

Littledean Church of England Primary School

Church Street, Littledean, Gloucestershire, GL14 3NL

Telephone: 01594 822171

Fax: 01594 825436

Email: admin@littledean.gloucs.sch.uk

Website: www.littledeanprimary.co.uk



People with time for Children

Newsletter 1

11th September 2017

Dear Parents

Welcome Back

We hope that you had a fantastic break and made the most of the good weather. The children have settled into school life well and it is lovely to see them all looking so smart.

We would like to welcome Mrs Lyons who will be teaching in Hawthorn Class this year and also teaching PE across the school.

As the school is nearly full, only two spaces in Reception Class, and the new Pre-School is starting to fill up we have more parents and pupils than we have had for many, many years. With this in mind I have detailed a few reminders for parents, staff and pupils so that the school can run effectively.

Communication

Communication is key to a good relationship between school, parents and pupils. Despite best efforts we know we do not always get this right but are continually reviewing how we keep parents informed.

- All letters and newsletters are posted on the school website, on the home page and on the letters page.
- We will email a copy to parents where we have email addresses. This will come from our website provider 'E-Schools' (please check spam and junk files as it may be sent there).
- A copy will be sent through the School App – details on how to access this will follow shortly.
- A copy will be placed in the folder outside the school office.
- Newsletters will be placed in the noticeboard in the rear playground.
- The oldest child in each family will be given a paper copy.
- If you are not sure ask the school office staff.

We also have a text message service provided by E-Schools and will send urgent or important messages via text message.

If you have not received an email or text message by time you receive a paper copy of this letter please let the office know as we do not have the correct details for you. Many thanks.

Christian Values for Life

Every term we have a whole school focus on a particular 'Value for Life' through collective worship and also through activities carried out in each class. We thought that it would be useful for you to know which value we are looking at each term so that you can talk about it with your child and maybe let us know in their reading record any occasions where you see your child demonstrating a particular value. The value that we are thinking about this term is **Friendship** we will let you know each term what the new value is and it will also be on the school website.

Contact Details

It is important that we have up to date contact details for your children – you never know when we might need to contact you in an emergency. Although the data collection sheets will be sent out this term if you have changed address, phone number, email address please let the office know as soon as possible.

Head teacher: Mrs Hayley McGoldrick

Website – www.littledeanprimary.co.uk

Please take a look at our school website there are lots of useful information, reports and photos of the school. We endeavour to keep this as up to date as possible. Log in details for the parent app will be sent out shortly.

Communication between home and school.

We have an open door policy and encourage parents into school to share their children's learning. Teaching staff will welcome children into school at the beginning of each day where quick messages can be passed on. They are also available after school each day for more lengthy matters. Reading records can also be used for messages.

Collecting and delivering children

Children should not be in school unaccompanied before 8.30 a.m. we ask that all children and parents wait in the rear playground until asked to come into school. School starts at 8.45 a.m. and ends at 3.00 p.m. At the end of the day parents/carers should wait in the rear playground and children will be sent to them. If someone other than the norm is collecting your child please let a member of staff or the office know, we will not let them leave the premises with someone that is not known to us.

No-one should be parking in the playground as children are walking through it to arrive and go home. One or two parents have been given special permission to use the playground due to special conditions agreed by the school although they should not enter the playground if there are children there.

Whilst we encourage children to walk to school we know that this is not possible for all. We have permission to use Oak Way car park for delivery and collection, please be courteous to the residents and do not obstruct their garages and gateways. Thank you.

Children arriving late / leaving early

Classroom doors will be shut at 8.45 a.m. If you arrive after this please use the main entrance doors and report to reception where an adult will be asked to sign their child in. If your child leaves early during the school day an adult must sign the children out.

Holidays in Term Time

We continue to implement the Government rules around holidays in term time. The 'Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006' amendments remove the ability for head teachers to grant holidays or extended leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. If you feel you have an exceptional circumstance and wish to remove your child from school you must put your request in writing to the head teacher. All written requests will be reviewed on an individual basis.

School Meals

Children in Years Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a free school meal each day. (This is known as the Universal Infant Free School Meal) For children in years 3, 4, 5 and 6 the meals cost £2.28 each.

Dinner menus are issued on a Friday and should be completed and returned to the office on a Monday morning during registration time. Any meals booked after this will be chosen by the kitchen. We are unable to provide a meal unless it has been paid for in advance through parent pay (www.parentpay.co.uk) or a paypoint card.

Free school meals

The school receives additional money (currently £1300 per child) to support children whose families are in receipt of certain benefits. This includes children in Reception, Year 1 and 2. In our school it is used to support children with their learning.

If you claim Income Support, income based job seekers allowance or child tax credits where the household income is less than £16190 then you may be entitled. Gloucestershire County Council has a new on-line portal for all applications. This can be found at:

<http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/school-transport-and-free-school-meals/apply-for-free-school-meals/>

If you do not have access to a computer please contact the office and they will assist you with your application. All applications are treated in confidence.

Head teacher: Mrs Hayley McGoldrick

Cool Milk

Milk can be purchased from Cool Milk for your child at a cost of approximately £3.00 per term. Under 5's receive it free as do all children entitled to free school meals. Application forms are available from the school office, or visit www.coolmilk.com/

School Policies

The school holds many policies which are available in the school office should you wish to read them. A selection of policies are available on the schools website – <http://www.littledeanprimary.co.uk/website/policies/176901>

Money in School

With the closure of the HSBC bank it has become more difficult for the school to bank money so we are asking parents to use the online payment system – Parent Pay, or a Pay Point station, the nearest is based in Littledean Stores. Activation codes and instructions for Parent Pay will be issued / reissued shortly. Thank you.

Medicines/Allergies

Staff in schools are advised not to administer medicines to children. However if no alternative is available we will administer medicines on your behalf as long as a medicines form has been completed and the medication is in the correct packaging. Forms are available from the class teachers. If your child has an allergy ie nuts, strawberries please let the class teacher know.

Headlice

Unfortunately we have occasions where head lice and nits are an issue. The latest advice from NHS direct (<http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice/Pages/Treatment.aspx>) is that wet combing is the best method for eradicating them. They say.....

For wet combing to be effective, it involves regular and thorough combing which is time consuming. The wet combing method is described below.

- *Wash the hair using ordinary shampoo and apply plenty of conditioner, before using a wide-toothed comb to straighten and untangle the hair.*
- *Once the comb moves freely through the hair without dragging, switch to the louse detection comb. Make sure the teeth of the comb slot into the hair at the roots with the bevel-edge of the teeth lightly touching the scalp.*
- *Draw the comb down to the ends of the hair with every stroke and check the comb for lice.*
- *Remove lice by wiping or rinsing the comb.*
- *Work methodically through the hair, section by section, so that the whole head of hair is combed through.*
- *Rinse out conditioner and repeat the combing procedure in the wet hair.*
- *Repeat the procedure on days five, nine and thirteen so that you clear young lice as they hatch, before they have time to reach maturity.*

The length of time it will take to comb your child's hair will depend on the type of hair your child has and how long it is. For example, short, straight hair can be quickly prepared and can be fine-toothed combed in a few minutes, whereas longer, curlier hair will take longer to comb.

Healthy Snacks

Children in the Acorns, Holly Leaves and Holly Berries Classes are provided with a free piece of fruit each day for their mid-morning snack. Chestnut and Maple Class children are able to bring a snack into school for their break, but we do ask that it is healthy such as, fruit, veggie snacks, crackers etc. We ask that they do not bring crisps or chocolate bars. Thank you.

Uniform and PE Kit

We ask that all items of uniform, PE kit, bags and coats are named so that we can return items to the correct child if they lose them. Many thanks.

We suggest for all classes including pre-school that PE kit (trainers, shorts, t-shirt) are brought into school at the start of each term and kept in school in the cloakrooms.

Class PE sessions are: Holly Leaves – Wednesday, Holly Berries – Wednesday, Chestnut – Tuesday, Maple – Thursday.

Head teacher: Mrs Hayley McGoldrick

Pre-School children will need a PE kit each day as their sessions will change weekly. Pre-School staff also request that wellies are brought into school so that they can play in the garden with the mud kitchen. Thank you.

Pre School

We have a few vacancies in our Pre-School for children who are 3 or 4. Our opening hours have changed to: Monday, Thursday and Friday - 8.45 – 3.00, Tuesday closed all day and Wednesday 8.45 – 1.15.

Nursery funding for 15 hours is available for all children from the first term after their third birthday. The Governments new 30 hour funding is also available for parents who work or those entitled to certain benefits. Alternatively we are able to invoice you for the sessions.

If you are interested in your child attending our Pre-School, or would like to put your child's name on the waiting list for when they turn three please contact the office.

School Visits

As well as our normal visits to around the Village, Chestnut Woods, and St Ethelberts Church each class will also take part in a school visit this year. We are aware that these can be costly so will do our best to make sure that we keep costs to a minimum and give you sufficient notice.

So far we have organised a whole school visit to the Roses Theatre in Tewkesbury to see the pantomime Sleeping Beauty. This will take place on Wednesday 13th December and will cost in the region of £10.00 each. Thanks once again go to the Friends Association who have agreed to pay towards the costs of the transport. Further details will follow.

The residential visit for children in years 5 and 6 will take place from 18th – 20th April 2018. A reminder that a total of £40.00 is due by 15th September 2017, followed by a further £50 by 15th November and the final balance of £70 by 15th February 2018.

After School Clubs

These will start week commencing 18th September and will continue until week commencing 4th December. A letter will be issued shortly.

Emergency Closure Procedures

Although it has not happened for a number of years we all remember the chaos the snow can cause – hopefully it won't be needed this year – but just in case!

If we need to close the school we will:

- Send you a text message
- Announce the closure on Radio Gloucestershire – 104.7 fm
- Post the closure on www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/closedschools/
- Post the closure on our school website www.littledeanprimary.co.uk
- If possible a member of staff will be on site to advise of the closure.

Diary Dates

Friday 29 th September	Macmillan Coffee Morning
Wednesday 18 th October	School Photos – Individual and family groups
Friday 20 th October	Inset day 2

Term Dates for 2017/18

Term 1	Tuesday 5th September 2017 – Thursday 19th October 2017
Term 2	Monday 30th October 2017 – Friday 15th December 2017
Term 3	Tuesday 2nd January 2018 – Friday 9th February 2018
Term 4	Tuesday 20th February 2018 – Thursday 29th March 2018
Term 5	Monday 16th April 2018 – Friday 25th May 2018
Term 6	Wednesday 6th June 2018 – Wednesday 25th July 2018

Head teacher: Mrs Hayley McGoldrick