

# Littledean Church of England Primary School

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*People with time for Children*

13<sup>th</sup> September 2019

## Newsletter 2

**Dear Parents,**

This newsletter is quite a long one, please bear with us as all of the information contained is necessary in order to help the school to run efficiently.

### Communication

Communication is key to a good relationship between school, parents and pupils. Despite best efforts we know we do not always get this right but are continually reviewing how we keep parents informed.

- All letters and newsletters are posted on the school website, on the home page and on the letters page.
- We will email a copy to parents where we have email addresses. This will come from our website provider 'E-Schools' (please check spam and junk files as it may be sent there).
- A copy will be sent through the School App – we will be reissuing log in details in the next few days.
- A copy will be placed in the folder outside the school office.
- Newsletters will be placed in the noticeboard in the rear playground.
- Initially the oldest child in each family will be given a paper copy, this will be phased out over the next few weeks.
- If you are not sure ask the school office staff.

We also have a text message service provided by E-Schools and will send urgent or important messages via text message.

***If you have not received an email or text message by time you receive a paper copy of this letter please let the office know as we do not have the correct details for you. Many thanks.***

**Website – [www.littledeanprimary.co.uk](http://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. If you login using the parent app you will also be able to keep track of your child's attendance data. We are also in the process of setting up our Twitter account and will be tweeting shortly, we can be found at @littledeansch.

### 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 most day for more lengthy matters. Reading records can also be used for messages.

### Collecting and delivering children

Children should not be in school unaccompanied before 8.30 a.m. we ask that all children and parents wait in the rear playground until asked to come into school. School starts at 8.45 a.m. and ends at 3.00 p.m. 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.

Head teacher: Mrs Hayley McGoldrick

**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 a.m. If you arrive after this please use the main entrance doors and report to reception where your child will be signed into school. If your child leaves early during the school day a staff member will sign the children out.

### **Clothing in School**

We ask that all items of uniform, PE kit, bags and coats are **named** so that we can return items to the correct child if they lose them. Many thanks.

We suggest for all classes including pre-school that PE kit (trainers, shorts, t-shirt) are brought into school at the start of each term and kept in school in the cloakrooms.

Pre-School children will need a PE kit each day as their sessions will change weekly. Pre-School staff also request that wellies are brought into school so that they can play in the garden with the mud kitchen. Thank you.

We ask that children also bring a weather appropriate coat into school as we will go outside most days during lunch and break times.

### **Holidays in Term Time**

We continue to implement the Government rules around holidays in term time. Whilst we fully understand the financial pressures on many families and the significant savings that can result from booking family holidays during term time, we would urge you to avoid making such bookings. The law states that parents do not have an automatic right to withdraw pupils for school for a holiday and have to apply for permission in advance. Such permission is granted in accordance with arrangements made by the governing body in line with the Department of Education's statutory guidance and department advice.

When an application is made for an authorised absence during term time the Head Teacher will give consideration to the following:

- The nature of the proposed absence/is this a truly exceptional circumstance
- The age of the child
- The timing of the absence
- The attendance pattern in the present and previous academic years

Some examples of what may constitute exceptional circumstances are:

- To have a short absence to attend a family wedding; or to attend a special family reunion, or to attend a special religious/cultural festival
- If a parent, due to the nature of their work, cannot possibly take time off during regular school holidays. This would need to be evidenced by letter from the employer.

Please note: to have a week's holiday during school time because the cost is cheaper during term time, does not constitute an exceptional circumstance.

Any holidays that are taken during term time, which have not been previously agreed by the Head Teacher will be marked as unauthorised and appropriate action taken following government/Local Authority guidelines. This could result in a warning letter being issued or potentially a penalty notice being issued by the Local Authority.

We want to work with our families to promote good attendance for all of our pupils to ensure that they are in school regularly in order to make the most of the educational opportunities that are available to them.

Head teacher: Mrs Hayley McGoldrick

## **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 £2.34 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](http://www.parentpay.co.uk)) or a paypoint card.

## **Healthy Snacks**

Children in the Acorns, Holly Leaves and Holly Berries Classes are provided with a free piece of fruit each day for their mid-morning snack. Chestnut and Maple Class 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.

## **Free school meals**

The school receives additional money (currently £1320 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. Gloucestershire County Council has a new on-line portal for all applications. This can be found at:

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

If you do not have access to a computer please contact the office and they will assist you with your application. 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/](http://www.coolmilk.com/)

## **Headlice**

Unfortunately we receive complaints from parents that their child has headlice or nits frequently. Please help us to become nit and headlice free by tying long hair up whilst in school and checking your children (and other family members) on a regular basis. Further information can be found on the NHS direct website. Thank you.

<http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice/Pages/Treatment.aspx>

## **Second-hand Uniform**

Mrs Webb runs a second-hand uniform shop. If you have uniform that your child no longer needs please consider donating it to the second-hand shop. Many thanks.

## **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 –

[https://www.littledeanprimary.co.uk/website/school\\_policies/321303](https://www.littledeanprimary.co.uk/website/school_policies/321303)

## **Money in School**

With the closure of the HSBC bank it has become more difficult for the school to bank money so we are asking parents to use the online payment system – Parent Pay, or a Pay Point station, the nearest is based in Littledean Stores. Please contact the Office if you can't remember your login details. 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 medicine 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 i.e. nuts, strawberries please let the class teacher know.

Head teacher: Mrs Hayley McGoldrick

### **Bags to School**

Our first collection of the year will be on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October. They accept adult and children's clothes, shoes – tied together, bedding, towels, jewellery, belts, hats, scarves, gloves, bags, purses, wallets, tights, ties and new underwear. All donations help the school raise money for our children. Bags will be issued shortly but we are happy to receive donations into school between now and 9.00 a.m. Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October. Thank you.

### **Recycling Crisp Packets**

Last year our Eco Warriors set up a crisp packet recycling scheme as they became aware that the majority of crisp packets end up in landfill sites. We are working with TerraCycle's Crisp Packet Recycling Scheme which allows us to recycle your crisp packets and prevent them from ending up in landfill. Please bring your crisp packets into school so that we can help the environment and raise money for the school.

### **Friends Association Fund Raising for School**

The Friends association have set up an account with easyfundraising to help raise funds for the school. When you shop online log on to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/foilittledean/> shop as usual with over 4000 retailers and when you have completed your shopping they will make a donation to the school to say thank you for shopping through their app / website. So far the Friends have raised just over £120.

### **Well Found Charity**

As a school, we have decided to support the Well Found charity for the next two years. We intend to raise awareness of the charity and hold fundraising events.

Well Found supports villages in Africa which don't currently have access to clean water. They help the villages by building wells and toilets. They also teach the villagers how to grow crops which they can then eat themselves and sell at market. Look out for our fundraising events over the next couple of years.

### **Diary Dates**

Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> September	Internet Safety Day
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> September	8.45 a.m. Nearly new uniform sale – Willow room
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> October	Rags to Riches clothing collection
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> October	9.00 a.m. Friends Annual General Meeting (AGM)
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> October	Individual and Sibling Group Photographs
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> October	Immunisation Flu Programme for Years Reception – Year 6
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> November	Inset day – Staff only to attend
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> November	8.45 a.m. Nearly new uniform sale – Willow room
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> November	Parents Afternoon 1.00 – 4.00
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> November	Parents Evening 4.00 – 7.00
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	NSPCC Speak Out / Stay Safe
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	Infant Performance Dress Rehearsal
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	Infant Performance Afternoon
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	Infant Performance Evening
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Lunch
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Whole School and Pre-School Pantomime at Roses Theatre
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Service at St Ethelberts Church
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> January	Young Voices Concert in Birmingham
Weds 22 <sup>nd</sup> April – Fri 24 <sup>th</sup> April	Maple Class Residential Visit

### **Term Dates 2019/2020**

Term 1	Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2019 – Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> October 2019
Term 2	Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> November 2019 – Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December 2019
Term 3	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2020 – Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February 2020
Term 4	Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> February 2020 – Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April 2020
Term 5	Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> April 2020 – Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2020
Term 6	Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2020 – Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July 2020

Please note that the early May Day Bank Holiday has been changed from Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2020

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