

AUTUMN TERM NEWSLETTER

September, 2013



PRIORITIES FOR 2013-2014

Our two main priorities for 2013-2014 are Next Steps Marking and P.E.

Marking

We shall be focusing on further developing our marking. This will include teachers training the children in how to respond to their comments and how to use them to improve their work in the future.

P.E.

Each school has been given an additional sum of money to spend on P.E. We aim to develop P.E. by using this funding in the following ways. Part of the Sport Funding has been used to subscribe to the Witchford Sport Partnership. This gives us access to sport coaches who will come into school during the year to teach dedicated P.E. lessons. We are currently in the process of organising tennis lessons for Year 6. The 'Bikeability' programme for Year 6 in the Summer Term is also part of this partnership. We have engaged the services of Ruth Russell, a Schools Sports Coordinator, to support us in providing coaching for children and staff, over the year, in a variety of sports. We will be auditing our equipment, updating and renewing, as needed. We also are investigating incorporating taster sessions of different sports during our annual 'Healthy Week' in the Spring Term. After School Clubs, covering various sports, are available and we will ensure staff are available to provide inclusion for children of all abilities.

As well as our two main priorities, we will be working on the New National Curriculum which comes into effect on 1st September, 2014.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

The wearing of school uniform is strongly encouraged at Lionel Walden. The school colours are navy/grey skirts/pinafore dresses, grey/black trousers with white shirts. Jewellery should not be worn, except for small stud earrings for pierced ears.

P.E. kit should consist of a plain white t-shirt with navy or white shorts and plimsolls. Strappy, colourful tops are not suitable.

TERM TIME HOLIDAYS

Changes to the law, which came into force on 1st September, 2013, mean that schools no longer have the discretion to grant 10 days of authorised leave/absence to pupils each year. The new rules state that Headteachers "may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances". Family holidays do not fall into the category of 'exceptional circumstances'.

COME AND HAVE LUNCH WITH YOUR CHILD!

We are having a Parent/Child 'School Meal Week' after Half Term when you can join your child for lunch. Adult meals are £2.50 each. A letter giving more information about this will be circulated shortly.



ADMINISTERING OF MEDICINES IN SCHOOL

You are reminded that in the event of your child needing medicines in school time, a consent form MUST be completed by you before any medication can be administered by school staff. Forms can be obtained from the school office.

Parents' Evening

This term's Parents' Evening is aimed at giving you a brief overview of how your child has settled back into school. Children's books will be located outside the classroom, in named batches, for parents to look through prior to seeing their child's class teacher. These books should be brought into the classroom and returned to the teacher during the consultation. Children should not attend this evening which will take place on Wednesday, 23rd October between 3.30 p.m. and 5.00 p.m. and between 5.30 p.m. and 7.30 p.m. Included in the books for parents to view will be your child's 'Writing Progress' book. The work in this book will be built on throughout your child's time in school demonstrating progress made each term. This work is completed independently and is left unmarked.

End of Key Stage Results 2013

At the end of Key Stage 1 the percentages of pupils' attainment were as follows:-

	<u>Level 2 and above</u>	<u>Level 3</u>
Reading	97%	37%
Writing	97%	23%
Mathematics	97%	43%



BOOK FAIR

The school will be holding a Book Fair from Tuesday, 8th October to Friday, 11th October.

The end of Key Stage 2 percentages were:-

	<u>Level 4 and above</u>	<u>Level 5+</u>
Reading	100%	63%
Writing	94%	41%
Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling	91%	63%
Maths	91%	47%

Level 2 and Level 4 are the expected levels of attainment for pupils at the end of Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 respectively.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Throughout the year, your child's photograph may be taken as we record activities taking place in school. On some occasions, these photographs may appear in the local press. If any parent has any objection to this, please inform the school office as soon as possible.



SCHOOL RECORDS

Please inform the school office of any changes regarding your child/children's records. This is particularly important in respect of mobile telephone numbers—we may need to contact you in an emergency!



UNIFORM

The school has navy outdoor coats for sale with the school logo on, priced at £16.50.

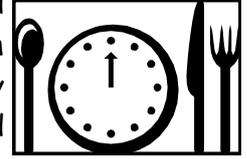
These are reversible with a fleecy lining. We also have fleece jackets (£12.25) and lightweight rain jackets (£11.95). Please see Mrs. Clarke in the school office.

POINTS TO REMEMBER

- ⇒ All school uniform/items of clothing must be clearly labelled with your child's name.
- ⇒ School letters—please check, on a daily basis, your child's bag.
- ⇒ Health & Safety issues—please do not use the vehicular access—please ensure children do not ride bicycles/scooters on school premises. Also, please do not walk across the school car park.

Reception Children

In preparation for full time attendance, Reception aged children are staying at school for lunch until 1.00 p.m. from the week commencing 9th September. Initially, the children who stay, eat in the hall and are helped by children in Year 6. The cost of a school meal is £2.00 and should be paid for in advance. Weekly menus are circulated to parents and are displayed in school. Further information on school meals can be found in the paragraph below entitled 'Dinner Money'. Details about attendance should have already been circulated. Reception children can attend full time from Monday, 23rd September.



Dinner Money

We are pleased that we have been able to avoid an increase in the cost of school meals. The cost of a school dinner remains at £2.00 per meal (£10.00 per week). All dinners should be paid for in advance or on the day. Please send the money with children to school in a named envelope. Any dinners paid for but not taken due to absence will be refunded or carried forward. Cheques should be made payable to 'Lionel Walden School'. Please look out for special promotional days .



PARENTAL HELP

Any parental help in school would be greatly appreciated. We are proud of the number of parent helpers at Lionel Walden and always value more help. If anyone wishes to come in, they should contact the school office or see their child's class teacher.

SWIMMING

The contribution towards teaching and transport costs for swimming lessons remains at £1.50 per session. All lessons are on Fridays and the first dates for this term are as follows:-



Classes 7 & 8

Friday, 13th September
Friday, 20th September
Friday, 27th September
Friday, 4th October
Friday, 11th October
Friday, 18th October

Classes 5 & 6 will be swimming after Half Term.

VOUCHERS

We have managed to obtain additional sports and playground equipment through the collection of the Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers. Thank you to everyone who collected these vouchers.



The Tesco Vouchers for Schools for 2013 will start later in the year.

PUPIL ILLNESS - DIARRHOEA AND VOMITING

Parents are reminded that in incidents of diarrhoea and vomiting, children should be kept away from school for 48 hours after the last bout of illness. This is to prevent infections from spreading.

Autumn Festival

We shall be holding our Autumn Festival again this year . This will take place over two days (except for Pre-School who will perform once on the Wednesday). Each class will be contributing separate items along the theme of Autumn. All parents are welcome to attend our Autumn Festival which will take place on Wednesday, 23rd and Thursday, 24th October at 9.10 a.m.



IMPORTANT DATES

SCHOOL TERM AND HOLIDAY DATES

2013

Closure Day	Friday, 25th October
Half Term	Monday, 28th October to Friday, 1st November
End of Autumn Term	Friday, 20th December

2014

Closure Day	Monday, 6th January
Spring Term starts	Tuesday 7th January
Half Term	Monday, 17th to Friday, 21st February
End of Spring Term	Friday, 4th April
Closure Day	Tuesday, 22nd April
Summer Term starts	Wednesday, 23rd April
Public Holiday	Monday, 5th May
Closure Day	Friday, 23rd May
Half Term	Monday, 26th to Friday, 30th May
End of Summer Term	Wednesday, 23rd July

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

2013

Individual Photographs	Tuesday, 24th September
Book Fair	Tuesday, 8th to Friday, 11th October
Parents' Evening	Wednesday, 23rd October
Autumn Festival	Wednesday, 23rd and Thursday, 24th October
Christmas Production	Tuesday, 10th & Wednesday, 11th December (Dress Rehearsal—9th December)
Carol Service	Friday, 20th December

2014

Pre-School Parents' Evening for 2014 Reception Intake	Tuesday, 25th February
Open Evening	Tuesday, 11th March
Parents' Evening	Tuesday, 18th and Wednesday, 19th March
End of Key Stage 2 Tests	Week commencing Monday, 12th May
Sports Afternoon	Wednesday, 21st May
New Intake Parents' Evening for 2014 Reception Intake	Tuesday, 8th July



SCHOOL WEBSITE

The school website, www.lionelwalden.cambs.sch.uk, is updated on a regular basis, giving information on events taking place in school.