

Ladysmith Federation

Junior School News

Friday 9th September 2016

Welcome back

Firstly, I would like to say welcome back to all our pupils, parents, carers and staff. It is great to see the children back and enjoying school. I hope that you have all had a good summer and are looking forward to the autumn term as much as I am. We have had a good first week with the children settling in well. I would also like to welcome our two new teachers, Mrs Charlton in Year 4 and Mr Williams in Year 5.

As last year, we will be putting out a weekly newsletter with updates of what has happened and is going to happen in and around school and the local community. If you would like something to be mentioned in the newsletter, please feel free to contact myself or Mr Broad.

Clubs



The children will have brought home a letter outlining all of the after school clubs available for the autumn term. As you can appreciate, many of the clubs run by Premier Sport get booked up very quickly. There will be more clubs available in the spring term. For the clubs run by school staff, please collect a form from the main entrance and return this to the school office by Wednesday 14th September and we will inform you on Friday 16th September if your child has secured a place or not.

Reading

We love reading at Ladysmith and encouraging your child to read is one of the most important ways in which you can support your child's learning. Your child will have received a reading record book in which we would like the children to record their daily reading. All children are expected to read for a minimum of 15 minutes every day outside of school. We ask that an adult signs and writes a comment in children's reading records at least once a week. Your child's teacher or TA will look at their reading record every Wednesday so please help your child to ensure they are brought to school each week.



Learning Letters

Today, you should have received a learning letter which outlines what your child will be learning about this half term.

Homework

Homework will be given out on Fridays and is due in the following Wednesday for all year groups. Homework will be different in each year group but it may include: short writing activities, a reading comprehension, an on-line maths activity, a paper-based maths task, learning spellings, learning times-tables or a research based task.

Your child may not yet have been given homework but please do speak to your child's teacher if you are unsure about what is expected.

Lunches

Lunches can now be ordered and paid for through ParentMail. Year 3 parents have now been sent a verification request from ParentMail. Once you have verified your account then you will be able to order and pay for lunches online.



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www.ladysmithjunior.devon.sch.uk

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All orders made online must also be paid for online please. We understand that you are not automatically directed to the payment section. Once in payments you will be able to view items to pay or visit the shop where you can make payment.

The order system will default to a main meal each day, so if you wish to purchase e.g. 2 meals then you need to put the dot for a packed lunch in the days that you do not want a school meal. If you are entitled to a free school meal than please put a dot in the relevant box.

Thank you for your cooperation while we get this new system in place. If you have any questions, please speak to Mrs Miles or Mrs Dickinson in reception.



Lost Property

Please, please, please name all uniform, PE kit and coats. Each term we are left with piles of lost jumpers, t-shirts and trainers! Any lost property is taken to our lost property cupboard which can be accessed via the main reception.

Lost Coat

A coat was lost on the last day of term. It belongs to a girl in year 4 and it holds sentimental value to her. Please could you have a look at home in case it has come home by accident. It is an Italian short brown jacket.

Golden Mile



Over the summer, Mr Hawkins, our amazing site manager, has been busy making some changes on the field. With funding from local councillors and Active Devon, we have created an all-weather running track around the edge of the field. The track is approximately 400m long which means that 4 laps equals 1 mile. All children and staff are being asked to walk or run a mile a day: a 'Golden Mile'. The children all go out for 10 minutes before their break-time to complete the activity. All laps get recorded on an on-line database created by Premier Sports to record how far the children run over time. It has been fantastic to see how well the children and staff have embraced the challenge: some children have already amassed some impressive distances! By encouraging the children to be active, we hope to see an impact on their physical and mental wellbeing and therefore on their learning too. Do check out the promotional film created by Premier Sports: search for Premier Sports Golden Mile Ladysmith on YouTube to watch!

PE

Hopefully you are aware of which days your child has their PE sessions. Please ensure that they have a P.E. kit with either a plain white polo shirt or the school branded maroon polo shirt and a pair of black or blue shorts. Children will also need trainers in school every day to complete the Golden Mile run on the all-weather track around the field. As the weather becomes colder, please provide suitable clothing for outside activity.

Please ensure that children who cannot remove earrings independently do not wear them on these days as jewellery must be removed for these activities for safety reasons and in accordance with our policy: long hair should also be tied back. If you have any football boots that are no longer needed that could be donated to the school, we would be very grateful.

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Healthy Snacks and Birthday Treats

After running their 'Golden Mile' and getting half way through the morning, many children, understandably, are ready for a snack to keep them going. As a school we have a healthy snack policy and would therefore ask you to ensure that any snacks provided are fruit or vegetable based.

We also ask that children do not bring in sweets or cakes to give out on their birthdays.

New Build Update

The new build is going well and at present we are still on track to move in at Easter! Now that the steel framework is up it is expected that progress will be quite quick. Once we move into the building the construction company, BAM, will then start work on demolishing and landscaping the old buildings.



Enrichment Opportunities

You should have received, via email, details of enrichment courses available during the autumn through Exeter University.

Although we are providing the information, the courses are run independently from the school so we are unable to provide any further information. Please contact the course provider for further information.

If you choose to take this opportunity, please could you apply online, direct to the course providers.

You will also need to fill in an absence form, available from the school office so that we know the reason for the absence from school on that day. If you have any questions, see Mr Broad.

Parklife - Sunday 11th September at 9am celebrates PARKRUN's 1st birthday.

Parkrun is a timed fun run for children aged 4-14years. Come along and celebrate our first birthday in the park! Coffee van, bacon sarnies and treats for the kids... Fun warm up starts at 8.50am. For more info please email heavitree-juniorsoffice@parkrun.com you can also find us on Facebook!

Sunday 18th September 12-5pm is HEAVITREE FUN DAY organised by Parklife and sponsored by the local councillors. The FUN DAY is a free afternoon of music, rides, craft, food, ale tent, story-telling, community disarms, children's activities, stalls, coffee, cake and lots more! For more information see our website- www.parklifeheavitree.org.uk

SEND Workshop

Please see below for details of a workshop that we have been informed of.

Supporting a child with Challenging or Aggressive behaviours

This workshop will give an understanding of challenging behaviour and aggression, what might be behind them and what they might mean. It will provide a range of pro-active tools for parents to use to reduce these behaviours taking place as well as approaches to de-escalate and support during times of crisis and melt-down.

[Focuses on children under 12]

2 Day Ticket - £15

To find out more about this opportunity and many more head to: www.bis-net.org.uk

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