



# Lew Trenchard C of E Primary School

Weekly Newsletter – 11<sup>th</sup> September 2020



*Together We Grow in Wisdom and Serve with Joy*

Dear parents/carers,

“Thank you” to all of the families and staff for a brilliant first week back. It has been an absolute joy to see everyone, especially the smiling faces of our pupils. We have been amazed at how happily and confidently they have all come into school. It is hard to believe that some of our new pupils haven’t had any transition into the school, none of the pupils have had the usual transition into their new classes and some pupils haven’t been to school since March. They have all been amazing and we are so proud of each and every one of them.

We are also very grateful to our families for adhering to the new procedures and bearing with us when we have had to fine tune things. Thank you. We are constantly reflecting and refining to ensure that the safety, well-being and education of our pupils is the best it can be.

We are all excited and very much looking forward to the new academic year and are happy to be back to normal.

*Miss Davy*

## **School Improvement:**

Phonics and reading continue to be the main focus of school improvement. Staff have worked incredibly hard to prepare reading books for “Accelerated Reading” which will be used for pupils once they graduate off of the RWI phonics programme. We will share more about this once we have assessed all of the pupils.

For now, we will be changing the pupils’ reading books on sets day for each class. This will help us adhere to our risk assessment whilst ensuring that pupils are reading. The days are as follows:

Monday: Brentor (Reception and Year 1)

Tuesday: Yes Tor (pre-school)

Wednesday: Oke Tor (Year 4 and 5)

Thursday: Fox Tor (Year 2 and 3)

Friday: Great Links (Year 6)

We will send a couple of books at a time for those pupils on RWI and where teachers think that pupils might need more than one. Pupils who are reading chapter books, do not need to bring them in weekly, but as they finish them on their book change day.

These books can stay at home all week and only need to come into school on the designated book change day with the child’s reading record. They will have a school book that will remain at school to read and staff will use school record books for those.

Books can come into school in either a named book bag or carrier bag.

We have purchased a trolley of netbooks to help with not only the computing curriculum but also for Spelling Shed, Times Tables Rock Stars and Accelerated Reader quizzes. The trolley has arrived this week and we are waiting for the netbooks.

**Uniform Sale:** Last few bits available at drastically reduced prices! 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	100%
Fox Tor	99%
Brentor	99%
Oke Tor	100%
Whole School	99%
(Whole School	99% 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.

**Toddler Group** – We are hoping to begin toddler sessions after half term. We will keep you posted.



**Breakfast Club and 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.

**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.**

**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](https://oneonline.devon.gov.uk/CCSCitizenPortal_LIVE/Account/Login?ReturnUrl=%2fCCSCitizenPortal_live)

### **A reminder of what to bring to school:**

Thank you for following the guidance sent out but just a couple of reminders please:

Pupils only need to bring:

- a coat
- a drink bottle
- packed lunch if they're not having school dinners
- A healthy snack (Yes Tor and Brentor receive free fruit)
- Wellington boots
- Reading books on their book change day

They can bring these items into school in either a carrier bag or a bag that can either be hot washed or wiped/sprayed.

Please can we ask that pupils do not bring in any toys as we do not have anywhere to keep them and we are trying to minimise the number of things in school so that cleaning is easier. We also don't want to lose anything precious!

Thank you for your support with this.

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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