

***Live . Love . Learn - Littletown***

Friday 22nd September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I write to you having just come inside from being out watching the OPAL open afternoon today. It has been a real pleasure to see parents engaging with their children and learning about how our lunchtimes work and all the great things the children get to do. I know Mrs Hawkins felt the same way on Wednesday despite the wet weather! My thanks to Kate for joining us to talk to parents about OPAL, to all the Play Team who stayed to work with the children, to Mrs Davis for organising these events and leading OPAL so brilliantly in the school, but most of all to all the parents who attended and the children for sharing their play so wonderfully. We aim for these to be the first of many such events. If you have any feedback please do let us know.

Also this week, yesterday, Year 5 had their outdoor classroom where they made parachutes to test air resistance. This morning, some of our KS2 children visited All Hallows playing field to take part in the first Honiton Learning Community sports event which was Cross Country running. There were some outstanding individual and team performances with Littletown children winning the majority of races. My thanks to Mrs Small and Mr Bilcock for accompanying the children.

Next week Year 4 have their outdoor classroom on Tuesday. On Thursday afternoon, 16 of our Key Stage 2 children will take part in an event at Honiton Bowling club. Year 2 have their outdoor classroom at the end of the week with 2AL on Thursday and 2CL/DB on Friday.

Lots of you may remember last September when we held our Charcot-Marie-Tooth awareness day and the children all wore the charity’s colours of pink and purple. CMT is a condition affecting nerves and muscles and impacts directly within the Littletown community. Therefore we want to once again hold a day to raise awareness and raise some money for the charity. Children will be able to wear non uniform next Friday and wear anything pink or purple if they can for a 50p donation. I will talk to the children about the condition in assembly that afternoon.

Please find below in this newsletter some key reminders as we settle into the school year and information about our Reading/homework expectations at Littletown.

Yours faithfully

David Perkins 

Principal

Swimmi

**Mental**

**Children’s news**

**Nursery :** Nursery have been making gingerbread men and have been drawing their families !

**Reception:** This week, Reception have been drawing themselves using mirrors and learning how to spell ‘and’

**Year 1:** This week, in Year 1 they have been learning how to use a compass.

**Year 2: Y**ear 2 this week have been learning how to use compasses and learning about different food groups.

**Year 3:** This week, Year 3 have been learning how to count up in 50 s in maths.

**Year 4:** Year 4 have been doing warm and cool colours in art and their new book is called ‘Gorilla’

**Year 5:** Year 5 have had an outdoor classroom, learnt about oracle bones and made a buddhist flag.

**Year 6:** Year 6 have started a new maths unit, which is ‘integers’. They have also begun learning about World War 1.

**A few key reminders**

As we settle into the school year please see below a few key reminders to be aware of:

* Before and after school children need to be with parents/carers. Please make sure children are not riding scooters, bikes, trikes etc until they leave the playground and children are not allowed to play running games, go up the grass banks or touch any OPAL equipment.
* Children must have a helmet if they ride a bike to and from school.
* Please ensure your child has a coat and appropriate shoes for wet weather as we head to the Autumn.
* If your child is being collected by someone other than yourself, you must let the school know. Safeguarding policies mean that we cannot allow children to go with other adults without confirmation.
* Please park safely outside school avoiding all double and single yellow lines, zigzags and speed bumps where many cross the road.
* Children are only allowed water in their bottles and healthy snacks at school.

**Reading**

As you will know, several years ago following research and consultation, we at Littletown removed all formal English and Maths homework throughout the school other than reading, spellings and some mental maths practice. The exception being Year 6 where we help to prepare them for secondary school. This means the expectation for children and parents at home is far, far less at Littletown than the vast majority of Primary schools. The intention is this creates space and time for the focus to be solely on Reading at home and this is reflected in our expectation that every child reads every night. As the children get older, research suggests 20 minutes of reading a day at home makes a huge difference to education and prospects (see image below). Both Read Write Inc and Accelerated Reader programmes we have across the school are designed and run to maximise the impact of the reading your children do and guarantee progress for all children. Wonderful as these things are, they only work if children do the reading. From Monday, children will be able to change their books in the library every morning at the start of the day.

At the start of this year we have had many children not reading as much as they should at home. As you may remember from last term, I will be calling parents to discuss this over the next few weeks. Please ensure you find a way for your child to read at home and contact me if you feel this is not achievable. I know life can be very busy with children, but by making time to hear them read you are having a massive impact on their life.



**Music at Littletown**

It was fantastic to hear the wonderful singing from the hall on Monday as the choir assembled for their first session of the year.

A reminder that once again this year, at Littletown we are lucky enough to have many private peripatetic instrumental teachers who teach a plethora of musical instruments. We usually suggest Year 3 as being the best age to begin but please contact the teacher directly or the school's music email address littletownmusic@littletown.devon.sch.uk for more details, as in some cases our teachers will take on younger students.

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| Name  | Instruments  | Contact  |
| Matt Parr  | Drums  | mattparr@icloud.com  |
| Joseph Binmore  | Singing  | joe.binmore@gmail.com   |
| Emily Miller  | Ukulele Violin  | emilymillermusic@yahoo.co.uk   |
| Alan Webster  | Guitar  | 07930 358832  |
| Gail Denning  | Piano Brass (trumpet/cornet)  | gaildenning@outlook.com   |
| Steve Grant - (New from September providing there is enough uptake)  | Woodwind (flute/clarinet)  | kandsmusic@outlook.com 07810806627  |

**Mental Wellbeing**

Our second Parental Minds coffee morning of the term will be being held on Wednesday 22nd November 9-10.30am in the Community Room.

The first Wellbeing Week will be held the week beginning 9th October and on Tuesday 10th October we will be *Standing Out and Showing Up* for ‘Young Minds’ by inviting staff and children to come to school wearing yellow or any bright colours on our Hello Yellow Day. The Mental Wellbeing Ambassadors are working hard on coming up with activities for everyone to enjoy during the week, more details to follow.

**OPAL (outdoor play and learning) lunchtimes**

Thank you so much to everyone who attended our first OPAL parent information afternoons despite the weather. It was fantastic to be able to share what we have been doing as a school, to improve lunchtimes for everyone, with so many parents. Here is the link to the video that we couldn’t get to work in the presentation; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cm7IfAEsjqI&scrlybrkr>

We are in need of various bits of equipment for the project to move forward, including;

* crates
* old hosepipe
* material for ribbons
* pushchairs

If you have any donations, please leave them in the foyer labelled OPAL, many thanks.

**Autumn Term Parent Consultation phone calls**

Following the success of our structure for parent consultations last year, we will once again be holding phone calls in the Autumn Term and face to face meetings in the Spring Term. The phone calls are to discuss how your children have settled into the school year and resolve any immediate concerns of a pastoral nature. The meetings in the Spring Term will focus on academic attainment and progress and targets for the second half of the school year.

This year, we will be holding these phone call consultations week beginning 2nd October and more details will follow next week.

**Week Beginning 25th September 2023 events**

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| **Monday 25th September** | **Tuesday 26th September** | **Wednesday 27th September** | **Thursday 28th September** | **Friday 29th September** |
|  | Year 4 outdoor classroom |  | Bowling club eventOutdoor classroom 2AL | CMT awareness day dress in pink or purple 50pOutdoor classroom 2CL/DB |

**Community news**

**Create Organic event at Thelma Hulbert Gallery**

Please see details below and attached flyer about this event at the Thelma Hulbert Gallery.

Saturday 23 September, 11 - 4

Celebrate and get creative with us at THG with art and craft activities

· Family-friendly art activities to raise awareness of Organic September

· Create Pajaki flower garlands

· Make a seed pot of vegetable or plant seeds to take home

· Create your own bug using natural materials

· Stall from ethical food producer In My Back Yard

· Refreshments + drinks available

Thelma Hulbert Gallery, Dowell Street, Honiton EX14 1LX [thelmahulbert.com](http://www.thelmahulbert.com/)