



Littledean C of E Primary School Newsletter 3

18th September 2026

Dear Parents,

Every Minute Matters

This year, we have made some changes to our school timetable. Children now begin important spelling and handwriting activities as soon as they arrive in the classroom, so learning starts straight away.

Please help your child get the very best from their school day by making sure they arrive at school on time every day (8.40). Even arriving just a few minutes late can mean missing valuable practice and starting the day trying to catch up.

Thank you for your continued support in helping children develop good attendance and punctuality habits and ensuring they don't miss any of their learning.



Absences and Early collections

A reminder to all parents and carers that all pupil absences must be reported using the school telephone line or the 24-hour absence option on our answer machine.

Please do not rely on email to report an absence, as emails may not be checked first thing in the morning and an important absence message could therefore be missed. Using the telephone absence line ensures that your message is received and recorded promptly.

If you need to collect your child from school during the school day, please let the school office know in advance wherever possible. This allows us to make the necessary arrangements and minimise disruption to your child and their class.

Please provide the reason for the early collection when contacting the school. Where a child is being collected for an appointment, evidence of the appointment will now be required (for example, an appointment letter, text message or other confirmation).

We appreciate your support in following these procedures. They help us to maintain accurate attendance records, ensure the safety of all pupils and allow the school day to run as smoothly as possible.

Staying Safe Online

The online world is a big part of our children's lives – whether they're playing games, watching videos, chatting with friends or discovering something new. There are so many positives, but it's also really important that we help children learn how to stay happy and safe online.

One of the best things we can do is simply keep the conversation going. You don't need to be a technology expert! Showing an interest in what your child enjoys online and having little chats along the way can make a big difference.

The attached document, Digital Conversation prompts might be a useful way to keep the conversation going, alternatively there is lots of great advice on:

<https://www.parentkind.org.uk/online-safety-toolkit>



Reception parents – Phonics Information session

**Reminder to Reception parents to come along to our Phonics Information Session -
Wednesday 23rd September at 3.45pm**

Find out how we teach your child to read using phonics and learn some simple, practical ways you can support their reading at home.

It's a great opportunity to see how phonics works in school and how you can help build your child's confidence and enjoyment of reading.

We hope to see you there!

Parent Governor Vacancies

A letter went out this week regarding two local parent governor vacancies. To anyone wanting more information or if you are considering putting yourself forward then this is a very good opportunity to gain experience and skills in a role where you will have a direct impact on improving and developing our school. Please contact the school office if you would like more information or a nomination form or contact clerk2govs@littledean.gloucs.sch.uk by 12 noon on Friday 25th September to submit your nomination. You can choose to nominate yourself or someone you trust to represent the views of parents at the school.

iSing Pop

On 30th September 2026, there will be a joint concert in St Ethelbert's Church, where we can join together as a community to celebrate the children's achievements.

The concert will begin at 6pm, please ensure you arrive at the venue no later than 15 minutes before to ensure a prompt start. The concert will last under an hour and we look forward to welcoming you.

Children are to wear school skirts or trousers with an iSingPOP top or another brightly coloured top for the concert. iSingPOP clothing and CDs can be purchased in advance of concert day by visiting www.isingpop.org/shop and following the instructions on screen. A CD or digital download is available to purchase on the website which includes the songs the children will be learning.

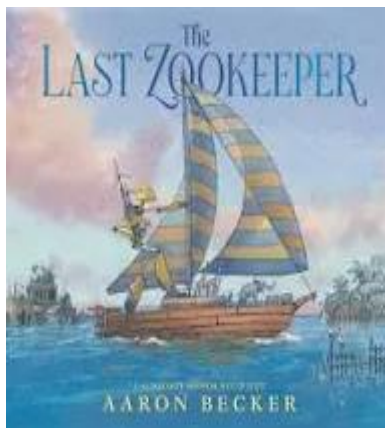
Use code "littledean26" to receive free delivery on your order, sent direct to the school. We guarantee your items will be delivered to the school in time for the concert when ordered by **Thursday 24th September** Orders received after this time or without the code will incur postage charges and may not arrive in time for the concert.



Year 3 and 4

In Year 3/4, we have started our exciting new unit of work based on The Last Zookeeper by Aaron Becker. The children have really enjoyed exploring the story, discussing the beautiful illustrations and developing their understanding of the characters and setting.

We have been particularly impressed with the children's writing so far. They have used some wonderful vocabulary and descriptive language to create fantastic descriptive sentences, bringing the story and its settings to life. We can't wait to see how their writing develops as we continue with this unit!



Maple Class

This term in PE, our focus has been *invasion games*. We have been learning how to work together to attack and defend as a team.

In our first lesson, we explored the basic principles of attacking and defending, thinking about how to create space, support teammates, and stop the opposition. In our second lesson, we developed our ball-handling skills through dribbling activities across a range of sports, including rugby, football, and netball.

This week, we were building on these skills by focusing on *passing in netball*. We practiced different types of passes and learned when and how to use them effectively during a game.

Alongside our practical skills, we have been placing a strong emphasis on what it means to be a good sportsperson. Before each session, we have discussed key values such as teamwork, communication, encouragement, and respect. It has been fantastic to see the children supporting one another, celebrating success, and demonstrating positive attitudes throughout our lessons.

We look forward to continuing to develop both skills and sportsmanship as the term progresses!



Just a reminder that our Year 6 children are welcome to attend upcoming secondary school open days and visits.

Please ensure that the **school office or your child's class teacher is advised in advance** if your child will be leaving school to attend an open day. This will allow us to have your child ready for collection promptly and ensure that their absence from school is recorded correctly.

Diary Dates

Wednesday 23 rd September	Phonics information session for Reception Parents
Tuesday 6 th October	Rags2Riches clothing collection
Tuesday 6 TH October	School Photographer
Friday 9 th October	Wellbeing champions visit to Viney Hill
Wednesday 30 th September	iSing Pop Concert at St Ethelberts
Tuesday 3 rd November	Flu Immunisations
Monday 14 th December	Whole School Pantomime Trip
Wednesday 16 th December	Christmas Jumper Day

Term Dates

These are also available on our website

2026 / 2027 – Please see website for full details

Term 1	Tuesday 1 st September 2026 – Friday 23 rd October 2026
Term 2	Monday 2 nd November 2026 – Friday 18 th December 2026
Term 3	Monday 4 th January 2027 – Friday 12 th February 2027
Term 4	Monday 22 nd February 2027 – Thursday 25 th March 2027
Term 5	Monday 12 th April 2027 – Friday 28 th May 2027
Term 6	Monday 7 th June 2027 – Wednesday 21 st July 2027

INSET Day	1	Tuesday 1 st September 2026
INSET Day	2	Friday 23 rd October 2026
INSET Day	3	Monday 4 th January 2027
INSET Day	4	Monday 22 nd February 2027
INSET Day	5	Monday 7 th June 2027