

Friday 23rd July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

What an amazing week it has been this week! We have welcomed back all of our class bubbles that have been isolating and had a week packed full of events and trips which included welcoming parents on to the school site for an event for the first time since March 2020. We’ve also ended the week by sending out annual reports celebrating the successes of every single Littletown child.

The only place I can start is with our sports days this week. I have to be honest and say I found them quite emotional experiences! I know lots of schools didn’t have parents in and I understand why, but I am so glad that we invited parents in. Feedback from parents, staff and best of all, the children, all show just how much these were enjoyed by the whole school community despite the heat. I would like to thank parents for going along with our protocols and following our guidance when visiting the school and say a huge well done to all the children for being so amazing on and off the track. We hope to hold sports day for 5CB parents on Monday - fingers crossed for the weather. The success of these events has given me great hopes for successfully inviting parents into school more regularly in September. Tokyo has a lot to live up to!

On Tuesday and Thursday this week Year2 classes visited Exmouth to go rock pooling and had a brilliant time. Yesterday, Year 6 had their sports events in the afternoon with Mr Conybeare and did some great activities such as zorbing. Today Year 6 have visited ‘Clip and Climb’ in Exeter for their very well deserved end of Primary school treat. Also today, Nursery and Reception have enjoyed their festival of active learning on the field with bubbles, parachutes, slides and bouncy castles. They have also enjoyed watching a magician in the hall for a short time. Teachers have told me following all of these events that children behaved brilliantly and were a credit to the school.

Hopefully you have had a chance to look through the Transition Padlets that were shared last week. Children have been through these with their current teachers this week. Feedback I have received from teachers suggests all the children feel happy and comfortable about their new classes. The padlet links can be found below in this newsletter for reference.

As you know, we say goodbye to Mr Conybeare at the end of the year. He leaves a significant gap in the school. Please find below in this newsletter information about our exciting new partnership with coaching company Primary Sports and a new sports coach dedicated to our school Mr Bilcock from September.

Next week on Monday we look forward to holding celebration assemblies for each year group in the hall where lots of children will receive certificates for notable achievements over the year. Year 6 will be going for a fun splash at Honiton pool. We also have 5CB Sports day on Monday afternoon. On Tuesday we welcome Year 6 parents into school for a special Leavers assembly with Year 6 before Year 6 then enjoy a BBQ and play on the field.

Tuesday will be a non-school uniform day for all children. On Monday, children who have a birthday over the school Summer holiday can come in non school uniform on Monday too.

Please find below a message from Tina Sillitoe, Chair of Governors, as we reach the end of the year. I would like to congratulate Tina on reaching the incredible milestone of 20 Years on the Governing Board which I’m sure you’d agree is quite a commitment to the school. I would also like to thank her for all the support she has given the school, staff and me personally in her 20th and probably most challenging year.

Lastly from me, a list of thank yous that are even more heartfelt this year than usual: To the Governors for all their time and support of the school. To Mrs Hawkins and my Senior Leadership Team for helping lead the school and supporting me when times are tough. To the staff for all their incredible hard work this year. A massive thank you to all of you for following so many rules and instructions and being so adaptable and flexible throughout this challenging year. I am so very grateful to all of you for the support you have given myself and the school throughout this time. And the biggest thank you to the Littletown children, who throughout all the changes and challenges, have just been amazing throughout and have kept us all going with smiles on our faces.

Yours faithfully,

David Perkins 

Principal

**Message from Tina Sillitoe Chair of Governors**

As we come to the end of another academic year, I would like to thank Mr Perkins and the SLT for steering Littletown through what has been a momentous year. They have grappled with guidance upon guidance, dealt with changes upon changes, all of which has often arrived at the last minute, but although operations have been different, the school has very much felt like Littletown and the strategic direction that we as governors are looking for has been maintained. Mr Perkins, I know has answered many of your emails late at night and at weekends, in order to help you navigate the minefield of guidance and to keep your child, family safe as well as ensuring the safety of other pupils and staff. I hope that you will join with me in wishing him a restful summer break....he certainly deserves it!

As we go into the last few days before the holidays, I would like to wish all our Littletown family a safe and sunny break and to thank you all for the support you have shown during these difficult times**.**

**Padlet links: (Reception have received theirs already)**

| Welcome to Year 1 | <https://en-gb.padlet.com/LittletownAcademy/66hyflhsif8wjzq5> |
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| Welcome to Year 2 | <https://padlet.com/LittletownAcademy/egjm7gb7bi9miscz> |
| Welcome to Year 3 | <https://padlet.com/LittletownAcademy/idvlexciwd4s1av6> |
| Welcome to Year 4 | <https://padlet.com/LittletownAcademy/nii6muoc5upg9bho> |
| Welcome to Year 5 | <https://padlet.com/LittletownAcademy/jzhcvv3hn4yne59k> |
| Welcome to Year 6 | <https://padlet.com/LittletownAcademy/uer2au2teo1piu3e> |

**Sports Coaching next year**

The PE Team is very excited to introduce our new Sports Coach, Adam Bilcock, who will be joining us in September! He has lots of experience teaching and coaching sports to Primary aged children. We are really looking forward to being able to return to all the sporting opportunities that we have all missed over the past year! Mr Bilcock will support children in PE lessons, offer intervention and enrichment and offer a range of after school sports clubs to parents. Mr Bilcock, has already visited the school, met staff and taught a class of children and is really excited about the opportunity to work at Littletown. He has told me he can’t wait to start! Below is a little bit more information about Mr Bilcock:

*I have a NVQ and BTEC in sport from Exeter college and I am a qualified FA Level 3 coach in football. My strengths as a coach/teacher are behaviour and classroom management strategies, excellent knowledge and clear understanding of the curriculum, great relationships with the children and being able to differentiate the lessons to meet the needs of both KS1 and KS2. My sporting background is a semi pro and pro footballer in England and Australia. I've also coached in both countries at academy level.*

**Staff news**

At the end of the year we are saying goodbye to several staff as well as Mr Conybeare. We say a huge thank you and goodluck to Mrs Mainwaring who has been Teaching Assistant in Year 3 and to Mrs Rowe who has been a Teaching Assistant in Year4 for a short time.

**Governor farewell**

We also say a thank you and goodbye to Vice Chair of Governors Matt Newcombe as he finishes his term of office after being on the Governing Board for 7 years. Matt has always given great strategic insight, a thorough eye for detail and had an unwavering pursuit of making Littletown the very best it can be for the children. I’m sure you will join me in thanking him for his commitment to the school.

**Community news**

**Devon’s Children Centre Early Help Service** supports children aged 0 to 8 years and their families.

Action for Children is also offering free online parenting support for families with children aged 0-19. Parents can ask us for help on all sorts of things – from how to keep children entertained at home, to how to handle difficult behaviour, to how to manage stress and anxiety at this challenging time.

Please go to [parent-talk.org.uk/devon](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fparent-talk.org.uk%2Fdevon&data=04%7C01%7CJo.Pike%40actionforchildren.org.uk%7C9b3cd26072094c94d04608d88bc30d13%7C472f2d2100a94fe28b1451e21d7e6f9f%7C0%7C0%7C637413017262123728%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=38ebuo78lGUfErXhZGSW%2BMQsecVpeWxnYqf1Qr61SH8%3D&reserved=0) to read our advice and useful resources, or ‘talk’ directly to a parenting coach via our confidential 1-1 live chat which you can access through our Action for Children website – Support for Parents.

Public Health are also offering free online courses for residents of Devon, Torbay and Plymouth. The Solihull Approach parenting courses are for everyone, anyone who wants to be the best mum, dad, grandparent, carer that they can be. The Solihull Approach aims to improve emotional health and wellbeing by supporting relationships ([www.solihullapproachparenting.com](http://www.solihullapproachparenting.com/)). The courses are written by CAMHS professionals with other health and education workers. They are evidence based and accredited by the DfE.    Link to the courses  - [www.inourplace.co.uk](http://www.inourplace.co.uk/) - access code TAMAR.

In order to receive the services of the Children’s Centre you will need to be registered. Find the link below to our on line membership form.

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/ChildrensCentreMembershipForm/>

Any questions please give me a call 😊

Kind regards,

Maria Stubbington

Child and Family Practitioner

Action for Children. East Devon Children’s Centre.

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[parents.actionforchildren.org.uk](https://parents.actionforchildren.org.uk/)

Down-to-earth parenting advice you can trust. We’re on hand to support you, when you need us. Browse our articles on the most common parenting questions from our experts. Or talk one-to-one with a qualified parenting coach about anything that’s worrying you. It’s all free, and no topic is too big, small, or embarrassing.

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