Littledean C of E Primary School Newsletter 10

20th November 2026

Dear Parents,

Remembering Those Who Gave Their Lives

Our Wellbeing Champions had the honour of visiting the local War Memorial to lay a wreath on behalf of our school community.

Mike Barnsley led a short and thoughtful Remembrance Service, giving the children the opportunity to pause, reflect and remember those from our local community who lost their lives as a result of conflict.

The children showed great respect and maturity throughout the service and represented our school beautifully. It was a meaningful experience that helped them understand the importance of remembrance and honouring the sacrifices made by others.



Every Minute Matters

We have noticed recently that a number of children have been arriving late to school. We would like to remind all parents and carers that the school day starts promptly at **8:40am**.

Learning begins as soon as the school day starts, and even being just a few minutes late means children are missing valuable learning time. Arriving on time also helps children settle into the classroom, take part in morning activities and start their day positively alongside their classmates.

We kindly ask all parents and carers to ensure children arrive at school on time, ready to learn by 8:40am.

Thank you for your co-operation

Celebrating Michael Rosen Day!

Last week all the children across school joined in the fun of Michael Rosen Day 2026! This year's theme was 'Silly School Stuff', and it was a wonderful opportunity for everyone to celebrate the joy of poetry, stories and laughter.
As Michael Rosen celebrates his 80th year, and as part of the National Year of Reading, children across the country have been coming together to enjoy the magic of poetry.
Our children had a fantastic time taking part in this special celebration, discovering how much fun poetry can be! The day was all about inspiring a love of reading, listening to and enjoying poetry, and reminding everyone that words can make us laugh, smile and use our imaginations.
What a lovely way to celebrate the power of poetry across our school!







Panto Reminder

A little reminder that our whole school will be enjoying a festive trip to see the pantomime at **The Roses Theatre in Tewkesbury on Monday 14th December!**

Payment for the trip can be made via **ParentPay**.

Children will need to bring a packed lunch with them on the day. If you would like the school kitchen to provide a packed lunch, these can be ordered in advance with Caterlink. Please just let the school know if one is required before Friday 11th December.

We are looking forward to a wonderful festive outing and a lovely experience for all the children!

Thank you for your support.

Sickness Reminder

With bugs circulating at this time of year, we would like to remind all parents and carers of our school sickness policy.

If your child has experienced **vomiting or diarrhoea**, they must remain at home and should not return to school until **48 hours after their last episode** of sickness or diarrhoea.

This is important in helping to prevent the spread of infections and protecting the health and wellbeing of all our children, staff and families.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in helping us keep our school community healthy!

Last Day Timings

A little advance notice of our arrangements for the last day of term on **Friday 18th December**.

We will be holding our Christmas Service at **St Ethelbert's Church at 1:00pm**, and parents, carers and family members are warmly invited to join us for this special occasion.

Following the service, school will finish for all pupils at **2:00pm**. Children should be collected from their usual collection doors.

Pre-school will finish earlier at **12:00pm** on this day. Pre-school families are also very welcome to join us at the church for the Christmas Service at 1:00pm.

We look forward to celebrating the festive season with you all and wish everyone a very happy Christmas!



Hot School Meals

Caterlink are making some changes to the way school meals are ordered. The only change affecting parents and carers is that **all school meals must now be paid for in advance of ordering**.

Any ParentPay account that is in debt will be unable to order a hot school dinner until the outstanding balance has been paid in full.

If you pay for your child's school meals, please ensure their ParentPay account is topped up weekly so that meal choices can be ordered each day.

Please be aware: If there are insufficient funds in your child's account, we will unfortunately be unable to order a hot meal and you will be asked to provide a packed lunch instead.

The cost of school meals is:

- **£2.95** per meal for school-aged children.
- **£3.00** per meal for Pre-school children.

Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 automatically receive Universal Infant Free School Meals, so no payment is required for their meals.

However, please be aware that eligibility for **Free School Meals (FSM)**, which is separate from the Universal Infant Free School Meals scheme, has recently changed. Families receiving certain benefits may now be eligible for additional Free School Meal support. This applies to children in all year groups.

We would encourage parents and carers to check their eligibility and apply online using the link below:

Apply for Free School Meals: https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals

Thank you for your cooperation and for keeping ParentPay accounts topped up to ensure meals can be ordered smoothly.



ParentPay

Maple Class

This week, Year 5 and Year 6 were delighted to welcome a Spanish teacher from Forest High School.

During the session, the children had the opportunity to practise their Spanish speaking and writing skills, focusing on describing their pets. They learnt how to introduce their pets by name, describe their personalities and temperaments, and talk about their physical features.

The children thoroughly impressed our visiting teacher with their excellent knowledge of Spanish vocabulary and their confident pronunciation. We are very proud of their enthusiasm and the progress they are making in their language learning!







In science, the year 5/6 children explored how to separate a mixture containing three different substances. Working in groups of three, they were challenged to separate the materials without touching them with their hands. The children showed great creativity and problem-solving skills, with most groups realising that they needed to make a sieve. We finished by learning that this method of separating materials is called *sieving*.





Diary Dates

Friday 4th December	Friends' Non Uniform Day (Chocolate)
Friday 11th December	Friends' Christmas Fair
Monday 14th December	Whole School Pantomime Trip
Wednesday 16th December	Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 18th December	Christmas Service at St Ethelberts 1pm
	Preschool Closes 12, School closes 2pm

Term Dates

These are also available on our website

2026 / 2027 – Please see website for full details

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

INSET Day	**3**	Monday 4th January 2027
INSET Day	**4**	Monday 22nd February 2027
INSET Day	**5**	Monday 7th June 2027