

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

Friday 21st April 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to start by saying a very warm welcome back to the Summer Term and I hope you all had a lovely Easter period. As you know from previous newsletters, it was a very busy Easter holiday for the school. Mr Bilcock and Primary sports hosted another fantastic holiday club over the first week where the children who attended had a brilliant time. My thanks to him for arranging and running this provision for the children.

One of the challenges with this was coordinating with all the substantial internal works taking place in the school over the two week holiday. Work began at 4pm on Friday 31st March and finished at 3:30pm on Sunday! I know not many of you have been able to come into school this week in order to see the work completed, but some of you have and all have been impressed with how the school looks. New carpets, laminate flooring, ceilings, and lighting throughout the school apart from the Year 5 and 6 corridor, as well as substantial painting and decorating, has made a massive difference to the school. It has been a long time coming! Due to all the leaks from the roof, very little work to the decor of these areas has been possible over the last 10 years. It is wonderful to now, finally, see the staff and children working in an environment and surroundings they deserve. We will now continue to improve these spaces with new furniture and displays over this term. I would like to thank the staff and Governors who joined me voluntarily on Sunday afternoon in order to prepare the school for the children’s return on Monday. You can see some photos on our facebook page.

This internal work brings to a close (apart from required remedial work) the massive roof replacement project which began back in July 2022. Despite being essential and highly beneficial for the school, it has been a project which has presented many and significant challenges to us along the way. As it moves towards its close I need to say a massive thank you on behalf of the school to Paul Burton, our lead Premises Governor and Tina Sillitoe, our Chair of Governors for all their unfaltering hard work and support throughout. Their expertise, support and significant amount of time given have been integral to the success of the project and it would not have been a success without them. I really hope you all enjoy noticing the difference as and when you are next inside the school building. Be sure to let me know what you think (just please don’t spot any leaks!).

This week has been a busy first week of the Summer term. Year 2 have enjoyed their visit to Seaton wetlands with 2AL going on Tuesday and 2DB/CL visiting today. Also on Tuesday, Year 4 had their final swimming session. We look forward to Year 3 starting their swimming sessions next week for seven weeks. On Wednesday, our Year 3 and 4 TAG rugby team visited Kings School in Upottery to take part in the East Devon finals. My thanks to all the parent volunteers who have supported these trips which without whom, may not be able to take place. We have numerous other trips planned across the school this term and require more parent volunteers for these. If you think you might be able to help with these, regardless of whether it is your child’s year group, please do let us know so we can use you as we need to.

This afternoon, Year 4 return from their residential trip at Escot yesterday and today. It was really lovely to visit them last night, hear about their exploits in the swamp and see them enjoying themselves at the camp toasting marshmallows on the fire and playing games. Staff and I have been really pleased with the children’s attitude and behaviour. My thanks again to the staff who accompanied the children who have spent time away from their families to do so.

In assemblies this week I have been talking to the children about ‘Sticky learning’ and the conditions needed for learning to succeed and ‘stick’ in our brains. Children should be able to explain how our velcro ball and disc game demonstrates this so why not ask them and see what they say!

On Monday next week you should receive the start of term year group newsletters for your information.

On Tuesday, our wellbeing ambassadors visit Combe garden centre to purchase plants and flowers for the school wellbeing garden. Also on Tuesday, some of our Year 3 and Year 4 children visit Honiton Community College for a Quad Kids athletics event.

On Friday we take part in a whole school running event in order to raise money for Hospice care, celebrate and support two of our parent’s running exploits and contribute to a world record attempt! The two most key things for you to know are that children can come in PE kit on this day and donations can be brought in for Hospice care to act as sponsorship for the children’s running. Full details can be found below in this newsletter.

Then, if not too tired from all that running(!), on Friday evening the PTFA are holding their next school disco. Full details in next week’s newsletter.

Please find below in this newsletter information about the upcoming Kings Coronation, information about upcoming Timid to Tiger and some important information regarding online safety if you let your child use TikTok. Attached is also some information and booking slip for some parenting workshops being offered by our Student and Family Support (SAFS) team in our Community Room this term.

Finally, please be reminded that as per my email to you earlier in the week, there are two days of further industrial action from the National Education Union on Thursday next week (27th April) and the following Tuesday (2nd May). I anticipate being able to give details of the school status on these days early next week. Please do get in touch should you have any questions. head@littletown.devon.sch.uk

Yours faithfully,

David Perkins 

Principal

**Children’s news**

**NURSERY:** Nursery are learning how to draw chicks and have been reading the story of the 6 little chicks.

**RECEPTION:** Reception have started a new topic and have learned about sea creatures and made an invisible cake about what you need for a good relationship.

**YEAR 1:** Year 1 have been learning about the sikhism religion in RE. They have also learned that all food must come from either an animal or a plant. They also learned about height and length.

**YEAR 2:** Year 2 have been on a trip to Seaton wetlands and examined minibeasts had a go at wearing headscarves as if they were attending a Sikh wedding

**YEAR 3:** This week, Year 3 have been writing letters to residents of an old people’s home and have started Rounders in PE.

**YEAR 4:** This week, Year 4 have been on residential at Escot where they saw the animals, went on a swamp walk and slept in special yurts.

**YEAR 5:** Year 5 have been comparing and ordering decimals in Maths and they have written their final piece for the biography work on Chris Hadfield.

**YEAR 6:** Year 6 have been researching the Titanic and have started TAG rugby in PE. They have also designed, made and tested bridges in Design and Technology.

**Staff news**

**Welcome Mrs Gimson**

This term we welcome Mrs Gimson to our staff team as a 1:1 Teaching Assisstant.

**Year 5/6 phase lead**

Mrs Heywood has returned to work following absence. To assist her recovery from this absence she will be temporarily stepping down as Year 5/6 phase leadership until the end of the Year. Mrs Wright, who is currently Year 2/3/4 phase leader alongside Mr Luxton, will be taking on the Year 5/6 Phase Leadership in addition to her current role until the end of the Summer Term.

**Inter House sports results**

Last half term children took part in inter house competitions in their year groups. Points were awarded for winning games and for showing the focussed school games value which in this instance was ‘Determination’. Here are the overall results:

1st place: Maple

2nd place: Beech

3rd place: Oak

4th place: Ash

**Mental Wellbeing**

On Friday 5th May we will be hosting a coffee morning along with Parental Minds at 9.15am in the Community Room. It is a great opportunity to come along for coffee and cake to meet other parents and to hear more about activities and support services available to Littletown families.

**Running the TCS Mini London Marathon Hospice Care Friday 28th April**

Next Friday, all of us at Littletown will be supporting two of our parents, Kate and Rachel, who are embarking on a massive running challenge via participating in some of the most challenging running events around in order to raise money for Hospice care. This will also form us taking part in the Guinness World Record attempt for ‘most pledges received for an exercise campaign in one month’. Kate and Rachel will come and speak to the children in assembly following running the London Marathon this Sunday! They will also be showing medals and photos. Children will then take to the field a year group at a time to run laps for 15 minutes. They will be accompanied by Year 6 children monitoring their distances whilst supporting and encouraging the children. Lots will manage to run a mile as part of this and will be logged in the record attempt. We hope that you and other family and friends can sponsor the children for doing this running and send any money (50p recommended) in as a donation on this day to be collected and presented to Kate and Rachel during the afternoon. All children can come in PE kit on this day and after school Kate and Rachel will be selling a limited number of scones with cream and jam on the front playground. In the event of bad weather, children will take part in a circuits session for 15 minutes in the school hall. More information on the TCS Mini London Marathon can be found here:

<https://www.tcslondonmarathon.com/the-event/tcs-mini-london-marathon-in-schools> I will let you know how we got on in next week’s newsletter!

**Coronation Celebrations**

With the King's Coronation approaching fast we would like to share some of our plans with you in this newsletter. We are planning to have a Coronation picnic for all of our school children on the school field at lunchtime on Friday 5th of May prior to the Coronation weekend. Fresha have kindly provided all of the children with a lunchbox to decorate for their coronation picnic. The Fresha meal for Friday 5th May is fish and chips followed by a cookie. (If you wish your child to have this meal please remember to book this by the end of next week). If your child is packed lunch on this day they will still be given a lunchbox to decorate for the day. The picnic will be followed by a whole school assembly about the Coronation where the children will also be singing the Coronation songs they have been learning. The children are invited to come to school in red, white and blue non-uniform on this day. We will share photos via social media platforms.

The PTFA are kindly organising a coronation tea towel fundraiser and will be sharing details with you in due course.

**Online safety**

Please find a link below from SWGFL regarding new safety tools announced by Tick Tock. The Tick Tock app is an app for children beyond primary school age, (having an age guidance of 13years+). However, we are aware of some of our children referencing using it and many of our children have older siblings that may be accessing it too, so we feel it may be helpful for parents/carers to read their update.

<https://swgfl.org.uk/magazine/tiktok-announces-new-screentime-and-digital-wellbeing-tools/?fbclid=IwAR2Clbr5XRavNMfUJXvxWYtTHub5uvCviG5gXw78SLDhF5_5-RkXnnOli9I>

**Drum lesson vacancies**

Mr Parr still has a couple of slots available to take on new pupils at Littletown. He can be contacted for inquiries on 07875537516 and email matt.parr@btinternet.com

**Week Beginning 24th April 2023 events**

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| **Monday 24th April** | **Tuesday 25th April** | **Wednesday 26th April** | **Thursday 27th April** | **Friday 28th April** |
|  | Y3/4 Quad kids at HCC  |  |  | Running event for hospice care (All children in PE kit) 50p donations |
|  | Mental wellbeing ambassadors to Combe Farm  |  | Nursery outdoor classroom | PTFA disco |

**Community news**

**Fun run attachment**

Please see attached a flyer for a fun run event for children on 30th April at Offwell village.