

LEECHPOOL LINK April 2017

Headteacher: Mrs Nicola Davenport



Dear Everyone

This is the final letter of the Spring Term. It has been a very busy term and the children are making very good progress with their work. Staff have all been working hard to help the children meet their academic targets, as well as develop the many other talents that they have in sports, music and other hobbies. The range of after school clubs this term reflected this and the children particularly enjoyed the archery sessions with Miss Thaddeus.

Next week the children of Year 6 are going on a residential trip to Windmill Hill and they are looking forward to participating in the many activities that they will be carrying out. Miss Simpson and her team will I am sure, have a great time discovering the many hidden talents of our Year 6 classes. I hope some of the children are good at making tea for the teachers!!!

Staffing Updates

Following interviews, the school is pleased to announce the appointment of Miss Hollis as the new head of Key Stage 1 from September 2017. She is currently a teacher at The Vale Primary in Worthing.

Miss Hewins will be taking maternity leave from 26 May 2017 and Mrs Mitchison has been appointed to teach Penguin Class from after the summer half term. Mrs Mitchison will be working with Penguin Class from the beginning of the Summer term for two days a week alongside Miss Hewins to ensure that the class has a smooth transition during the busy time of Key Stage 1 statutory assessments.

Following a great deal of interest in the new premises posts following the resignation of Mr Cox, the school has appointed Mr J Anderson as the Maintenance Manger and Mr Peter Smith as the Premises Officer. Both appointees have experience in estate management and are looking forward to beginning their work at Leechpool at the start of the summer term. During the first week of term Mr Cox will be on hand to show them both the routines.

Building Work to Begin on New Classrooms

Finally, the work on the new classrooms for Year 4 and the Caterpillar Nursery will begin on Monday 3 April 2017. The contractor, Chessman's is currently delivering materials to start the work at the school. We are really excited about the project having had to wait for nearly 4 years!!! A big thank you to the Governors for their hard work in pushing the local authority to deliver on this project.

The building work will involve changes to routines and on Friday the children will be told these in assembly. **We will then issue a note for all families to help you support your children with the new arrangements.**

We will keep you all informed of the developments of the building work and we will be setting up a time lapse camera on the site so that everyone can see and track the progress that is being made.

Comic Relief Friday 24 March

Thank you everyone for the support last week. We had a fantastic Zumba start to the day led by Sarah Howard and raised a fantastic total of £332.20p.

British Values Week

During the week beginning 24 April 2017 the children will be learning about democracy, independence, mutual respect, individual liberty, tolerance of others and the rule of law as part of British week.

Friday 28 April will be a red, white and blue day. All children will be invited to wear red, white and blue clothes in return for donations for the LEAF May Fayre. Children who are part of different scouting groups will be invited to wear their uniforms if they would like. We will then have a parade of the scouting groups in the junior playground during the morning of 28 April.

The Leaf donation and mufti days for the May Fayre on 21 May are on

Friday 7th April Bottles for Tombola

**Friday 28th Jolly Jars Years R, 1, 2
Drinks Years 3,4,5,6**

**Friday 19th May Cakes Years R,1,2
Jolly Jars Years 3,4,5,6**

Remember to save Sunday 21 May 2017

School Closure Days

Thursday 4 May 2017

**Polling Day for local council elections
Half Term holiday**

Monday 29 May – Friday 2 June

Inset Day – Monday 5 June 2017

This Inset day is being used by the staff to review the school curriculum and National Curriculum and to share and develop our planning systems to ensure continuity for the coming year.

Healthy Lunchboxes

A number of families have been asking about lunch boxes and what to add to their children's lunchbox. According to NHS choices, a balanced lunchbox should contain:

- Starchy foods like bread, rice, potatoes or pasta.
- Protein foods like meat, fish, eggs or beans
- A dairy item, like cheese or yogurt.
- Vegetable s or salad and a portion of fruit.

[School packed lunch inspiration | BBC Good Food](https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/howto/guide/school-packed-lunch-inspiration)
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Social Media

Over the last few weeks we have had a number of concerns reported to us about children sending inappropriate messages on social media out of school hours and on non-school apps etc. Could we remind families that the children should not be using the sites as they are not old enough. (13 is the legal age) It is also important that you monitor what your children are accessing over the internet.

A safe and secure system has been provided by Eschools for your children to use. This should be encouraged as it is carefully monitored. Thank you.

Football

Leechpool has been represented every Friday this half term, at the Horsham Open Football Tournaments. Year 3,4,5, and 6 have finished 5th, 4th, 3rd and 2nd out of 12 respectively. They have played some great football and always behaved in an exemplary fashion. This Friday the girls team will also be competing in the tournament at Horsham Park.

We have been very proud of the competitiveness and gamesmanship of everyone involved. Some wonderful football has been played this season.

Netball

Well done to those who participated in the Horsham Netball League. Your journey has been immense – sharing true resilience and enthusiasm throughout the two terms, as well as continually developing your netball skills. Mrs Child and I are very proud of you.
 Mrs Letley

School Uniform

Please remember that school uniform should be worn at all times. A list of the required uniform is available on the school website. As we head to the summer months it would be good to see children in their summer uniforms from May 1st 2017.

Could we also remind all families that extreme haircuts, nail varnish and jewellery are not part of the uniform code and that ribbons, clips, headscarves etc should be kept simple and to school colours. Thank you.

Lost Property

All lost property will be displayed outside the school by the junior playground from Monday 3 April until 6 April. Please check the tables for items that you may be missing. Property not collected will be disposed of during the school holiday.

Academy Status

Following the Government announcement to make all schools in England an academy the School Governors would like all the parents to know they are continuing to look into what this process involves. The school is not planning to become an academy in the near future due to the current Ofsted rating but the Governors feel they need to be informed of national and local developments and will consequently be discussing this item again at their monthly meetings.

Parking outside the school

Thank you to everyone who is supporting safe parking around the school. Please do your part to ensure the safety of the children and to show respect to our neighbours. We would be very grateful if you see that the cones are not in place outside the school gates at the start or end of the day, you kindly put them out for us. It will be a great help to the school.

Could we also ask families to not leave cars with their engines running at any time? We have had a number of reports of this happening recently. **This is dangerous and illegal.**

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the School Office.

Please all enjoy a happy and safe Easter holiday.

Best wishes



Nicola Davenport
 Headteacher

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