumstances are:

- To have a short absence to attend a family wedding; or to attend a special family reunion, or to attend a special religious/cultural festival
- If a parent, due to the nature of their work, cannot possibly take time off during regular school holidays. This would need to be evidenced by letter from the employer

Please note: to have a week's holiday during school time because the cost is cheaper during term time, does not constitute an exceptional circumstance.

Any holidays that are taken during term time, which have not been previously agreed by the Head Teacher will be marked as unauthorised and appropriate action taken following government/Local Authority guidelines. This could result in a warning letter being issued or potentially a penalty notice being issued by the Local Authority.

We want to work with our families to promote good attendance for all of our pupils to ensure that they are in school regularly in order to make the most of the educational opportunities that are available to them.

School Meals

Children in Years Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a free school meal each day. (This is known as the Universal Infant Free School Meal) For children in years 3, 4, 5 and 6 the meals cost £2.36 each.

Dinner menus are issued on a Friday and should be completed and returned to the office on a Monday morning during registration time. Any meals booked after this will be chosen by the kitchen. We are unable to provide a meal unless it has been paid for in advance through parent pay (www.parentpay.co.uk) or a paypoint card.

Free school meals

The school receives additional money (currently £1320 per child) to support children whose families are in receipt of certain benefits. This includes children in Reception, Year 1 and 2. In our school it is used to support children with their learning.

If you claim Income Support, income based job seekers allowance or child tax credits where the household income is less than £16190 then you may be entitled. Gloucestershire County Council has a new on-line portal for all applications. This can be found at:

<http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/school-transport-and-free-school-meals/apply-for-free-school-meals/>

If you do not have access to a computer please contact the office and they will assist you with your application. All applications are treated in confidence.

Head teacher: Mrs Hayley McGoldrick

Cool Milk

Milk can be purchased from Cool Milk for your child at a cost of approximately £3.00 per term. Under 5's receive it free as do all children entitled to free school meals. Application forms are available from the school office, or visit www.coolmilk.com/

School Policies

The school holds many policies which are available in the school office should you wish to read them. A selection of policies are available on the schools website –

https://www.littledeanprimary.co.uk/website/school_policies/321303

Money in School

With the closure of the HSBC bank it has become more difficult for the school to bank money so we are asking parents to use the online payment system – Parent Pay, or a Pay Point station, the nearest is based in Littledean Stores. Please contact the Office if you can't remember your login details. Thank you.

Medicines/Allergies

Staff in schools are advised not to administer medicines to children. However if no alternative is available we will administer medicines on your behalf as long as a medicine form has been completed and the medication is in the correct packaging. Forms are available from the class teachers. If your child has an allergy ie nuts, strawberries please let the class teacher know.

Healthy Snacks

Children in the Acorns, Holly Leaves and Holly Berries Classes are provided with a free piece of fruit each day for their mid-morning snack. Chestnut and Maple Class children are able to bring a snack into school for their break, but we do ask that it is healthy such as, fruit, veggie snacks, crackers etc. We ask that they do not bring crisps or chocolate bars. Thank you.

Diary Dates

Tuesday 18 th September	Visit from the Life Bus, Packed lunches only
Wednesday 26 th September	Bags to School Collection
Wednesday 26 th September	Sports for Schools Sponsor Event
Monday 8 th October	Forest of Dean Lions Spectacles Collection
Tuesday 9 th October	Immunisation Flu Programme for Years R,1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Wednesday 17 th October	Individual and Sibling Group Photographs
Friday 19 th October	Harvest Service at St Ethelberts Church
Thursday 15 th November	Height Weight and Vision Testing Years R, 6
Wednesday 21 st November	Parents Afternoon
Thursday 22 nd November	Parents Evening
Monday 10 th December	Whole School and Pre-School Pantomime at Roses Theatre
Tuesday 11 th December	Infant Performance Dress Rehearsal
Wednesday 12 th December	Infant Performance Afternoon
Thursday 13 th December	Infant Performance Evening
Wednesday 19 th December	Christmas Lunch
Friday 21 st December	Christmas Service at St Ethelberts Church

Term Dates 2018/19

Term 1	Wednesday 6 th September 2018 – Friday 19 th October 2018
Term 2	Monday 29 th October 2018 – Friday 21 st December 2018
Term 3	Monday 7 th January 2019 – Friday 15 th February 2019
Term 4	Monday 25 th February 2019 – Friday 5 th April 2019
Term 5	Tuesday 23 rd April 2019 – Thursday 24 th May 2019
Term 6	Monday 3 rd June 2019 – Friday 19 th July 2019