



# Leechpool Link

Academic Year 2019 -2020  
Issue 6 February 2020

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## This Issue:

General Updates

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Safer Internet Day/ Week

Parent Consultations

Ofsted Parent Survey Sporting Events

Reminders

## Special Dates of Interest:

- ◆ 11 Feb Safer Internet talk for families 9.00 a.m.
- ◆ 13 Feb LEAF Disco infants 5.15 pm Junior 6.30 pm.
- ◆ World Book Day 5 March 2020 Book Props
- ◆ 6 March Parent Survey Deadline
- ◆ 1 April Easter Assembly

See the Diary Page Updates for further dates for this term and 2019-2020

## General updates

Dear Everyone

This half term has been very busy, with lots of learning and excitement during the International Fortnight and now we are all excitedly working hard on our new topics based around books in the lead up to World Book Day on Thursday 5 March 2020. This year we will not be dressing up for World book day but instead will ask children to be creative and bring in a prop to promote a favourite book.

We have been very impressed with the completed workbooks of the children from across the school over the last few weeks. Standards in presentation and the quality of writing and mathematics is continuing to improve, along with the standards in topic work - a focus for our on-going development.

This was celebrated in our national outcomes, where we are performing above the national average in reading, mathematics and writing. We recently received a letter from Jeremy Quinn our local member of Parliament congratulating everyone at the school for our successes.

## Staff Information

Following a recent recruitment exercise Mrs Lisa Wade has joined the Early Years team as a Learning Support Assistant and brings with her a great deal of experience of working with children who have Special Educational Needs. She is currently settling into school life.

Ms Cuthell the teacher of Year 5 is currently on long term sick leave and the class is being taken by Mr Sibley in her absence. She has informed the school that she will be retiring at the end of term.

Miss Currington who is currently on maternity leave will be returning to work after the Easter holiday. She will become the teacher of Lion Class with the successful new Assistant Headteacher once appointed.

Mrs Gray who teaches for two days in Eagle class has informed the school that she wishes to leave at the end of term to work for a music and drama company. We would like to thank her for all her enthusiasm and commitment to Leechpool School over the last 4 years. We wish her every success. Mrs Vowels will teach Eagle class full-time.



## Safer Internet Day/ 2 Weeks 4 -13 February Tuesday 11 February 2020

On Tuesday 11 February, we will be holding a workshop for parents at 9.00 a.m. in the school hall.

The session will be led by T/DI Vinod Wagjiani who has extensive knowledge on cyber crime and the safeguarding of children on line. He will be sharing with everyone, useful actions for families to take to support children using the internet safely. He will help families identify what is appropriate and safe for children on line.

We do hope you will attend this very useful and helpful session. After the parent session DC Wagjiani will hold assemblies for both Key Stage 1 and 2.

## Parent Consultations

The next parent consultations will be:  
**Tues 3 March 3.30pm - 7.00pm**  
**Thurs 5 March 3.30pm - 7.00pm**

All children are invited to attend the consultations with their families. Families will be able to make an appointment for all year groups on eSchools using your eSchools login. Sign up for the consultations will go live on Monday 24 February 2020.

Miss Payne (SENCO/Inclusion Manager) will be sending out invites to families to attend consultations with her. The timings for Lion Class parent consultation will be shared separately with families.

## OFSTED Parent View Survey

This year, the school has decided to carry out the yearly parent survey on-line using Goggle forms.

We would appreciate it if you could follow the link below and complete the 2 minute survey.

By carrying out the survey you are helping us to ensure that Leechpool continues to be the best it can be....

This survey needs to be completed by Friday 6 March 2020. Click [here](#) for the link .

We will also be providing paper copies of the survey at the Parent consultations in March for families to complete who have difficulty accessing the survey on line. We do hope you will take the time to complete this survey. Thank you.

## Polling Day Thursday 7 May 2020

The school has been informed that there will be Police Commissioner elections on Thursday 7 May 2020. This means that the school will be closed for two days on the week beginning 4 May due to the VE Day (Victory in Europe) celebrations that have moved the usual Bank holiday from the Monday to the Friday.

We will now be organising our VE Day celebrations at school for Wednesday 6th May 2020. We are sorry for this late notice but we have only just received notification these elections will be taking place locally.

## Sports Events

We started the year positively on the sports pitch with two hockey competitions where our teams performed to a very high standard. Our A team finished joint 3rd which is the highest position a Leechpool team has ever finished.

Our netball team competed in round two of competitions and once again finished the evening unbeaten so now head to the C league finals in April.

The annual Sportshall Athletics competitions are in full flow. Our year 3/4's competed brilliantly last week against 11 others schools and in the first week after half term, our year 5/6's will be hoping to show off all the hard work they have been doing in the PE lessons with Mr Barden - we are aiming for a top 3 finish!

February will also see us compete in the Horsham schools swimming gala and a dodgeball tournament! And not forgetting cross-country where we have carefully selected our competitors based on their Big Run performances over the year. All three of these competitions have offered some children the opportunity to represent Leechpool for the first time in a sports event, which is brilliant to see.

Finally, our football teams are practising hard at clubs and lunchtime in preparation for the start of the cup competitions after half term. Our year 3/4 boys and girls teams are the focus this time and they have enjoyed friendly matches with Southwater in order to gain some match play experience before the big day! Keep up the good work everyone.

## School Uniform

Thank you to everyone for ensuring that the school uniform policy is followed. The children all look very smart and they wear their uniform with pride. Please remember school shoes should be worn – trainers are only for sporting activities.

Could we also ask that PE kits are brought to school on a Monday and taken home on a Friday for washing and checking, by all year groups. This will ensure that PE kits are regularly monitored and it should help to keep our lost property collection down.

### Hair

- 1) For safety reasons, all long hair needs to be drawn back from the face and tightly secured (e.g. by hair bands).
- 2) No extreme fashion hairstyles are acceptable i.e. Mohicans, sculpted patterns, tramlines or shaved heads etc. If you are unsure – please seek advice before cutting or styling your child's hair.
- 3) Ribbons, clips, headscarves etc. should be kept simple and to school colours. Braiding and coloured beads are best kept for school holidays. We will be monitoring this over the coming weeks.

### Head lice

Over the last few weeks, we have had an increased number of cases of head lice reported. Whenever we have a case reported to the school, we do inform all families of the class and we ask that all families check the hair of their children and treat as necessary.

### Parking Outside the school

The issue of parking outside the school continues to cause problems for local residents. **Could we please ask you to ensure that at all times whilst parking near the school you are considerate of local residents and that you are vigilant regarding the safety of all our children.**

**All car users should ensure that they do not park on yellow lines or near the drop down pavements used for crossing the road by the children.** Thank you.

### School Office Opening times

The school office opening times are from 8.00 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday. All families visiting the school should do so between these times only. Changes to pick up arrangements for children should **not** be emailed to the school. Parents need to speak to a member of staff by telephone before 2.00pm. Thank you.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the School Office.

Nicola Davenport

Headteacher

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