



# Lew Trenchard C of E Primary School

## Fortnightly Newsletter – 17<sup>th</sup> September 2021



*Together We Grow in Wisdom and Serve with Joy*

Dear parents/carers,

We have had a fantastic start to the new academic year, it has been wonderful to be back together as a school family. Thank you for adapting so quickly to the new timings. The pupils, both new and old, have settled back to school life brilliantly and have got straight back into the routine of school. A warm welcome to you all. The buzz of learning around the school is truly inspiring, especially considering the disruptions of the last academic year.

Although restrictions are lifting, we are still very aware of the high case numbers in our region, so although we returning to some of our normal routines and procedures, we are still adhering to the same levels of hygiene and ventilation and myself and Mrs Hussey attend any update webinars, such as Public Health England, to update our risk assessments and keep our school family as safe as we can. It has been brilliant being able to eat in the hall again, careful planning has ensured that we have reintroduced this safely. Enrichment clubs are in full swing too, which is brilliant to see. Mr Payton is keen to get us involved in competitive sporting events this year, more information to follow as we get it.

Whole School Worship and Celebration Assembly is taking place outside and we are beginning to welcome back visitors who support us with Worship, this week seeing the return of Father Philip, which was wonderful. Open the Book will return next week to bring some of the Bible stories alive for us.

We are aware that as communities start to mix more, that we are going to get more common illnesses as we would have previously and are very grateful to our families for following the guidance that exists around these situations. Thank you for checking with us when you need to, this helps us to maintain a safe and healthy school environment.

*Miss Davy*

### **School Improvement:**

We will continue to focus on phonics and reading across the school, as our implementation plan will take a couple of years to embed fully. We have already seen the positive impact that phonological awareness in Pre-school, RWI, Accelerated Reader, Whole Class Guided Reading and developing a love of reading has had throughout the school, which we will continue to build upon. Miss Davy has attended more "Right to Read" virtual sessions in the first two weeks back.

In addition to this, we will be focusing more on oracy this year and are really focusing on developing oracy throughout our school. Our first objective focuses on "Listening and responding appropriately", which staff are considering when planning and teaching other curriculum areas, at age-appropriate levels. Last year, we began to use "Picture News" as an additional resource for Worship. This resource provides pupils with the opportunity to develop discussion and debate as well as developing an awareness of current world-wide issues.

Teaching staff will be uploading "Meet the Teacher" documents this week via Class Dojo and on the website, which will inform families of the learning focuses for their child/dren, provide examples of age expectations for the end of the year and home learning expectations.



To celebrate National Teaching Assistants Day on 16<sup>th</sup> September, we would like to say a huge “Thank you” to all of our amazing support staff for everything that you do for the school and our school family. We are truly blessed.

### Friends of Lew Trenchard School (FLS)

We are so fortunate to have such a dedicated team of parents who work tirelessly to support our school. Despite all the barriers of recent times, they have continued to raise substantial amounts for our pupils and school. We are all so grateful. Thank you for supporting the fundraising efforts.

In order to keep everyone updated of what they 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>

### Book Swap

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



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

### **Attendance**

Great Links Tor	91%
Fox Tor	96%
Brentor	97%
Oke Tor	93%
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.

### **Dates for your diary:**

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October – WREN enrichment day (more details to follow soon)

Harvest Celebrations TBC

22<sup>nd</sup> October - last day of Autumn Term 1

1<sup>st</sup> November – first day of Autumn 2

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](http://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](mailto:flsfundraising@hotmail.com)  
[lewtrenchardgovernors@andaras.org](mailto:lewtrenchardgovernors@andaras.org)  
[lewtrenchard@andaras.org](mailto:lewtrenchard@andaras.org)