



Lew Trenchard C of E Primary School

Fortnightly Newsletter – 1st October 2021



Together We Grow in Wisdom and Serve with Joy

Dear parents/carers,

What a busy few weeks since the last newsletter, both in school and out! There seems to be so many challenges beyond our control now. It is at times like this, that we really value the support of each other and our school family. The pupils definitely keep us smiling every day.

Today, we see the return of our first competition beyond our school grounds, with some of our Key Stage 2 pupils playing in a football tournament at Tavistock. We are looking forward to more competitive events, as Mr Payton has been busy arranging them over the weeks to come. If you hear of anything locally, please let him know directly.

Miss Davy

School Improvement: Over the last couple of weeks, Mrs Sutherland has been asking some of our pupils from across the school about their views on reading. She informed us that, "All of the children expressed a very positive relationship with reading and reading in school. The children across all classes expressed an understanding of importance of reading. The children all expressed a love of the class story time each day. Most children talked about how to overcome challenge and help themselves. VL responses and vocab filtering through (resilience, challenge, never give up, go back and try again, use other skills, it's ok to ask for help from a friend or teacher). Children confidently talked about who supports them with reading in school. Many children from Y1 – Y6, have aspirations of what they want to read (titles and authors) in the future." This is such great feedback that reflects that our focus on reading is having a positive impact. Some older pupils said that they would like to read at home more with, or to an adult. We know that as pupils get older, reading in this way can become less frequent, but is still so valuable.

Research shows that reading can widen a child's vocabulary, improve their spelling and develop their imagination and concentration. A report from the Oxford University Press highlighted the importance of parents reading with their children. 'Children who read outside of class are 13 times more likely to read above the expected level for their age'. If you would like support or ideas in this area, please ask a member of staff.

Mr Elliott and Miss Davy have visited English lessons across the school this week, as part of subject leadership. This helps us to stay informed and see each stage of the learning journey in grammar and writing, speak to pupils and look at their books. This information then informs the subject action plans in order to continually improve our teaching and learning in each subject area.

As part of her Trust Science leader role, Mrs Sutherland has been supporting schools in the Trust with this and sharing good practice that she has seen here at Lew Trenchard. She has also attended online CPD to increase her knowledge and explore other resources.

Mr Payton has begun to monitor maths across the school and will be visiting lessons after half term.

Mrs Trevorah, Mrs McMorrow and Miss Davy have attended several online events for Early Years, supporting the implementation of the new framework. As we were Early Adopters, we are well underway with this change.

Outdoor PE

As the weather changes, we would like pupils to still come to school in their PE kits on PE days. They can wear gloves if they are prone to feeling the cold. A raincoat as well as their normal school coat is also advised. In addition, could pupils bring spare clothes, including socks and shoes, and a small towel in a NAMED BAG please. Yes Tor and Brentor pupils will not need to do this. We are continuing to follow Public Health England guidance that suggests PE sessions are outdoors for as long as possible. We will monitor this, particularly as the weather gets colder and keep you informed of any changes.

After half term, we will be planning new PE content so hopefully, this will be indoors.

Yes Tor and Brentor outside areas

Staff have been busy developing our outdoor provision. A huge thank you to Mrs Trevorah and her family (including the dog), Matt and Chloe for their hard work over the weekend, Brentor is looking amazing, and the pupils are loving it.



Thank you also to “Magical Mud Kitchens” for designing and making a magnificent mud kitchen for the outside area of pre-school.



Book Swap

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





A huge congratulations to Mrs McMorrow on gaining a first class honours in her Masters, what an incredible achievement, especially over the last couple of years. We are very proud of 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.

Attendance

Great Links Tor	96%
Fox Tor	96%
Brentor	90%
Oke Tor	97%
Whole School	95%

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.

Friends of Lew Trenchard School (FLS)

To keep everyone updated of what the FLS do and where the funds they raise go, we have been discussing a "Friends" newsletter to circulate, possibly one a term, please keep a look out. 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>

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:

Monday 18th October – WREN enrichment day (more details to follow soon)

Harvest Celebrations TBC – please see Dojo for more information

22nd October - last day of Autumn Term 1

1st November – first day of Autumn 2

20th November – Table top sale fundraiser 11am-2pm Lewdown Victory Hall

First week of November – Parent calls - Provision map updates

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 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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