



Lew Trenchard C of E Primary School

Fortnightly Newsletter – 22nd October 2021



Together We Grow in Wisdom and Serve with Joy

Dear parents/carers,

How quickly seven weeks have past, I can't believe that we are at the half term point already! We have had a wonderful first half term and the children have made some incredible progress in their learning; we are all very proud of them. It has been so good to be able to ease some of the restrictions that we have had in place of the last couple of years and we are grateful to the support and consideration of our school family for keeping us all as safe and well as possible, thank you.

We are regularly holding whole school Worship and Celebration Assemblies but outside and we have loved having Open the Book and Father Phillip back at school. Again, we are thankful for their willingness to lead these outside (and via Zoom still if necessary).

Recently, we welcomed the WREN community folk group to our school. The day started with a short introduction to folk music, the tales and songs collected by Sabine Baring-Gould. As a school, we have historical and geographical links with Baring-Gould's legacy within and around the village of Lewdown and Lew Trenchard, including his family home of Lew Trenchard Manor and connections to St Peter's Church.

Throughout the day, each class were immersed into music and song during a singing workshop with professional folk singer Paul Wilson, as well as a tunes workshop with professional musicians. The children had the opportunity to explore and experience a range of tuned instruments and collaborate as a band to perform a short piece of music.

Our enrichment day ended with a short performance of achievements and celebration. Our children have been inspired by the enrichment day which has ignited curiosity for musical instruments, singing and our local heritage. Many thanks to Mrs Sutherland for organising this event and to the FLS for funding it. We plan to make this an annual event.

We are also excited to inform you that the Andaras Multi-Academy Trust has successfully secured the purchase of the site next to the school, previously belonging to Mr Worth, more details to follow.

Finally, we would like to wish you all a safe and restful half term break, we look forward to welcoming you all back on Monday 1st November.

Miss Davy

After school enrichment clubs:

Tuesday: Netball/Basketball – Brentor/Fox Tor

Wednesday: Love Our School (Mrs Sutherland) – same group as Autumn 1

Thursday: Coding Club – Oke Tor and Great Links (forms to be completed for this please)

Thursday: Choir (Mrs McMorrow)

PE Days

Please note that PE is on different days, but the whole school will be learning Dance in the Victory Hall for one-hour sessions. Pupils are still required to wear their PE kits to school on PE days/club please.

Tuesday: Fox Tor/Great Links Tor

Wednesday: Brentor/Oke Tor

We will be walking pupils to the hall and back, so please ensure that they have wellington boots and coats in school. Thank you. Teaching staff will inform you of the second hour of PE once they have confirmed their timetables for Autumn 2.

Oke Tor and Great Links Tor will be swimming on Friday afternoons, please see the separate letter that Mr Payton has sent out regarding this. We will also be sending out a parent questionnaire to ascertain pupils' confidence and ability in the water. This will be sent out as soon as we return from half term.

School improvement:

Over the last two weeks, we have had visits from our Academy Improvement Officers, Mrs Saunders and Mr Swait. Mrs Saunders visited with our Early Years Trust leader, Mrs Jones, to look at our Early Years and Key Stage One provision, focusing mainly upon the new Early Years Framework. Both of our visitors commented very positively on the hard work that our team have put into developing the classroom environments, both inside and out. They were very impressed how calm and engaged the children were, even when the whole class were outside in Continuous Provision. Their play was clearly purposeful and the learning evident to see. They also commented on the clear

The visit was hugely positive and provided us with some useful ideas and next steps as well. Our visitors also "Magpied" some ideas and examples of good practice to share with other schools in our Trust.

Mr Swait visited to look at writing and again, his report was extremely positive. He could see how hard staff and pupils are working to address gaps in learning due to the last couple of disrupted years. He also spoke to some of our pupils and was very impressed with their confidence and understanding of what they are learning and how they are learning it.

Internal monitoring has focused on visiting writing lessons, looking at writing books and maths books.

This week, phonics assessments have also been undertaken and the progress is staggering. Mrs Laithwaite has also conducted a vocabulary assessment for our Reception pupils, which was also brilliant. These assessments are to inform our provision and teaching and is used for internal purposes only at this stage.

Mrs Thorp has begun her ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistants) training, which will continue over the next few months.

Mrs McMorrow and Mrs Oakes have signed up for Emotional Logic training, which will begin in the new year.

Friends of Lew Trenchard School (FLS)

Christmas Hamper – We will soon be organising our annual Christmas hamper, we would be grateful for any luxury donations.

This could be anything from a packet of biscuits to a magnum of fizz and anything in between. The more items donated the less we need to purchase and the more profit we can raise. A collection box will be on the school gate for the first week back after half term.

Tickets will be sent home soon. Thank you for your continued support.

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.

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

Attendance

Great Links Tor	92%
Fox Tor	92%
Brentor	97%
Oke Tor	100%
Whole School	95%

National expectations are 95%

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:

22nd October - last day of Autumn Term 1

1st November – first day of Autumn 2

First week of November – Parent calls - Provision map updates

3rd November – Collapsed Curriculum Day, all children in P.E Kits please for an alternative Sports Day

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 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 8.45am. 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 9.15am, 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. * **Comments for Governors** - If you have any comments or suggestions for the school Governors these can be placed in the black box outside of the gate



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