

19th July 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the last newsletter of the academic year. I have really enjoyed writing about all the exciting things the school and the children have been doing throughout this year and thank you to parents who have commented in questionnaires that they have really enjoyed reading them too! There are many exciting things to talk about today so please forgive the length of this final newsletter…

I will start by sharing our Year 6 and Year 2 Statutory Assessment Tests (SATS) results for the academic year with you as follows:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Subject** | **Y6 Littletown 2019** | **Y6 National Average 2019** | **Y2 Littletown 2019** | **Y2 National Average 2018** |
| **Reading** | 78% | 73% | 72% | 75% |
| **Maths** | 84% | 79% | 80% | 76% |
| **Writing** | 80% | 78% | 72% | 70% |
| **Grammar Punctuation and Spelling** | 78% | 78% | N/A | N/A |
| **Reading, Writing Maths Combined** | 67% | 65% | N/A | N/A |

Our Year 6 children sat these assessments in a week in May and as you can see, have achieved higher than the National Average in Reading, Maths and Writing as well as the combined average. Our Grammar Punctuation and Spelling results were identical to the National Average. Myself and all the staff are incredibly proud of these children and the results that they have achieved. I am sure you will join us in congratulating them. SATS results are only a narrow view into education though and these children, who we are so sad to see leave us, have achieved equally well across the curriculum and have been wonderful leaders in our school this year. I really hope they enjoy their well-deserved Fun Splash and BBQ on Monday.

Year 2 carried out their assessments within the classroom environment over the month of May and the Year 2 teachers were very impressed with the children’s attitude and determination to succeed and do their best. Although we don’t know national averages for 2019 yet, you can see that the children achieved better or broadly in-line with the National Averages for 2018.

When you add these results to the Year 1 Phonic Screening assessment where our children achieved 85% pass rate compared to the National Average of 83% and the results of our children leaving Reception where 75% leave with a Good level of Development compared to the National Average of 72% it means the school has achieved above the National Averages in nearly all measures and broadly in-line with the others. This is a great achievement for us and marks an improvement for the school on previous years.

Continuing the theme of children's achievements, today you should have received your child’s end of year report. Mrs Hawkins and I have loved reading and commenting on these reports and I hope you enjoy reading them and find them to be informative. As you know, we changed the report format last year and focused on giving you as much information as we can in a format which allows teachers to focus their workload on commenting on the things that really make your children individuals. My thanks to the teachers who embark on these each year as such a labour of love and put so many hours into writing them. Mistakes do sometimes sneak through despite proofreading, so please do come and see us so we can correct and reprint if you spot one. Likewise, if you have any questions then please do get in touch with class teachers on Monday or Tuesday.

Reports show that children across the school have made some excellent progress this year across all subjects. Reading is perhaps the most interesting, though. It is becoming clear to see just what a difference regular reading at home is making. Where children are reading regularly at home as expected, the accelerated reader programme, rearrangement of the school library and ease of completing quizzes at school and home are really having an impact on rapid progress. A massive thank you to each and every one of you who makes the effort and commitment to ensure your children read each day as I believe it is no exaggeration to say, it is having a huge impact on their future prospects. If you want to see your children’s reading improve over the summer, keep them reading for pleasure, take the quizzes at home and why not even try watching tv and films with the subtitles on as early research is showing this can also make a big difference.

As we look back over this week I need to start by thanking the PTFA for a wonderful Summer fete last Friday afternoon. Thank you to everyone who attended the event which was a joyful occasion, celebration and also raised a total of £2,313. My thanks to everyone involved with the PTFA over the course of this year for all they have done for the school.

On Monday, Year 3 re-visited the river Gissage to ‘river dip’ as part of their predator topic. They were also able to compare the environment to when they visited in the Autumn. On Wednesday afternoon Year 3 parents attended an Express Event where they explored owl pellets and a range of activities organised by the children.

On Thursday our Year 6 children wowed audiences with their performance of Happily Never After. The acting, singing, dancing and even joke delivery was of such high quality and the children showed great confidence, togetherness and humour throughout. My thanks to the Year 6 staff and to Mrs Binmore, who wrote the show, for all their hard work on this.

Today, Year 2 parents were saved from exercise by the weather, but enjoyed using chromebooks to carry out some stop motion animation with their children at an Express Event on the topic Bounce.

Year 1 classes yesterday and today, in contrasting weather, explored Offwell Woods as part of their Enchanted Woodland topic and enjoyed taking part in a range of activities.

This morning, some children shared their research in special assemblies commemorating 50 years since the Apollo 11 moon landings. These children then got to hold a part of a rocket’s nose cone that has been in to space and look at photographs of a child’s grandfather who worked on science experiments for the Apollo 11 mission. My thanks to Mrs Wilson for bringing in these artefacts.

Good luck to our choir who perform at the Coteligh fete tomorrow afternoon. A busy two days next week as Monday sees the final ACE award assemblies of the year. Children can wear non-school uniform on Tuesday, but please remember pick up remains at normal time on this afternoon.

Thank you to the many of you who have returned parent questionnaires to me over the last two weeks. It has been great reading all the comments. Although full analysis will take place over the Summer, it is clear to see that there is a lot of positive feedback about the school and inevitably some areas in which more discussion and consideration is needed. Please remember that although the questionnaire is now finished, we really value your feedback continually throughout the year and don’t hesitate to get in touch with us with feedback. My thanks to Mr Rundle who will be assisting me with collating and analysing the responses.

Finally, I would like to thank all of you personally for what has easily been the best school year of my professional career. There have been a lot of changes and new things to digest this year as well as challenges along the way, but I have always felt so well supported by parents throughout. We don’t always get it right and we have much still to do ahead of us, but I will never forget some of the amazing, and at times quite surreal, successes we have had at Littletown this year. Ofsted inspections, Newsround appearances, Google filming and TES National School awards to name just a few! I am very proud of this school and the things we have done and are doing, fully aware that there is still much left to do and I can’t wait to get started when we return in September. All that remains is to wish you all a wonderful, relaxing and sunny Summer, a sad, but fond farewell to those leaving us for good and that I look forward to seeing everyone when we return on Tuesday 3rd September.

Yours faithfully,

David Perkins

Principal

**News from the children**

**Nursery**

We have been making pirate hats and eye patches.

We have been decorating mermaids and mermen.

**Reception**

We have been learning about animals.

We have learnt how to add and takeaway big numbers.

**Year 1**

We went on a trip to Offwell woods.

We have been doing symbols in R.E.

**Year 2**

We have been planning our express event.

We have watched the year 6 performance

**Year 3**

We went to the river Gissage to do river dipping

We had our express event for predators

**Year 4**

We have done rounding for maths.

We have also been planning our express event for ‘Road Trip USA’

**Year 5**

We have been analysing theme park websites.

We have been learning about volume in maths.

**Year 6**

We have enjoyed practising our performance.

We have had our transition days at HCC.

**Staff news**

With it being the end of the academic year there are a few members of staff to whom we sadly say a fond farewell next week:

**Mrs Bader** will be leaving us at the end of this term to start a new role at Kings School. She has worked with many children in the Nursery over the last seven years and supported many families through their first year with the school. We wish her luck in her new job.

**Mrs Clifford** has supported individuals and groups in our school for the last 7 years and is leaving us next week. We thank her for all her hard work for our school

**Mrs White** is leaving us to take up an international teaching role at a school in Penang. She has taught just about everybody in our school over the last few years, covering teacher release time and illness through supply cover. We wish her good luck in her exciting new adventure.

**Mrs Hugeurre** leaves us to begin her maternity leave and I’m sure you will join me in wishing her every success.

**Messages**

**Message from the Chair of Governors**

As we come to the last few days of this academic year I wanted to take this opportunity to say what an amazing year that it has been for Littletown, and as many of you know I have been involved with the school for many years, I have never seen such passion and enthusiasm for everything that has been happening. When you read all the things that have taken place this year, it makes you wonder how it all fitted in. I would like to thank all parents for your support and commitment to our school, I have seen so many of you attending express events and engaging in your children’s learning. Thank you too for your responses to our questionnaire and to the Ofsted one earlier in the year, your comments and support are much appreciated. I am proud to Chair an amazing and dedicated Board of Governors, who always put the best interests of the children at the forefront of all decisions made, I would like to thank them for all their efforts. With so many new initiatives this year, I must thank all staff for embracing them and working so hard to give your children the best possible learning experience at Littletown, it is so exciting to know that Littletown is leading the way in so many areas of your children’s learning. May I wish you all an enjoyable and hopefully sunny holidays. Tina Sillitoe

**Instrument Lessons**

Thank you for all your enquiries regarding music lessons at Littletown. We are in the process of sending your details to the relevant teachers who will be in touch with you soon. Children interested in joining the Choir or the Recorder group will be given more details in September.

**Books**

Your children will be bringing some of their books home for you to see however, teachers are keeping hold of Cornerstone topic books initially so we can reflect on the quality of learning within the topics.

**Keep in touch!**

Don’t forget to let me know and share all the brilliant and exciting things you get up to over the summer via twitter and facebook using #littletownlearning

**School events/Dates**

**Week beginning 22nd July :**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Monday** | **Tuesday** |  |  |  |
| ACE Awards – KS2 9.00am  KS1 – 2.30pm  Year 3 Outdoor Classroom  Year 6 Fun Splash & BBQ | non school uniform  9.30 Volunteers/Helpers Coffee Morning |  |  |  |