

LIONEL WALDEN PRIMARY SCHOOL

SPRING TERM NEWSLETTER



JANUARY 2020



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

A warm welcome back to school! This term, we are again looking forward to our annual 'Healthy Week' and also 'Science Week' when we welcome a host of visitors to our school to complement our teaching. Pupils and staff, as well as parent helpers and visitors, very much enjoy participating in the wealth of learning experiences. Further information is provided below.

Other events include World Book Day, Sport Relief Day and Safer Internet Day. We are holding another Maths Workshop for parents of our Pre-School and Reception Class children - this will take place on 14th January. You are also invited to attend our Class Assemblies, which showcase the learning which is taking place in each class, and our Open Evening and Parents' Evenings - please refer to the dates on the back page.

We shall be continuing to communicate primarily by email, in order to keep down our printing costs and usage of paper. If you would prefer paper copies of any letters or other items, please contact Mrs Clarke in the School Office and we shall provide them.

Mrs Riches, our current Reception Class teacher, has been successful at interview for another teaching post and will be leaving us at Easter. We wish Mrs Riches all the very best and thank her for her hard work and commitment over many years. We are currently in the process of advertising for a teacher to join our team and will provide further information in due course.

The staff and I are all looking forward to working with you again this term. Please come and speak to us, if you have any concerns, questions or comments.

Best wishes

Mrs Barnard-Taylor

HEALTHY WEEK

Healthy Week is scheduled for the week commencing 3rd February. During this week, we have a range of activities planned including visits from the Chatteris Cycling Club, Chatteris Tennis Club, Chatteris Town Football Club, Chatteris Cricket Club, Everyone Health, FE Fitness and Doddington Scouts. We shall also be participating in Jujitsu, Zumba and Clubbercise sessions. Our Sports Crew, pupils in Years 5 and 6, will be organising intra-class sports competitions at lunchtimes. Healthy Week activities count towards our Games Week as part of our quest to achieve the Silver Games Mark once again.

If there are any parents who are involved in a sport, or have coaching qualifications, and would like to lead taster sessions during Healthy Week, please contact Mrs Clarke in the School Office. Sports coaches, provided by the Witchford Sports Partnership, will be teaching 'street dance' sessions to our children in Year 2 and Year 4 this term. A coach from All4Sports will be teaching throwing and catching skills with children in Year 2 and Year 3, in addition to leading a range of lunchtime activities including hockey, basketball, football and Funky Fitness. All4Sports will be running two after-school clubs this term - gymnastics on Mondays for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 and table tennis on Thursdays for all year groups.

We encourage all pupils (and adults) to take part in the Daily Mile. This takes place on the playground (or on the field when the weather permits) between 8.30am and 8.45am. Everyone attempts to complete as many laps as possible and to start the day in a positive and healthy way. Do come and join us! Molly Dancing will be taking place again this year with Year 5 on Wednesday afternoons. This will be led by Gordon Philips, from the Ouse Washes Molly Dancers, who will teach specific dances and recount stories of the local area. Swimming sessions also continue this term, with Years 5 and 6 before half-term and Years 3 and 4 after half-term.

For further information, please speak to Miss Bennett, PE Subject Lead and Year 2 teacher.

Lionel Walden Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

SCIENCE WEEK

Science Week is scheduled for the week commencing 9th March. Once again, a range of visitors will be in school including Jules the Wildlife Man, the Mad Science team, the Raptor Centre and Lion Learners. Our Year 5 pupils will be visiting a local secondary school where they will participate in various science lessons. As in previous years, each class will be experiencing a range of exciting experiments and activities. Parental help is always appreciated during this busy week - please contact Mrs Clarke in the School Office for further information. We hope you are looking forward to participating in this year's 'Homework Challenge' - further details will follow!

For further information, please speak to Mrs Taylor, Science Subject Lead and Year 5 teacher.

POWERFUL WORDS PROJECT

In each class, we are continuing to focus on the development of vocabulary. Children are encouraged to use ambitious language in their speech and in their writing across all subjects. Mathematical and scientific vocabulary is included. All classrooms have a display showcasing a 'Word of the Week' - these are added to as the term progresses. To further develop this knowledge and acquisition, we are taking part in the Powerful Words project. This involves using a range of 'Mrs Wordsmith' resources (dictionaries, images and word games) to accelerate pupils' progress. These resources will be used to explore meanings in context, look at synonyms (different words which have a similar meaning), antonyms (different words with opposite meanings), etymology (the origins of words) and word collocations (two words which are often used together, for example, strong tea, deep sleep). The aim is to teach our pupils one hundred and twenty words each term. Pupils will also continue to have a 'class reader' book to extend vocabulary and understanding and to promote enjoyment of books and reading through listening to adults reading with expression.

For further information, please speak to Mrs Bayes, Deputy Headteacher and English Subject Lead.

POWER MATHS

The Mathematics curriculum places a high focus on pupils being able to problem solve and explain and justify their answers to mathematical questions. After carrying out research, we made the decision to purchase the Power Maths scheme to supplement our teaching of Mathematics. Teachers use the resources alongside a range of other resources. This has provided greater opportunities for pupils to develop their understanding and to increase their confidence when faced with more challenging problems. Children will be required to work independently for some of the time as well as in pairs and small groups. The feedback from both adults and children has been extremely positive and the impact of Power Maths is clearly evident. The pupils made the following comments:-

"I like Power Maths. It makes Maths even more fun."

"Power Maths is really good. I like the way it's set out - you get more work completed."

"I really enjoy Maths. It's challenging and you learn something new every day!"

For further information, please speak to Mrs McBeath, Maths Subject Lead and Year 4 teacher.

PARENTS' EVENINGS

The Parents' Evenings for this term are as follows:-

Tuesday 3rd March

Pre-School Parents' Evening for parents of children starting Reception in September, 2020.

Wednesday 4th March

Open Evening for the whole school. This is an opportunity for parents to look at their children's work. We encourage parents to bring their children into school and talk to them about their work. The Open Evening times are 3.15 p.m. to 6.00 p.m.

Monday 9th, Tuesday 10th and Wednesday 11th March

Appointment times will be given for individual consultations with teachers regarding children's work and progress. Children are not to attend these meetings. Please note that **Monday 9th March** is an additional date for consultations for all year groups, apart from Reception and Year 2. To aid the organisation of Parents' Evening, we ask that you indicate as many times as possible that you would be able to attend, on as many evenings as possible. Thank you for your co-operation.

ENTERING/EXITING SCHOOL

Parents are requested **not** to park vehicles on the yellow zig zag lines or pavements outside school. This applies before and after school and when collecting children at other times. In addition, please park with consideration for our neighbours, particularly along Child's Lane and Wood Street.

Parents and children should enter the school premises through the pedestrian access (smaller gate) and not through the car park, which is for staff only. Please also approach the Lions' Den/annexe along the pedestrian access route only.

Also, for safety reasons, we ask that scooters and bicycles are not ridden on school premises; please ensure that your children are aware of this.

SCHOOL PERFORMANCE TABLES

Below is a link to the latest School Performance Tables 2019 including financial data.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/cgi-bin/schools/performance/school.pl?urn=110632&superview=pri&qtype=LA>

WORLD BOOK DAY

Thursday 5th March - further details will follow.



BOOK FAIR

Tuesday 25th to Friday 28th February.
We earn commission on purchases made.

SPORT RELIEF - NON-UNIFORM DAY

Pupils and staff are invited to come to school in sports wear on Friday 13th March.



Further details will follow after half-term.

CAKE STALLS

Cake Stall dates for the remainder of the year are:-

Friday 17th January - Year 4
Friday 14th February - Year 3
Friday 6th March - Year 1
Friday 1st May - Year 2
Friday 5th June - Reception
Friday 10th July - Pre-School

CLASS ASSEMBLIES

The next two term's Class Assemblies are listed below:-

Year 6 - 24th January/17th July
Year 5 - 31st January/15th May
Year 4 - 28th February/12th June
Year 3 - 6th March/19th June
Year 2 - 20th March/26th June
Year 1 - 27th March/3rd July
Year R - 1st April/10th July

A crèche is provided for babies/toddlers.

Please note that following Year 6's Assembly on 24th January, there will be an Information Meeting for parents of Year 6 pupils. Further details to follow.

COME AND HAVE A SCHOOL LUNCH WITH YOUR CHILD

We would like to invite you to come and have a school lunch with your child. Adult meals are priced at £3.00 each and children's meals are £2.30 for children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6. Meals for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are provided free of charge due to a government scheme. We are organising this during the following weeks:

w/c 10th February and 24th February



Please let Mrs Clarke know, by 3rd February, on which day you would like to come in. All meals should be paid for in advance. Please note that there is a limited number of places each day.

SCHOOL WEBSITE (www.lionelwalden.cambs.sch.uk)

Please visit our school website to read updated information about our Governing Body, school policies, important dates, recent events (including photographs) and details of the curriculum and organisation of the school day. Each class teacher has produced a 'Link Up' which outlines the key topics being taught this term and provides further relevant information.

Please let us know if you view the website on a regular basis - your feedback and comments are welcomed.



ATTENDANCE/TERM TIME HOLIDAYS

Following meetings of the Local Authority Attendance Officer and Headteachers of local primary schools, we are reminding parents of the need to ensure their children attend school regularly and punctually. When a child's attendance falls below 95%, the school will notify parents unless there is a valid reason. Sometimes a child may suffer illness more frequently than normal or develop a recurring illness. If this is the case, please inform us of the details so that we can provide support. The School Office should be contacted as early as possible when a child is ill and on each subsequent day thereafter.

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'. All children need to be present in school consistently to achieve their full potential.

A separate letter is being issued relating to Unauthorised Absence and the issuing of Penalty Notices. Please also refer to the Attendance section, under the Information tab, on the school's website.

CHARITY

The Carol Service held at St. Mary's Parish Church in December raised £167.

This money has been donated to Shelter to support those facing homelessness, at the request of the pupils.

P.E. LESSONS

Please could you ensure that your child has a separate pair of shoes in school for PE and games lessons and warm clothing for when the weather is colder. All items must be labelled clearly with your child's name.

No jewellery should be worn in school except for small stud earrings. These must be removed on the days of PE and swimming.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

We would greatly appreciate everyone adhering to the recommended school uniform. The school uniform consists of navy or grey skirt, or pinafore dress, or grey or black trousers with a white shirt and a navy sweatshirt, jumper or cardigan. No 'hoodies', please. Black shoes are preferred - sports shoes should be worn for outdoor PE/games. PE kit should consist of a plain white t-shirt with navy or white shorts.

PLEASE ENSURE YOUR CHILD'S CLOTHING IS LABELLED CLEARLY WITH THEIR NAME - any misplaced items can then be returned to the owner.

Jewellery should not be worn, except for small, stud earrings, if essential, for pierced ears. Please note that no earrings are to be worn for any PE or swimming lesson - children must be able to remove them themselves prior to the lesson or have them removed at home on days when PE is timetabled. Nail varnish and false nails should not be worn. Mrs Clarke, in the School Office, has sweatshirts and coats, with the school logo, for sale which are hard-wearing and reasonably priced.

Important Dates - 2020

Please refer to school website for all dates

Tuesday 14th January	EYFS Maths Workshop
Monday 10th February	Class and Sports Group Photographs
Tuesday 11th February	Safer Internet Day
Monday 17th February - Friday 21st February	Half Term
Tuesday 25th February - Friday 28th February	Book Fair
Tuesday 3rd March	Pre-School Parents' Evening for 2020 Reception Intake
Wednesday 4th March	Open Evening
Monday 9th, Tuesday 10th and Wednesday 11th March	Parents' Evenings
Friday 13th March	Sport Relief Non-Uniform Day
Wednesday 1st April	Last Day of Spring Term
Thursday 2nd April	Staff Professional Development Day (school closed)
Monday 20th April	First Day of Summer Term
Friday 8th May	School Closed - Public Holiday
Week commencing Monday 11th May	End of Key Stage 2 Tests
Monday 11th May	Information Meeting for Isle of Wight Residential Visit
Monday 18th May	Information Meeting re. Sex Education for Years 5 and 6
Wednesday 20th May	Sports Afternoon (weather permitting)
Monday 25th - Friday 29th May	Half Term
Thursday 18th June	LWSA Summer Fair
Monday 29th June	New Parents' Evening for 2020 Reception Intake
Wednesday 1st July and Wednesday 15th July	Year 6 Transition Days at Cromwell Community College
Monday 20th July	Awards Assembly
Tuesday 21st July	Leavers' Assembly Last Day of Summer Term

SWIMMING

Swimming dates for this term are as follows:-

YEARS 5 AND 6

Fridays: 10th, 17th, 24th and 31st January; 7th and 14th February

YEARS 3 AND 4

Fridays: 28th February; 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th March

The cost of swimming is £2.50 per session. Please note that it is compulsory for all children to wear swimming hats. These are available from the School Office at a cost of 75p each. Earrings must be removed by the pupil prior to the start of the lesson or should be removed and left at home if the pupil is unable to do this.