

Littledean Church of England Primary School

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People with time for Children

Newsletter 1

5th September 2016

Dear Parents

Welcome Back

We hope that you had a fantastic break and made the most of the good weather. We would like to welcome you back to what looks like a busy and productive new academic year.

We would also like to welcome some new members of staff; Miss White who will be teaching in Hawthorn Class this year and also teaching PE across the school and Mr Virgo who will be joining us as a trainee teacher in Maple Class.

The children have settled back into school life well and it is lovely to see them all looking so smart.

Reading Records

This year the children will be bringing home reading record books which will take the place of the link books we have had for the past few years. The reading records will be in a plastic wallet which will also contain their reading book and any letters that we send home – please do check them regularly.

Homework

We are changing how we set homework across the school and will be setting homework activities which can be completed over the course of a term as well as the usual reading, spelling practice and x-table practice. There will be more information regarding this over the next week or so.

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 **Respect** 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.

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.

Head teacher: Mrs Hayley McGoldrick

Collecting and delivering children

Children should not be in school unaccompanied before 8.30 we ask that all children and parents wait in the rear playground until asked to come into school. School starts at 8.45 and ends at 3.00. 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. 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 £2.20 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. Application forms are available from the office or visit <http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=51954&p=0> all applications are treated in confidence.

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

Money in School

Any money coming into school must be in a named envelope and handed to the class teacher during registration. Where possible we ask that you use the 'parent pay' system www.parentpay.co.uk. Activation codes and instructions will be issued to new parents 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 infants are provided with a free piece of fruit each day for their mid-morning snack. Junior 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.

Emergency Closure Procedures

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 advice of the closure.

Diary Dates

Thursday 22 nd September	Experience Harvest
Friday 23 rd September	Experience Harvest
Friday 30 th September	Visit from the Life Bus
Wednesday 19 th October	Last day of term 1
Monday 31 st October	Start of term 2
Tuesday 1 st November	School Photographs
Tuesday 8 th November	Parents Afternoon
Thursday 10 th November	Parents Evening

