

Littledean Church of England Primary School

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People with time for Children

11th January 2019

Newsletter 10

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to school for the start of Term 3, we hope you all had a relaxing break. As ever we have an exciting term ahead of us. Our Christian Value for Life this term is 'Truthfulness'.

Contact with Staff

We ask that our families do not contact staff through their personal social media accounts but instead use the school email addresses that we issue to you. We all enjoy seeing photographs and reading about our children and their activities at home but it can put staff in a difficult position and contravenes our Child Protection / Safeguarding Policy, and Staff Social Media Policy. Thank you.

Contact Details

It is important that we have up to date contact details for your children – you never know when we might need to contact you in an emergency. If you have changed address, phone number, email address please let the office know as soon as possible. Thank you

Emergency Closure Procedures

We all remember the chaos the snow caused last year – hopefully it won't be needed this year – but just in case!

If we need to close the school we will:

- Send you a text message
- Announce the closure on Radio Gloucestershire – 104.7 fm
- Post the closure on <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/closures/> (please note new address)
- Post the closure on our school website www.littledeanprimary.co.uk
- If possible a member of staff will be on site to advise of the closure.

From **Tuesday 8th January to 22nd January** Broad Street, from Littledean Guest House to the roundabout will be closed from 9.00 – 3.00. This should have little effect on the running of the school. As usual a member of staff will be on duty in the back playground each morning from 8.35, giving plenty of time to return to Cinderford before the closure is in place. Please be as prompt as possible in collecting your children from school at the end of the day.

Special Winter Menu – Thursday 17th January

We are holding a special Winter Menu Meal on Thursday 17th January 2019 and we would like to encourage all children, especially those who are entitled to Free School Meals or Infant Universal Free Meals to try some food prepared by our catering company Caterlink. The menu will be:

Bangers Mash and Beans

or

Jacket Potato with Cheese

followed by

Baked Chocolate Brownie with chocolate sauce

Head teacher: Mrs Hayley McGoldrick

Young Voices Concert – Genting Arena Birmingham – Friday 25th January 2019

The children have been practicing in school this week and will continue to do so until the concert. Please encourage practicing at home too. Please may we remind you that the £12.00 payment for the coach is due on or before 25th January 2019, please pay through our online payment system, www.parentpay.com

Friends Curry and Bingo Night at the Belfry - 2nd February 2019 – 7 p.m.

This will be held at The Belfry for over 18's only. Tickets cost £10 each and will include a curry and a bingo book. Please see Nikki in the playground or email nikkis.events@yahoo.com to book tickets.

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.

Diary Dates

Monday 14 th January	Re-arranged Heights and Weights for Year R and Year 6
Tuesday 15 th January	Chestnut Class Music workshop in Gloucester
Thursday 17 th January	Special Winter Menu
Thursday 24 th January	First Swimming Lesson for Chestnut Class
Friday 25 th January	Young Voices Concert
Saturday 2 nd February	Friends Curry and Bingo night at the Belfry
Monday 4 th February	Holly Berries Class visit to the Mosque and Cathedral
Thursday 7 th February	Chestnut Class Swimming lesson
22-24 April 2020	Residential Visit for current year 4 and 5 pupils

Term Dates

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
Term 1	Monday 2 nd September 2019 – Friday 25 th October 2019

Head teacher: Mrs Hayley McGoldrick