

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

Friday 24th February 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to welcome you all back to school after a half term break.

It has been a really busy first week back. On Tuesday some children from across Key Stage 2 took part in the last Stockland Cross Country event of the year. Children achieved some great results such as 5th places and 7th places. A special mention to Sophie who came 3rd overall in the series of events for Year 5/6 girls. My thanks to Mrs Clarke and the parent volunteers who have accompanied the children to these events and without whom it would not have been possible. Also on Tuesday, Year 5 had their last swimming session at Honiton Leisure Centre. This is the first time we have walked groups to and from the pool and I am pleased this has been successful. Again, thanks to parent helpers with walking the children to and from the pool. Year 4 are excited to start their swimming sessions next week! It was a pleasure to welcome Rainbows, Brownies and Guides to school in their uniforms on Wednesday to support them marking World Thinking Day and yesterday Year 2 enjoyed exploring the seasons and signs of Spring in their outdoor classroom. Thank you to all the Year 6 parents/carers who attended our SATS information meeting yesterday evening. For those who were not able to attend, your children will be bringing home information that was discussed and this will also be available via the school website. My thanks to Mrs Fallon and Mrs Binmore for running this meeting in their evening.

On Wednesday this week, along with school leaders, I met separately with each year group of teachers to hold data conversations on recent assessments. This was an intense day, but it allowed us to discuss the attainment and progress of every child in the school from Nursery to Year 6 at the halfway point of the year and to make plans for provision and support for the remainder of the school year. Following on from this, yesterday, I welcomed our external School Improvement Partner to the school for a day of school evaluation activities. This involved monitoring and assessing behaviour in the school and lots of conversations with staff and pupils ranging from Year 6 Literacy to Reception PSHE and a focus on Growth Mindset and challenge. As I told all the children in assembly today, our visitor was very impressed with the school yesterday, notably the children's learning behaviour in lessons and especially the children that he spoke with in my office throughout the day.

Tomorrow, we look forward to welcoming families to our Nursery open morning between 10am and 12 noon. Please do share this event with anyone you know who may be interested.

Next week, the teachers and I are really excited to be welcoming you back into the school to discuss attainment and progress in parent consultations. It seems like a very long time since this last happened almost exactly three years ago. I sent an email this morning reminding parents to ensure they have returned the preferences slip and to outline that if Industrial Action partially or fully closes the school next Thursday then the Thursday appointments will take place the following Thursday. A quick reminder that we ask wherever possible that children don’t accompany parents to the school apart from in Year 5 and Year 6 where we encourage them to attend appointments alongside parents. I very much look forward to seeing you over the course of the evenings next week.

Also next week, we have a busy Tuesday! Some Year 5 and 6 children take part in the second of the Honiton Learning Community TAG Rugby events and Year 4 start their swimming sessions at the Leisure Centre. In addition, our Rights Respecting Schools Ambassadors will travel to the Beacon school in Exmouth in the morning to take part in an East Devon Fairtrade workshop. My thanks to Mrs Luxton and Mrs Arni for accompanying the children. On Wednesday some of our Year 5 children will be taking part in a community woodland planting project on Honiton Bottom Road.

You will be aware that next Thursday is a date of Industrial Action for members of the National Education Union. This means that we may be partially or fully closed next Thursday. As with last time, I very much hope to be able to inform you all of the arrangements as soon as possible next week, but it is possible that I will not be able to do this until Thursday morning.

As communicated via email earlier in the week, Next Friday is World Book Day. Children are encouraged to dress up as book characters or wear their own clothes both for a donation towards our school library. We are also holding our first ‘Extreme Reading’ event where we want to see photos of children reading in the most obscure places. I look forward to seeing them - good luck!

Yours faithfully,

David Perkins 

Principal

**Children’s news**

**NURSERY:** Nurserywere making and eating pancakes and have been learning how to draw The Big Bad Wolf from the 3 little pigs fairytale.

**RECEPTION:** In PE, Reception did pancakes and delivered them. They also had pancake races. They also made a wanted poster for a wolf.

**YEAR 1:** Year 1 have made weather motifs with sticks and leaves. They also learned about what is healthy and unhealthy.

**YEAR 2:** Year 2 have had an outdoor classroom and learned about evergreen and deciduous trees, they also made paper birds.

**YEAR 3:** This week, Year 3 have been doing bar charts in Maths. They have started a new book in Literacy called Big Blue Whale. They have learnt how to be safe on the pirate ship during OPAL

**YEAR 4:** This week, Year 4 have sketched Leonardo Da Vinci’s house. They have also been learning about different types of mountains.

**YEAR 5:** This week, Year 5 have been adding and subtracting fractions and creating land art on the field. On Thursday they started TAG rugby in PE.

**YEAR 6:** They have been finding the area of parallelograms. We started playing cricket in outdoor PE.

**Comic Relief**

Comic Relief day is on Friday 17th March, unfortunately, we will not be selling red noses this year as they are ‘not suitable for children under 7 years of age due to small parts – choking hazard’ and we didn’t feel it was fair to have half the school not being able to purchase one this year. We will be having a non-school uniform/crazy hair day on Friday 17th March, for a donation of 50p per child/ £1 per family which will all go to Comic Relief.

**KS1 sharing assembly next Wednesday**

A reminder for KS1 children to bring any celebration certificates/badges/rosettes next Wednesday the 2nd March that they would like to share in our Key Stage 1 assembly.

**OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning)**

This week the children have been ‘practising’ going on the climbing ship ready for it to be open next week during lunchtimes as part of OPAL lunchtime. Today in assembly we went through the risks and benefits assessment for the trikes which will be introduced from the middle of next week. Before a new piece of equipment is introduced the children will be shown/told how to use the equipment safely so they are ready to enjoy it. The children have been enjoying music on the front playground this week.

**Week Beginning 27th February 2023 events**

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| **Monday 27th February** | **Tuesday 28thFebruary** | **Wednesday 1st March** | **Thursday 2nd March** | **Friday 3rd March** |
|  | Year 5/6 Tag Rugby Competition | Nursery outdoor classroom | Industrial Action (possible partial or full closure)  | Reception outdoor classroom |
|  | Year 4 Swimming | KS1 Sharing assembly |  | World book day (Extreme reading pics and dress up!) |
|  | Fairtrade workshop for Rights Respecting Schools Ambassadors.  | Woodland planting Y5 |  |  |
|  | Parent Consultations | Parent Consultations | Parent Consultations |  |

**Want to be a teacher?!**

As I am sure you can tell from the Littletown teachers and myself, teaching is the best job in the world! If you or anyone you know would like to be a teacher please see attached for information a flyer about open days for Devon School Centred Initial Teacher Training (SCITT) of which we are a partner school and I am Vice Chair. If you are interested or have any questions please do get in touch with me.

**PTFA News**

Mothers’ Day Presents:

Today is the final day for ordering Mother’s Day presents. Thank you to all those who have ordered. The children will be asked to choose their gifts during the next week, then they will be wrapped and given out on Friday 17th March.

Easter Bingo Evening:

Our next event will be an Easter Bingo Evening on Friday 17th March. This will be a family friendly evening and we hope that lots of families will come and enjoy. There is no entry fee, but books will be 50p each and you can have up to 6 books. Each book gives 2 chances to win one of our Easter themed prizes. The doors open at 5:30 for a 6:00pm start and we aim to finish soon after 7pm.

There will be refreshments available to buy if you want to, and a raffle. Please come along and support us if you can.

Future Dates:

Friday 21st April – School Disco

Friday 5th May – Coronation Picnic (details to follow)

Friday 16th June – School Disco

Friday 30th June – Summer Fete

If you want to ask any questions about our events, or would like to volunteer to help then please contact us

ptfa@littletownacademy.org or contact us on our Facebook page.

Facebook page ‘Littletown Primary Academy PTFA’.

PTFA Team