



Lew Trenchard C of E Primary School

Weekly Newsletter – 14th February 2020



Together We Grow in Wisdom and Serve with Joy

Dear parents/carers,

What a great start to Spring term this week, it was lovely to see everyone back and to start to see signs of better weather and longer days!

In Collective Worship, we have introduced the theme of “Thankfulness” and started off by thinking about what we are thankful for and why it is important to show gratitude. As always, the pupils made thoughtful contributions and have been demonstrating their gratitude throughout the week.

We also discussed Shrove Tuesday, Ash Wednesday and Lent and reflected on how our “actions can speak louder than words.” Again, we have been reflecting upon and applying these principles in our daily school lives. We have been incredibly impressed by how well the pupils have identified situations during the school day and linked them to the aspects of our Worship this week.

Miss Davy

School Improvement:

Mrs Hussey and I looked at learning across the school this week. We were really impressed with the progress and coverage in every class and it is clear to see how hard the pupils and staff are working. Assessments and quizzes are showing that pupils are knowing and remembering more. Staff are continuing to focus on specific areas of development within their classes.

Mrs Sutherland has introduced some new approaches in Science across the whole school, which the pupils are really enjoying and the staff are finding helpful, especially when revisiting prior learning. Some of the Explorify sessions provide the pupils with the opportunity to develop deeper thinking and discussion through “what is the same/different” and “odd one out” type tasks. These really help us develop the learning dispositions that we want to develop as a school.

Thank you to those of you who have asked for paper copies of the learning disposition forms to complete at home. They are primarily to promote discussion between children and parents/carers so it doesn't really matter which boxes are completed, more the acknowledgement of the dispositions being used. Please do hesitate to ask a member of staff for more information or support.

Uniform Sale: Last few bits available at drastically reduced prices! Please check school money for availability.



Attendance for last week

Great Links Tor	90%
Fox Tor	91%
Brentor	96%
Oke Tor	100%
Whole School	94%
(Whole School	93.7% for the Year to Date)

National expectations are 96%

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.

MORE INFORMATION BELOW

Toddler Group – Toddlers will return on the week of the 24th February with **World Book Day** – **please bring your favourite book to share!!** For more information please see the website/Facebook page or ask Justine for the activities list for the rest of the term. This is a lovely group of parents and toddlers/babies, which meet on Mondays mornings and Thursday mornings (9am-11am) during term time with the fantastic Justine, with a love of messy play,

World Book Day Thursday 5th March:

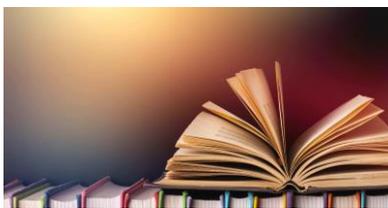
This year we are inviting parents and families into school in the morning to see RWI and whole class Guided Reading. We would also like you to share a favourite book or story that you enjoy, if you are happy to.

There is no pressure to dress up but if your child would like to then they can dress us as a word, for example for the word "illuminate" they could wear a set of fairy lights. If they don't want to dress up they don't need to, uniform is fine.

In the afternoon we will be looking at the books of Michael Morpurgo and writing letters to him.

We are also hoping to record some stories for our own Bedtime Story programme, more details over the next few weeks.

In pre-school and toddlers we would like the children to bring their favourite book.



Movie Night – The FLS are organising an Easter themed Movie Night with the film "Hop" for Friday 13th March from 3.30pm. Tickets will be £2.50 each, and will cover entry, milkshake/squash and a cookie/fruit. Tickets will be available from the office soon.

Easter Egg Hunt – All children are invited to join in with the Easter Egg Hunt on Friday 27th March at 3.00pm. This is a free of charge event organised by the FLS.

Please note that there will be no Easter Egg Grand Draw this year.

Wrap around care. This is available to book via SchoolMoney. **All bookings for breakfast club and wrap around care need to be made in advance** as much as possible as this helps us plan staff ratios needed. It also helps us order the correct amount of food to minimise waste and make sure everyone is well fed.

Please note that children need to be collected from Yes Tor (the pre-school classroom) – you will need to access via the wooden side gate, please ring the doorbell on the gate when you arrive. It is quite dark at the moment along the alley way, please be careful.

Tavy13

You may have seen on Dojo before Christmas that the Tavy13 is fast approaching. This is a great opportunity for the children to take part in an organised running event. They will run 1 to 1.5 miles each week in the run up to the main event in Tavistock on Sunday 29th March. If your child is interested in taking part, please collect an entry form from the school office. Running club on Fridays after school will work to complete these miles.



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

Car parking – This is still causing some issues, please do not park on the lines, zig zags or in front of people's houses. The road markings are there to ensure everyone's safety. We appreciate it is busy during school drop off and collection but please be mindful of residents other road users.



Cold and Wet Weather – Please can we ask that you encourage your children to remember to bring a coat to school every day. The weather is extremely changeable at the moment, and can be very cold as well as very wet, even if it has seemed quite mild first thing in the morning. On particularly cold days a hat is also a good idea.

Jumble Sale and Grand Draw – Kay is organising a Jumble Sale for 21st March 2020, if you have any items of jumble you would like to donate, please see the office. Also, if you are able to help at all on the day it would be very much appreciated – please let us know! She is also organising a **Grand Draw** for the same day (First Prize is a TV), tickets are available from the office. All proceeds will go to the School.



Dogs Trust Talks – We have Stacey from the Dogs Trust coming to talk to the children on Tuesday 10th March.

Celebration Awards



	Values in action	Good Learner
Great Links	Nathan - responsibility	Annabelle – reflective and enthusiastic learning
Fox Tor	Riley P Jaydon	Whole class – hard work Ellie G Taylor
Brentor	Connor – good role model throughout the school	Freya – Resourcefulness Ruby H – Independent home learning
Oke Tor	Poppy - responsibility	Bethany – resilient and methodical learning
Yes Tor Star of the week – Ellie-Mae		

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

Please note that children in pre-school may now be eligible, please see the office for more information.

Dates for your diary

2nd March – Brentor Farm Trip

4th March – World Maths Day

5th March – World Book Day

10th March – Dogs Trust Talks

13th March – St Petrocs Cross Country

13th March – Movie Night

16th March – Year 3 Parent Meetings (1)

18th March – Rescheduled Football Tournament

23rd March – Year 3 Parent Meetings (2)

24th March – Year 6 Parent Meetings

25th March – Brentor Parent Meetings

26th March – Year 2 Parent Meetings

14th April – Easter Service

May – Year 2 SATs

W/C 11th May – Year 6 SATs week

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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