

27th September 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

I think everyone in school is just about drying out after a particularly wet and soggy week. The vast majority of the children have shown excellent behaviour during wet play and lunchtimes this week. Some of your children may be commenting to you about leaks in our roof and the odd random bucket in corridors. You may well be wondering why we haven’t done anything about this issue whilst spending money on chromebooks and Promethean panels etc. I will attempt to explain. The regular surveying work that the Governing Board commission on the roof, most recently this summer, has consistently reported that spending certain amounts of money to fix leaks will only result in the reocurrence or reemergence of the leaks elsewhere on the roof in time, and this would become financially debilitating for us as a school. For the last two years, the school has submitted the case for extensive funding in the region of £250k to rectify the entire roof via an application from the Education Skills and Funding Agency (ESFA) via their annual Academies Condition Improvement Fund (CIF) which takes place in December. Although our projects have scored well against the criteria in the previous two years, we have not been successful in securing the funding. We are working closely with our chartered surveyors Vickery Holman, in order to put in another comprehensive application this December. We will then be notified in the spring if we are successful for work to be carried out next summer. Until then, we will be continuing to use the occasional bucket where necessary! Thank you for your ongoing patience with this.

Unfortunately, the Honiton Learning Community Cross Country event, fell victim to the rain on Monday, but twelve of our runners did brave the mud on Wednesday, taking part in the first Stockland cross country of the year. Mr Priddle was very impressed with the determination that the children showed. The rain also affected 4GW/GA’s outdoor classroom slot, so this is rescheduled for next week. Yesterday, we held our ‘wow’ assemblies for sporting achievements out of school - what a super talented school of young people we have at Littletown!

This week you should have received information about Parent Consultation meetings the week before half term. Please also see email sent earlier today regarding our approach to requests for split family appointments. Please don’t hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Next week, Year 3 have their outdoor classroom on Tuesday. Please see below an update about the school crossing patrols and some information from Mrs Newman about World Mental Health day on Thursday 10th October.

Finally, a big thank you to the 200 of you who have already booked your children in for school dinners on Thursday next week our Crazy Hair non uniform Census Day. I know it seems strange, but due to the nuances of the school funding system and how funding is calculated, this really does make a big difference to the school budget next year, so I am very grateful for your support.

Yours faithfully,

David Perkins 

Principal

**News from the children**

**NURSERY**

We have been drawing our families.

We have been playing musical instruments.

**RECEPTION**

We have been playing the bean game in P.E.

We have been practising our cutting.

**YEAR 1**

We had the climbing frame out in the hall.

We have been making number lines in Maths

We have been making traps for the evil pea.

**YEAR 2**

We have been learning about the Grand Old Duke of York.

We have been counting in twos and threes.

We have been playing the glockenspiel.

**YEAR 3**

We have done our end of unit check in Power Maths.

We have our school trip soon

**YEAR 4**

We have carried out some Egg experiments.

We cut up an egg in an experiment and it stank.

**YEAR 5**

We have been labelling Tudor clothes.

We have been learning about apostrophes in literacy.

We are rounding in Maths.

 **YEAR 6**

We have been re-searching about evacuees.

We have been writing about World War two.

Some of us took part in cross country at Stockland.

We read a book about the silver sword.

**Staff news**

**Messages**

**World Mental Health day ‘Hello Yellow’ Thursday 10th October**

Thursday 10th October is World Mental Health Day and after the success of last year, we are once again saying 'Hello Yellow' with the charity Young Minds, to raise awareness and money to support children and young people's mental health. This year, your children are invited to come in dressed in something yellow if they have it (or any clothes if not) and donate £1 towards the charity, or £1.50 per family. It can be as small as a yellow hair clip or a complete minion or giraffe costume, be as creative as you like! In addition, they can bring in any yellow accessories to join their class for a 'dress the teacher' competition to be judged at the end of the day!

We are also excited to be organising a whole school yellow cake sale, where we will again be raising money for the charity Young Minds. Any donations of yellow baked goods are very welcome and can be brought in on the day.

Of course the most important aspect of the day will be to raise awareness in our children of the importance of looking after our mental health just like we look after our physical health. This underpins a lot of what we do at Littletown and your children will be bringing home a few bits to share and discuss with you. There will be Mental Health information meetings for parents running over the term, please look out for dates in the newsletters.'

**Annual Consent SOE3 Forms**

If you have a child in years 1 – 6, today they will be bringing home an SOE3 form which is an annual consent form for local walking off site visits. eg walking to the Sports Centre/HCC, or river walks etc. Please sign and return. Therefore, any walking visits will not require further consent, however, when you are notified of a local trip please contact the school office if there is any specific information we may need to be aware of for the trip eg. Medical condition.

**Crossing patrol Littletown Road and Honiton Bottom Road**

Yesterday I met with Matthew Mcdonald from Devon County Council to discuss the currently vacant crossing patrol position on Littletown Road. Sadly, replacing patrols is no longer automatic in Devon and therefore the results of a vehicle and pedestrian audit taken yesterday need to be analysed before a decision is made. The crossing will therefore remain unpatrolled for the time being so please take extra care, We also spoke at length about the situation outside school on Honiton Bottom Road. Possible future developments could include a pedestrian crossing to replace the raised road bumps where many families cross, extension of the double yellow lines and making the yellow lines and zigzags an ‘enforcement area’ which gives greater powers to Parking Enforcement Officers.

**Reception clothing - message from Mrs Hawkins**

Please, please, please may I ask you once again to ensure ALL of your child’s clothing, including P.E kits, are named, We have had several parents voice their frustrations about their child’s brand new clothes going missing, some named and some not!

**Are you interested in becoming a Governor?**

The Governing Board at Littletown are currently looking for new members to join us. Governors help and make decisions about the strategic direction of the school, this includes looking at the curriculum, finances, staffing and the premises. This is a voluntary role so there is no payment, but the rewards are immense in ensuring that the children in our community get the very best from their education. If you have time to give- we meet once a month in the evening but you are welcome to spend more time in school if you can. We are really looking for skills in human resources, finance, legal, business, accountancy and building services. Please get in contact with Chair Tina Sillitoe to find out more at tsillitoe@littletown.devon.sch.uk or talk to myself if you have any questions.

**Curriculum information evenings**

A reminder of these dates that were announced in last week’s newsletter.

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| **Meeting** | **Date**  |
| Nursery and Reception | Thursday 10th October |
| Year 1 and Year 2 Literacy | Wednesday 6th November |
| Year 3 and Year 4 Literacy | Wednesday 13th November |
| Year 5 and Year 6 Maths | Thursday 28th November |
| Year 1 and Year 2 Maths | Tuesday 14th January |
| Year 3 and Year 4 Maths | Tuesday 28th January |
| Year 5 and Year 6 Literacy | Tuesday 4th February  |

**Wet weather**

Please ensure your child has a coat on days when it is raining. We have had several children without coats on extremely wet days.

**School events/Dates**

**Week beginning 30th September :**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Monday** | **Tuesday** | **Wednesday** | **Thursday** | **Friday** |
|  | Year 3 outdoor classroom | 4GW/GA outdoor classroom  |  |  |