



Lew Trenchard C of E Primary School

Fortnightly Newsletter – 14th January 2022



Together We Grow in Wisdom and Serve with Joy

Dear parents/carers,

We have had a great start back to the new term. Many thanks to Mrs Sutherland for organising the Space Lab for us on Monday. The pupils loved it and were so motivated by the experience. Each class in turn, visited the village hall where the Space Lab was set up for the new theme that each class is studying in Spring 1 or future upcoming themes; Yes Tor and Brentor Space, Fox Tor Ancient Egypt, Oke Tor Ancient Greeks and Great Links Light and Sound. Thank you to the FLS for funding this enrichment experience.

Staff are currently planning trips and visits for the rest of the academic year. We will keep you informed.

Please see class pages on the website for curriculum information for this half term. Copies of vocabulary mats and knowledge organisers can also be found here.

We are introducing knowledge organisers in lessons at the beginning of each theme so that pupils can engage with them in school. Having spoken to many pupils, we felt that we needed to teach the children how to get the best from the knowledge organisers. Not everyone can absorb facts by reading them alone, so we have been teaching study skills to help improve the impact that they have on learning.

Miss Davy

School Improvement:

Teaching staff have been working together to reflect and review our non-core curriculum, really thinking about the uniqueness of our school, planning for local history and geography that reflects where we live. This provides a foundation for the rest of our non-core planning. We have also been thinking about the "Climate Curriculum", which becomes statutory in 2023. As this is a great passion of our school family, we already consider this aspect of education. The other area we have been discussing is mental health. We will be uploading the planning documents on the website but expect them to grow and evolve further over time.

As you are aware, assessment timetables were impacted by the pandemic before the end of term, but we are pleased to say that these have now been completed. As a result, pupil progress meetings will be held throughout the week of the 14th February, more information to follow. As always, we understand the logistics of having more than one child in school, but we will try to accommodate our families as best we can.

CPD

Lisa and Chloe have begun their "Emotional Logic" training, which comprises online sessions as well as independent study and completing set tasks. This is all in their own time, which we value and appreciate. Mrs Thorp is continuing to attend ELSA (emotional literacy support advisor) training day too. This course will continue for several weeks. Mrs Thorp will also be starting training for her role as "Mental Health Lead" for the school. This is an area of expertise for Mrs Thorp and we are lucky to have her in school full time to offer support in a wide variety of ways.

Mrs Trevorah, Nicky and Chloe have completed their two-day RWI training as well. What a lot of training in the first week back!

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 are introducing **adverbs**:

Adverbs modify verbs, adjectives, other adverbs or whole sentences.

Some **adverbs** answer questions starting **How...?** Or **In what way...?**

These are **adverbs of manner**.

She listened *carefully* to what he said.

It was *strangely* quiet.

Some **adverbs** answer questions starting **When...?**

These are adverbs of **time**.

I'll see you *tomorrow*.

We had finished the work *earlier*.

Some **adverbs** tell the reader where something is happening or set.

These are **adverbs of place**.

So, the boy went home to *the top of the hill*.

Some **adverbs** tell the reader why something is or has happened.

These are **adverbs of reason**.

Due to the fact that so many children wanted to change their books, the school library opened in the Summer holiday.

In class, we use "TRAMP" word mats to support pupils: Time, Reason, Manner, Place.

TIME	REASON	MANNER	PLACE
yesterday...	because...	quickly...	in the graveyard...
last week...	due to the fact...	like lightning...	next to the castle...
twice a week...	as...	with a smirk...	under the stairs...
next...	therefore...	carefully...	between the buildings...
when...	consequently...	easily...	at the top of the hill...
after...		like a snake...	in the sky...
before...		like lightning...	
		in a flash...	

We often discuss the position of the adverb in a sentence and what impact this has upon the reader.

PE days Spring 1:

Classes will keep to the same PE days as Autumn 2. The focus is gymnastics so we will be using the village hall again.

Please can pupils continue to wear their PE kit to school on PE and club days, thank you.

Tuesdays: Fox Tor and Great Links

Wednesdays: Brentor and Oke Tor

Thursday: Fox Tor and Great Links

Friday: Oke Tor

Enrichment after school clubs:

Mondays: Oke Tor (all pupils) – multiplication club – Mr Payton

Monday (Lunchtime): home learning club (no need to sign up, drop in as needed)

Tuesdays: Dodgeball – Oke Tor/Great Links

Wednesdays: Dodgeball – Brentor/Fox Tor

Thursdays (Lunchtime): Book Club and Chess Club (Oke Tor and Great Links)

Thursdays: Choir – Yes Tor, Brentor and Fox Tor

Coding Club – Oke Tor/Great Links (paid club as outside provider)

Dates for your diary:

Friday 18th Feb - Last day of this half term

Monday 28th Feb – Back to school

Week of 14th Feb - Pupil progress meeting

June - Great Links residential trip to Bristol (more details to follow)

July – Oke Tor residential (more details to follow)

Attendance

Great Links Tor	99%
Fox Tor	94%
Brentor	92%
Oke Tor	99%
Whole School	94%

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.

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

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.

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](https://www.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



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