

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

Friday 5th May 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been lovely to see the school awash with red, white and blue today as we mark the Coronation of King Charles III. Our Coronation Picnic this afternoon, which the children ate in the hall due to the wet weather, had a lovely atmosphere with the children eating on the mats with patriotic music and images on the screen. My thanks again to Fresha for providing the lunch boxes which have been beautifully decorated by the children. In assembly, we talked about what happens during the Coronation and the children sang their coronation songs beautifully to each other. Children have also all drawn their self-portraits (complete with crowns!) to become class tea towels to mark the Coronation. My thanks to the PTFA for arranging this. Please also see information from the PTFA attached to this newsletter about their Coronation Trail this weekend. I know this has taken a lot of hard work and is a great thing to do and raises funds to be spent on the children.

As you know, last Friday afternoon the children ran laps of the top playground to raise money for Hospice care and contribute to schools around the UK setting a new Word Record for the number of people pledging miles to a running event. This week, I logged the participants and miles to the mini marathon website. Year 6 children counted every single lap of the playground that children ran last Friday and yesterday, some Year 6 mathematicians calculated the laps and miles completed. The total number of laps ran was 5,269. With 14 laps making a mile the total distance ran was 376.4 miles with the average distance per child being 0.9 miles. A huge well done to the children for all their running.

My thanks to the PTFA for another successful school disco last Friday and to the staff who attended to help supervise the children.

Thank you to parents who sent in remote learning around OPAL and the Coronation over the last two days of Industrial Action and partial school closure. It was lovely to see all the things the children got up to on these days.

On Wednesday, our Year 2 children visited Exeter Mosque as part of their learning exploring religious places of worship. Staff reported that the children were brilliantly behaved and had a great day. My thanks again to parents who accompanied the staff and children.

This morning, we welcomed Parental Minds to our Community Room for a coffee morning with parents. My thanks to the parents who attended and to Mrs Davis for arranging this. We will be in touch with dates for future coffee mornings with Parental Minds. Until then, please do check out all that is available via their website here: <https://www.parentalminds.org.uk/>

Next week, our Year 6 children undertake their Statutory Assessment Tests (SATS). The staff and I are really proud of all their hard work this year and throughout their time at Littletown and we know they will all do themselves proud next week. My thanks to Kirsty and her team in the kitchen for providing the children with their special ‘SATS breakfasts’! Next week.

On Tuesday next week, some of our Year 3 and 4 children visit Honiton Leisure Centre to take part in the Honiton Learning Community mini Tennis event.

The Department for Education (DfE) this year updated their attendance expectations for all schools in England. This has meant every school has had to update their policy and share expectations with parents which we have done throughout the year. Just recently there has been an increase in challenging conversations about attendance and a vast number of holiday in term time requests. Please find below again in this newsletter detail about attendance policy and expectations at Littletown along with how these are monitored and communicated. This includes expectations around holidays and absence for medical/dental appointments. Please be reassured that these are extremely typical and standard policy and procedures for all schools. If you have any questions about this whatsoever, please don’t hesitate to get in touch head@littletown.devon.sch.uk

Finally, I hope you enjoy the long Coronation weekend and I look forward to seeing you all back at school on Tuesday 9th May.

Yours faithfully,

David Perkins 

Principal

**Children’s news**

**NURSERY:** This week Nursery really enjoyed decorating their lunchboxes for the Coronation picnic.

**RECEPTION:** This week Reception enjoyed using mirrors to draw their accurate self-portrait as kings and queens!

**YEAR 1:** Year 1 have been making fruit and veggie kebabs, been making a timeline of school and also labelling plants.

**YEAR 2:** Year 2 have been doing a lot about mosques lately and have visited a mosque in Exeter, wrote about the mosque they visited and listened to a special song about the mosque.

**YEAR 3:** This week, Year 3 have been learning about fractions in Maths

**YEAR 4:** This week, Year 4 have started a new History topic called ‘Ancient Civilizations’. They have also started a new Power Maths book and decorated tea towels and lunch boxes for the Coronation.

**YEAR 5:** Year 5 have been learning about expressionism in Art featuring the work of Edvard Munch. They have also been adding and subtracting decimals in Maths.

**YEAR 6:** Year 6 have been learning about Line Graphs in Maths and in History have been learning about World War I.

**Sports day dates**

As shared via curriculum newsletters earlier in the term, please see dates for sports dates below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Tuesday 11th July morning | Nursery and Reception |
| Tuesday 11th July afternoon | Year 1 and Year 2 |
| Wednesday 12th July morning | Year 3 and Year 4 |
| Wednesday 12th July afternoon | Year 5 and Year 6  |

Reserve dates will be the following week (Tuesday, 18th July and Wednesday 19th July).

**Attendance information**

Attendance Policy April 2023 Summary for Parents/Carers

The Governors have recently reviewed and approved our Attendance Policy, (in line with the Devon Model Policy and Government Guidance). Our approach is in line with DfE expectations and as a result, the same as the vast majority of other schools. Please see below a summary of the key information and changes for parents/carers:

 Attendance and Registration

* Attendance target is 97%
* Persistent absence is defined as under 90% attendance
* Persistent lateness is defined as 5 or more late marks recorded in a single half term
* The School day starts at 8.50am
* A pupil will receive a late mark if they are not in their classroom by 8.55am
* The register closes at 9.20am
* It is the parent/carer’s responsibility to inform the school if their pupil is absent (each day) before 8.50am

Medical and Illness

* As far as possible, medical and dental appointments should be made outside of the school day
* Children are expected to attend school for as much of the day as possible on the day of appointment.
* Evidence of medical and dental appointments may be requested.
* If an illness lasts for 5 days or more parents may be asked for medical evidence

Holidays

* Request for leave is defined as exceptional circumstances, holidays are not usually considered as exceptional circumstances.

Monitoring

* The school monitors attendance of all pupils closely and reports data every 6 weeks
* The school will notify parents/carers by letter or phone if attendance is low, support will be offered to help improve a pupil’s attendance, which may lead to external agency support or court involvement if required
* Specific information regarding the schools' possible statutory action following persistent absence and persistent lateness can be found under section 8 of the policy
* The Education Act 1996 states ‘a parent commits an offence if they fail to ensure their child’s regular attendance at a school they are registered with’

 Safeguarding

* A pupil’s attendance is fundamental to a pupil’s safeguarding.

The full Attendance policy can be found on the school website.

**Week Beginning 8th May 2023 events**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Monday 1st May** | **Tuesday 2nd May** | **Wednesday 3rd May** | **Thursday 4th May** | **Friday 5th May** |
| Coronation Bank holiday | Mini Tennis Y3/4 Honiton Leisure Centre  |  | Nursery outdoor classroom |  |
|  | Y6 SATS | Y6 SATS | Y6 SATS | Y6 SATS |

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