



Lew Trenchard C of E Primary School

Weekly Newsletter – 16th October 2020



Together We Grow in Wisdom and Serve with Joy

Dear parents/carers,

This week we have had a couple of Sporting events across the school, Brentor and Fox Tor attending a multi-skills event led by Odra, and Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 taking part in a Virtual Cross-country event. We have been very impressed by the sporting and kind attitudes of our pupils who support one another to achieve their own personal bests. We will let you know when the results are in for the Cross-country event.

A huge “thank you” to staff and parents who came in to erect the wooden cabin that will be known as “The Dartmoor Room”. Also, massive thanks to our FLS for paying for this. We have a few more jobs to do but are hoping to use it very soon.

We are planning to use the Village Hall for Toddler sessions after half term, dates and more information to follow next week.

Miss Davy

School Improvement:

Reading:

We continue to be impressed by the passion for reading that our pupils demonstrate every day. The Accelerated Reader programme is well underway. We would like pupils to be able to quiz at the end of a book as soon as they finish to ensure that they choose their new one and get reading again, so we encourage them to quiz first thing in order not to impact on other learning. However, we have decided to keep to class book days to ensure that we are having a designated time to read pupils individual books as well as class reads and guided reading books. The days are as follows; Monday – Brentor, Wednesday -Oke Tor, Thursday – Fox Tor, Friday – Great Links.

Spelling Shed:

Well done to all of the pupils who are regularly practising their spellings regularly. We have seen a great improvement in participation over the last week. The lists that we set cover already taught spelling patterns and words so it is a great way of revising and remembering.

Times Tables Rock Stars:

As part of our home learning, pupils should be regularly practising their times tables on TTRS. We know that this has a positive impact on long term retention of Times Tables facts.

If you need any logs ins, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Uniform Sale:

Please check school money for availability or contact the school office. We also have pre-loved uniform available, again please contact the office to check what we have.

Attendance for last week

Great Links Tor	97%
Fox Tor	95%
Brentor	100%
Oke Tor	99%
Whole School	97%

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.

Breakfast Club

Please can we remind you that drop off for Breakfast Club is 8.15 am. Staff are preparing for the day or delivering extra teaching sessions so we cannot man the gate after 8.20am. It is also challenging for the staff member running Breakfast Club to supervise the children and then prepare additional breakfast if pupils arrive late. We like to get them outside for a run around too, when we have pupils arriving late, this limits the possibility of this. Thank you for your support.

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:

Wednesday 21st October – Bags4school collection

Friday 23rd October - Wear it pink for Breast Cancer/last day of half term

Monday 26th – Friday 30th October -Half Term

Wednesday 18th November – Flu vaccine

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.

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 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



flsfundraising@hotmail.com
lewtrenchardgovernors@andaras.org
lewtrenchard@andaras.org