



Littledean C of E Primary School Newsletter 23

Dear Parents

8th March 2024

Comic Relief – Friday 15th March 2024



This year we ask the children to wear red on Red Nose Day, Friday 15th March 2024. A free donation page has been set up on our online payment system www.parentpay.com. Please donate there if you feel you are able to.

Librarians

Over the next few weeks we will be introducing you to our newly appointed librarians. They will be sharing book recommendations with you and letting you know about authors that they particularly like.

Our first librarian would like to recommend the book *The Secret Rescuers* by Paula Harrison.

"I recommend this book as it is good for people who like to read about horses. It is about a girl called Maya who is horrified when Clover, a baby unicorn is stolen by the nasty Sir Fitzroy. It is exciting and intriguing as Maya comes up with a plan to rescue Clover."



World Book Day

Thank you to all that joined us yesterday to celebrate World Book Day. Here are a few photographs from the day:



Volunteers in School

We are always looking for people to volunteer to read with our children in school. If you enjoyed reading with the children yesterday and have a little time to spare each week, please get in touch.

As a volunteer you would need to complete a volunteer application form, (just basic details about you) and a DBS form which we can organise for you.

Many thanks



Rock Steady

We have been advised today that Rock Steady will no longer offer lessons in school for our children. Our last session will be next week, Friday 15th March, when we will hold our end of term concert. All parents are welcome to join us from 9.30.



Shoe Boxes

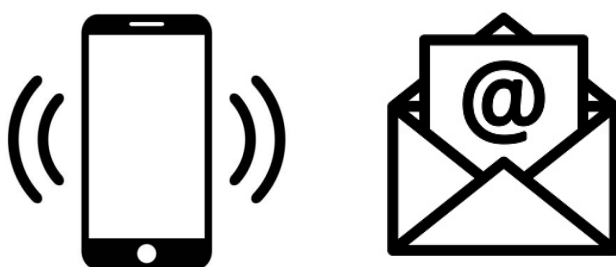
We are still looking for spare shoeboxes, if you have any please send them in.

Thank you



Contact Details

As the vast majority of our communications will now be through email or postings on the website or X is it even more important that we have up to date contact details for you. If you or your emergency contacts have changed telephone numbers, email addresses or have moved house please let us know as soon as possible.



Hot School Meals



Caterlink have issued a new summer menu which will start after the Easter break.

The new menu can be found at:

https://littledean.eschools.co.uk/cms_manage/edit_page/178534

Also meal prices will increase with the new menu. A paid meal will be £2.71 per meal, £13.55 per week, pre-school will be £2.72 per meal, £13.60 per week.

Children in reception, year 1 and year 2 are entitled to a free universal infant school meal (UFSM) each day.

If you feel you may be entitled to claim free school meals please check and apply at:

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

All applications are treated in confidence, should you have any questions or queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

Free School Meals – Holiday Vouchers and Activities

We have been asked by Gloucestershire County Council to share the following information with you.

This Easter 2024 holiday period, Gloucestershire County Council will provide families in receipt of Free School Meals, who sign up to this offer, with vouchers to assist with food costs during the April (Easter) 2024 and May 2024 school holidays. Applications for holiday FSM vouchers for April 2024 and May 2024 (Easter and half term) holidays will be open from midday 27 February until midday on 12 March. We will be unable to accept any applications after this date. Vouchers for **both** holiday periods (1 week (£15) for Easter and 1 week (£15) for May half-term, a total of £30 per eligible child) will be distributed to families the week commencing 18 March 2024.

Please encourage families to check their junk/spam folders during this period as sometimes the vouchers end up there.

If parents have not received their vouchers by 20 March 2024, please encourage them to email childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk **before the end of the holiday period (07 April 2024)**.

The scheme is for children in reception to year 11 who receive Pupil Premium (benefits-related) free school meals and attend a school in Gloucestershire. **We are unable to consider college and sixth form students, nor children who receive infant free school meals (available to all children from reception to year 2) - they are not eligible for this scheme.**

To find out more about the scheme and to apply, parents can visit our [FAQs | Gloucestershire County Council](#)

Families who have signed up previously do not need to re-register for Easter 2024 and May 2024 holiday vouchers- they will already have been included. Families that have previously signed up will need to contact us with any changes to their circumstances (e.g. if the number of children eligible increases or decreases). To ensure we reach all those who are eligible, we are encouraging parents that have not previously signed up, to sign up as soon as they can.

Please note we check eligibility for the scheme by cross-referencing with the term-time free school meal register, so please make sure parents are registered beforehand. They can register by visiting the [apply for free school meals](#) page. If your school is one of the five that do not use this method, we will require confirmation from yourselves on the child's eligibility. You can find more information on what schools these are on the link above.

Using vouchers – vouchers need to be used will only be awarded once the parent has registered for the scheme and cannot be backdated. Vouchers are valid for 6 months, although should be used in the holiday period in which they are awarded. If vouchers are not claimed and have expired, they cannot be re-issued. Vouchers not received should be queried via email to childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk by the end of the holiday period.

For any parents wishing to update details of an existing application, please ask them to email childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk so we can update their account, as details are not automatically updated.

Holiday Requests

We all look forward to a holiday away from home but, before you book, please remember that the Governments guidance remains very clear that we cannot authorise holiday requests in term time. Any requests submitted will not be authorised unless there are exceptional circumstances. You may also be fined for taking your child out of school during term time.



Term Dates 2023 / 2024

These are also available on our website

https://www.littledeanprimary.co.uk/website/term_dates/198634

Term 4 Monday 19th February 2024 – Friday 22nd March 2024

Term 5 Monday 8th April 2024 – Friday 24th May 2024

Term 6 Monday 3rd June 2024 – Monday 22nd July 2024

INSET Days 4 8th April 2024

5 22nd July 2024

Diary Dates

Friday 15 th March	Red Nose Day
Friday 15 th March	Rock Steady Concert 9.30 a.m.
Wednesday 20 th March	Governors Learning Walk – Art
Thursday 20 th March	Full Governing Board meeting
Thursday 21 st March	Experience Easter at St Ethelbert's Church
Friday 22 nd March	Last day of term, Easter service at St Ethelbert's Church
Friday 29 th March	Friends Easter Egg Hunt
Thursday 11 th April	Holly Leaves and Holly Berries Visit to Hartpury University
Friday 12 th April	Governors Learning Walk - PSHCE
Wednesday 17 th April	National Allocation Day for reception pupils
Wednesday 17 th April	Swimming session 1
Friday 26 th April	Wellbeing Champions visit to Viney Hill Centre
Monday 29 th April	Sports For Champions Sponsor Day
Tuesday 30 th April	Leadership Governors meeting
Wednesday 1 st May	Swimming Session 2
Wednesday 8 th May	Governors Learning Walk - DT
W/c Monday 13 th May	Year 6 SATS week
Wednesday 22 nd May	Maple Class Visit to Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust
Tuesday 4 th June	Maple Class Adventure Day – Wilderness Centre