

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

Friday 7th October 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week has seen us hold our first Parent Consultations via phone call. These ensure that the school can do everything it can to ensure all children are fully settled in their new year groups and classes and are set to fully succeed throughout the remainder of the year. It is always a pleasure to be in school over hearing these conversations around the school from various office phones. My thanks to the teachers for taking the time to commit to the late evenings at school. Our next Parent Consultations in February will see parents come to school for scheduled appointments where children’s learning, academic progress and targets for the second half of the year can be shared and discussed.

On Tuesday, all our Year 3 children visited Honiton Community College for a gymnastics festival and had a great morning. Staff were impressed with their gymnastics and their behaviour. Later on Tuesday, runners from across Key Stage 2 went to Stockland for the second cross country race of the year. My thanks to those who accompanied the children to both, especially Mrs Ryerson for going to Stockland at short notice?

Thanks to all the parents who responded to our survey about playtimes. This will help us improve playtimes over this year. If you are the parent who commented that you work in a school that do OPAL and everyone loves it, please let me know as we really want to visit your school!! Today in assembly, Mrs Hawkins and Mrs Davis shared the different 16 types of play with the children and began reflecting on which ones happen well at school and which ones we could improve on. I attach a poster of the 16 types of play with this newsletter so you can try and fit them all into your weekend! (Or perhaps just reference them with the children).

Thank you also to all 138 of you who responded to our consultation on the October half term. As you may expect, there are a spectrum of opinions on the matter. The consultation will be discussed alongside the staff consultation at the Governing Board meeting on Monday evening and term dates for 2023-24 will be shared with you all in due course.

Next week is a busy last week of the half term. Our first wellbeing week of the year with our annual Hello Yellow dress in yellow day on Tuesday raising money for Young Minds children’s mental health charity. Full information from Mrs Davis can be found below. Also on Tuesday our Netball Team visit Honiton Primary for a match after school. Lots of children have outdoor classroom next week with Year 3 on Tuesday, 2DB/MH on Wednesday, Year 1 on Thursday and 2AL on Friday.

On Monday, straight after school, the PTFA hold their Annual General Meeting in our Community Room. Please attend to support if you can. The PTFA have been taking orders for doughnuts which will come home with children next Friday.

On Thursday and Friday next week some Senior Leaders and I attend the Annual Devon School Leadership Conference. Mrs Childs and Mrs Wright will be leading the operation of the school on Thursday and Miss Croft with Mr Luxton will do so on Friday. I will still be responding to emails throughout and can be contacted by colleagues at school as required.

Finally, as we move through the year we are starting to think how we can welcome volunteers in to the school to support learning. We already have some volunteers working with children on early reading. We are looking to see if we can get some volunteers to help in our library in the afternoons on a rota basis. If you think you may be interested please get in touch [head@littletown.devon.sch.uk](mailto:head@littletown.devon.sch.uk)

Yours faithfully,

David Perkins 

Principal

**Children’s news**

Nursery: We have made birthday cakes out of play-doh! We made shakers out of 2 plastic cups and rice.

Reception: We did PSHE with Jigsaw Jack and learned about sharing. In P.E we used shapes and colours to help us learn.

Year 1: We have been learning about the 5 oceans: The Arctic, The Southern, The Indian, The Atlantic and the Pacific and also the 7 continents: Asia, Africa, North and South America, Antarctica, Europe and Australia.

Year 2: We have been learning column addition and finding the Northern and Southern hemisphere, the equator and all about Neil Armstrong.

Year 3: We are learning how to debug in coding and we have a new topic in science called animal nutrition.

We are learning about Amesbury archers in history, and we went to HCC for gymnastics.

Year 4: In P.E we used the large apparatus. We are doing an egg experiment in science and we designed our own healthy snack and packaging.

Year 5: We have been making paper chains and things to decorate the classroom for hello yellow day next week.

Year 6

In Art we have been looking at colour and form in landscape paintings. In topic we have been learning more about endangered species and what life would be like as slaves.

**Mental Wellbeing**

Our first wellbeing week of the academic year is next week! It will be held in conjunction with Young Minds ‘Hello Yellow’ campaign. Our ‘Hello Yellow’ Day will be on **Tuesday 11th October** when children and staff will be invited to wear anything yellow into school. Please do not go and buy anything special for the event as it will be a non-uniform day for everyone. If you are able to donate 50p per child/£1 per family which will go to the charity Young Minds then that would be fantastic but this is purely voluntary.

**Mobile phone reminder - Year 5 and 6**

Children should only be bringing mobile phones into school if they walk to/from school on their own. Please can I ask parents to check that their child is only bringing their phone to school in this instance. Can parents also remind their children that phones should be switched off when they arrive onto the school grounds and should remain off until they are off of the premises. Many thanks for your cooperation with this matter.

**End of the day**

Please can I ask parents to leave the playground promptly when children join them from classes at the end of the day. As you will have seen, the playground is busy and lately we have had lots of children running around and playing etc. rather than leaving the playground. This has led to some unnecessary accidents. Please keep children close to you if you do need to wait for siblings in order that very young children don’t get bumped into. Children have been reminded about this in assembly. Thank you for your cooperation with this.

**Cranbrook park run Sunday 16th October**

Dear Parents,

Every week thousands of young children, aged between 4 and 14, take part in Junior Park Runs across the country. Each Junior Park Run is run over a distance of 2km. They are open to all, free, and are safe and easy to take part in.

On Sunday 16th October, staff from Littletown will be at Cranbrook Country Park Junior Parkrun and we would love for as many children from Littletown as possible to come and join us and take part in a Junior Parkrun. Other local schools have been invited to take part in these events and it is a fantastic opportunity to show that we have active children here at Littletown.

You will need to register your child/children if they wish to take part, but this is free and simple to do <https://www.parkrun.org.uk/register/>

Once registered, you can print off barcodes that are unique to each child. The children simply run with their barcode in their hand and this is scanned at the finish line to record their time. Parkrun will then email you (at the address given when registering) by Sunday afternoon to give you lots of details about the run (for example how long it took them).

If you do decide to bring your children along on Sunday 16th October, could they please be in Littletown PE kit. We promise to get a shout out from the announcer before the run begins! The run begins at 9.00am prompt and most people are gathered at the start from about 8.50am. The run will be completed by 9.30am at the latest.

Please note that all staff will be there in a supporting capacity only and will not have responsibility for your children. Please do run to accompany your child as they need to be with an adult at all times.

See you there!

Miss Bodgin and Mrs Hudson-Pike

**Week Beginning 10th October 2022 events**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Monday 10th October** | **Tuesday 11th October** | **Wednesday 12th October** | **Thursday 13th October** | **Friday 14th October** |
| PTFA Annual General Meeting in Community Room 3:30pm | Hello Yellow day - non-uniform wear Yellow | 2DB/MCHP Outdoor Classroom | Year 1 Outdoor Classroom | Last day of half term  (Return Monday 31st October) |
|  | Year 3 Outdoor Classroom |  |  | 2AL Outdoor classroom |
|  | After school Netball match at Honiton Primary School |  |  | PTFA doughnuts |
|  |  |  |  | Last day of Term |