



Loving one another, building each other up

Littledean C of E Primary School Newsletter 18

30th January 2026

Dear Parents,

Rags to Riches Clothing Collection – Thursday 5th February 2026



Please bring your donations to school on the morning of Thursday 5th February 2026 before 9.00 a.m. and leave in the covered area outside the rear entrance door.

Thank you.

Waterproof Coats

Please ensure your child comes to school with a waterproof coat each day, as they will be spending time outside in all weather.

Thank you for helping us keep them warm and dry!



Attendance, Absence and Lateness

This week we have seen unusually high levels of lateness, we know and understand that it is dark, cold and an effort to get going in the mornings, but lateness is disruptive for all and can cause distress and anxiety for the children and classes.

We ask that you make a big effort to arrive in school on time, ready to walk through the doors at 8.40 a.m. A chat with friends in the playground is a great way to start the day.

A reminder that children should be attending school every day on time if they are well enough to do so. If they are absent for any reason we ask that you contact the office by telephone to advise us of the reason for absence. An answerphone is available if the office is unmanned. Please do not email as these may not be checked until later in the day.

School starts at **8.40 am**. Gates are locked at **8.45 am**, all children and parents arriving after this time must report to reception so that children can be signed into school.

Holly Leaves

Holly Leaves have had a FARMtastic week this week, learning all about farm animals and their habitats. We have had lots of fun creating our own version of a farm map based on the book 'What the Ladybird Heard - by Julia Donaldson'.

Pre-school have enjoyed accessing the outside areas this week and particularly loved giving the farm animals a bath in the warm soapy water. Forest school was a hit and with the wet weather being perfectly timed, the children took advantage of the opportunity to explore the VERY muddy puddles (sorry washing machines!).

This term our topic is 'Amazing Animals' and next week our learning focus will be on pets and how we care for them. As part of next week's focus we will be role playing vets, if possible can pre-school children please bring in a cuddly animal toy to help them with their vet practice.



Holiday Requests

Please remember that the Governments guidance remains very clear that we cannot authorise holiday requests in term time unless there are exceptional circumstance. A Request for Leave of Absence form can be found on the school website at the following link or from the school office:

[https://www.littledeanprimary.co.uk/website/attendance at school/169684](https://www.littledeanprimary.co.uk/website/attendance%20at%20school/169684)

You may be issued with a penalty notice for taking your child out of school during term time. Please note that a penalty is issued to each parent for each child taken out of school. A Penalty Notice is a fine of £80 if paid within the first 21 days which increases to £160 if paid between 21 and 28 days. Thereafter, if the penalty remains unpaid this may lead to prosecution through the Magistrates' Court.

Maple Class

Maple Class visited SkillZONE in Gloucester this week. SkillZONE is an interactive learning centre run by Gloucestershire Constabulary that helps children learn how to stay safe in real-life situations. During the visit, pupils took part in a series of realistic scenarios set up as a small town, including a dark alley, a park, a road crossing, a bus and a house.

The children discussed potential risks and learnt practical strategies for keeping themselves safe, making sensible choices and knowing who to ask for help. They also explored the consequences of poor decisions and how these can affect themselves and others. One of the most memorable experiences was learning about the law, including what happens if someone is arrested. Pupils were taken through the process of being arrested, visiting a custody suite and seeing a police cell, and were surprised to learn that you can be arrested from the age of 10.

The visit was engaging, informative and thought-provoking, helping to build the children's confidence and understanding of personal safety and responsibility.



Term Dates

These are also available on our website

2025 / 2026 – Please see website for full details

Term 3 Monday 5th January 2026 – Friday 13th February 2026

Term 4 Monday 23th February 2026 – Friday 27th March 2026

Term 5 Monday 13th April 2026 – Friday 22nd May 2026

Term 6 Monday 1st June 2026 – Monday 20th July 2026

2026/2027

Term 1 Tuesday 1st September 2026 – Friday 23rd October 2026

Term 2 Monday 2nd November – Friday 18th December 2026

INSET Day 3 Friday 13th February 2026

INSET Day 4 Monday 1st June 2026

INSET Day 5 Monday 20th July 2026

Diary Dates

Wednesday 4th February 2026

Full Governors meeting

Thursday 12th February

Preschool Stay and Play

Thursday 23rd April 2026

Maple Class Activity Day

w/c 11th May 2026

Year 6 SATS week