



Lew Trenchard C of E Primary School

Fortnightly Newsletter – 26th November 2021



Together We Grow in Wisdom and Serve with Joy

Dear parents/carers,

Another jam-packed fortnight of learning here at Lew Trenchard C of E and pre-school, continuing the themes and focuses in each class as well as learning about significant events such as Remembrance Sunday. So many of our pupils are so knowledgeable about this event and we had some mature and inciteful conversations about it. Thank you all for your support towards the British Legion Poppy fund as always.

Last week, the whole school enjoyed the pantomime “Snow White” performed by M and M theatre company. Everyone enjoyed this special event, kindly organised and contributed to by our hugely support FLS and parent contributions. Thank you all. It was wonderful to hear the children singing, see them dancing and hear their laughter.

We have been researching different platforms to use for our virtual parent meetings this term and have decided to use one provided by Eduspot who we already use for School money and Teachers to parents. Please keep an eye on Dojo for more information regarding booking your times and available dates which we will share as soon as possible. The meetings will be held during the week of 6th December 2021.

As we move closer to December, the team are planning next term’s PE sessions and enrichment clubs which we will share in the next newsletter.

Miss Davy

School Improvement:

Mr Payton has had a very busy fortnight, as he leads two key subjects in school, maths and PE. Last week he attended a PE subject leader training day and this week he has been carrying out lesson visits in maths. He has loved seeing pupils across the school developing their fluency, reasoning and problem skills.

Mrs Sutherland, Mr Elliott and Mr Payton have been speaking to pupils in each class about their learning in their subjects, not just what they learn but how and what strategies they use to help them. This is a useful way of informing the team what the children think about their learning. All our monitoring this term informs the action plans for each subject which the subject leaders write on a yearly basis. These run from January to January and link to our whole school and Trust improvement plans for the year. We will be asking parents for their views during the Spring Term via a parent/carer questionnaire. As always, if you have any questions about your child’s learning, please contact their class teacher via Class Dojo. Thank you.

Mrs McMorrow has completed her three-day Health and Safety training and passed the exam with flying colours, well done!

Mrs Thorp has attended another ELSA training day.

Mrs McMorrow, Mrs Oakes and Miss Prynne will all be accessing Emotional Logic training in January. This course is being organised by Devon Virtual School and will run virtually over several weeks as well as requiring candidates to complete study independently.

Grammar term of the fortnight:

Word classes:

Words have different purposes in sentences, depending on their word class or part of speech.

A word can belong to more than one word class, depending on its position and purpose in a sentence.

In school, we often ask the children to consider the job of the word, its purpose to help them to classify words correctly. This can be complex at times and we often have meaningful discussions to justify our thought processes.

This fortnight, we continue to focus on nouns.

Concrete nouns:

A concrete noun identifies things which can be physically seen or touched.

Maggie ate her toast in the kitchen. She could see the blue sky out of the window.

The noun **Maggie** identifies the person. The noun **toast** identifies the thing. The noun **kitchen** identifies the place.

Abstract nouns:

An abstract noun identifies things which cannot be physically touched or seen, such as a state, idea, process or feeling.

My dream is to make progress.

The noun **dream** identifies an idea. The noun **progress** identifies a process.

This situation caused great anger.

The noun **situation** identifies a state. The noun **anger** identifies a feeling.

Abstract nouns are used especially in more formal language.

More formal:

The man's **inability** to distinguish right from wrong caused great **suffering**.

Please see the following link for a song that may help:

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=grammarsaurus+noun+song&docid=608014923714467201&mid=7EFEFA18CB23523DEA197EFE>

National expectations are 97%

Please call the school office if your child is ill or late. We cannot rely on receiving Dojo messages, as the internet isn't great. Thank you.

Attendance

Great Links Tor 97%

Fox Tor 99%

Brentor 90%

Oke Tor 96%

Whole School 96%

Home Learning

As you are aware, over the last couple of years we have stream-lined the home learning policy to provide consistency across the school and to be as effective and useful as possible.

We decided to focus on key skills that children need throughout their lives such as reading, spelling and times tables. Learning the facts from the knowledge organisers also enables them to access deeper learning in non-core subjects which is so beneficial as the National Curriculum is extensive and the school day is limiting time wise.

In Brentor, the focus is reading as this is the most important skill for all learning. The children in Brentor do have log ins for Spelling Shed if they would like to participate, but there isn't an expectation to.

However, as pupils move into Fox Tor, we expect to see them accessing TTRS and Spelling Shed as well as using their knowledge organisers and daily reading. We understand that when they begin Year 2, they might find TTRS challenging, so we suggest practicing on Hit the Button until they learn the 2, 5 and 10 times tables. From Year 3 to Year 6, unless there is a specific need or agreed arrangement between teachers and parents, the expectation is reading, knowledge organisers, Spelling Shed and TTRS. If you have any issues accessing the online platforms, we are happy to support this in school. Please contact your child's class teacher.

We would like to thank everyone for their continued support with our fundraising activities. The table top sale was a great success and we look forward to organising more activities like this. We are continuing with our raffles on Facebook and have many more excited prizes lined up. The Christmas Hamper is now being displayed locally and we are very fortunate that local business are selling tickets for us. The Christmas Hamper draw will take place at school on Monday 13th December and the results posted on Dojo and social media.

Friends of Lew Trenchard School (FLS)

If you would like to keep up to date with the Fundraising efforts of the FLS, you can find us on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Friends-of-Lew-Trenchard-School-and-Pre-school-1062986837045475>

Book Swap

The following books are available in our book swap, please message admin if you are interested...



School Money Payments – A reminder that all payments for School Dinners should be made *in advance*. If you have any issues with payment or access to the website, please see the office and they will help where they can. **All dinner bookings should now be made and paid for in advance please.**

Please could we ask that any outstanding monies be paid as soon as possible. There should be no monies outstanding now please.

Free School Meals – A quick reminder that Free School Meals not only entitle your child to Free School Meals, but can also provide the school with extra funding for your child to go towards other areas of learning. If you think that you may be entitled to Free School Meals, even if your child brings a packed lunch every day, you can follow either of the links below:
<https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/school-meals>
https://oneonline.devon.gov.uk/CCSCitizenPortal_LIVE/Account/Login?ReturnUrl=%2fCCSCitizenPortal_live

Dates for your diary:

Last day of term – Friday 17th December 2021

First day of Spring term – Wednesday 5th January 2022

Drop off/collection: Can we please ask that parents/carers park in designated areas. Drop off at the gates is only permitted at breakfast club due to parking limitations at that time.

Also, can we ask that once you have dropped/collected your child/children, you move away from the gates promptly so that we can hand over pupils quickly and safely. At busy times, you are welcome to come through the main gates and out of the single gate to help with this.

Thank you.

Breakfast Club:

Just a reminder that Breakfast Club now begins at 8am. If your child requires breakfast, please ensure you drop them at this time so that there is time to feed them and clear away before 8.45am.

If your child does not require breakfast, you are welcome to drop them at 8.15am.

Thank you.

An Daras Vacancies – Please follow the link for information on vacancies within the An Daras MAT
<http://www.andaras.org/web/vacancies>

(Information below is taken from “indirect.gov.uk/school-attendance-absence”)

School attendance and absence

Going to school regularly is important for your child's future. Parents are responsible for making sure their children receive full-time education. Parents are legally responsible for making sure that children attend school. If your child doesn't go to school, you could get fined or prosecuted.

Benefits of school attendance

Good attendance at school is not just beneficial, it's essential. Attending school is directly linked to improved exam performance which should in turn lead to further learning opportunities and better job prospects. As well as this, going to school helps to develop:

- Friendships
- Social skills
- Team values
- Life skills
- Cultural awareness
- Career pathways

Absence from school

- All schools must record details of pupils' attendance and absence at school. They do this at the beginning of morning and afternoon sessions meaning that each day your child receives two half day marks.
- If your child is going to be absent from school, (e.g. for an unavoidable appointment) then you should let the school know as soon as possible. If your child has been absent due to an unexpected event such as bereavement or illness then you must also let the school know on the first day of absence in accordance with the school's attendance policy.
- The school will then record the absence. If you fail to notify the school as to why your child has not been present then the school may record that period of absence as being unauthorised.
- The Education Welfare Service (EWS) has access to all attendance information for each pupil and if your child is missing school without good reason, schools and the EA have the authority to find out why.

Attendance in figures

- Schools will advise parents of a child's attendance levels at least once a year. This will usually include a percentage attendance figure.
- Achieving 90 per cent in an exam or test is a fantastic result but if your child is at school for only 90 per cent of the school year then they will have missed 19 days - almost four whole weeks of school.
- For primary-age children, this can mean almost 120 guided learning hours. This is a big gap for any child to make up.
- If your child is a pupil at post-primary school, 120 guided learning hours is the equivalent of studying one full-time GCSE (normally taken over two years).

How to prevent your child from missing school

You can help prevent your child missing school by:

- having a routine from an early age and sticking it to it
- making sure your child understands the importance of good attendance and punctuality
- making sure they understand the possible implications for themselves and you as a parent if they don't attend
- taking an interest in their education - ask about school work and encourage them to get involved in school activities

- discussing any problems they may have at school and letting their teacher or Head Teacher know about anything that is causing concern

- not letting them take time off school for minor ailments or holidays during term time

To avoid disrupting your child's education, you should arrange (as far as possible), appointments and outings:

- after school hours
- at weekends
- during school holidays

Term time holidays

- Term time holidays have been increasing over the last number of years. Parents should make every effort to ensure that their child does not miss school due to holiday plans. Schools are not obliged to agree to you taking your child on holiday during term time. They are entitled to record such holidays as being an unauthorised absence

Support for parents

- As a parent, if you find it hard to talk to your child about their attendance at school or other school-related matters, support is available.

Support from your child's school

- Your child's school should have an attendance policy in place and made available to you, normally from the school website. As a parent or guardian, you should ensure that you adhere to the guidance provided in that policy regarding attendance and notifying absence.

- Your child's school is the first place to discuss any attendance problems. The school should try to agree a plan with you to improve your child's attendance.

- A school can refer your child to the Education Welfare Service (EWS) if they feel there is reason to be concerned at their level of attendance. The EWS is a specialist education support service which helps young people of a compulsory school age and their families to get the best out of the education system. The EWS can offer advice and support to help you and your child to have good attendance at school

Support from the Education Authority

The Education Authority (EA) can also help if you are struggling to make sure that your child goes to school

Support from other organisations

As well as school and the EA, you may also be able to get advice and assistance from other organisations.

These may include your local community centre or local community group.

ParentingNI

provide a wide range of helpful advice and resources as well as a parent's helpline.

Parent Teacher Associations can also provide further information and resources through their website at ParentKind

School Dinners – Please can all Dinners be paid in advance of at least a week via School Money * **Sickness and diarrhoea** - If your child experiences an upset stomach, they should be kept off school for a **minimum of 48hrs**, in order to minimise the spread the illnesses * **Morning drop-off** - Children should be at school in time for the bell at 9am. If your child is ill, or will be in late, please could you make sure that you contact school (**01566 783 273**) so we can inform class teachers. If your child is not in school by 9.30am, and we have not received a message, they could be registered as late, and this will affect their attendance * **Wet Weather Coats** - please ask that all children come to school with appropriate outdoor clothing – water proof coats for all children please, and wellies for Yes Tor. * **Comments for Governors** - If you have any comments or suggestions for the school Governors these can be placed in the red box outside of the office



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