Friday 24th September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Another busy week at Littletown this week as the Autumn Term is in full flow. Year 2 have enjoyed day trips to Seaton wetlands on Tuesday and Friday where they did some pond dipping and created minibeasts from surrounding resources. Year 4 have enjoyed outdoor classroom and Year 3 have today had a brilliant visit from Axe Valley Wildlife centre with their range of amazing animals.

On Tuesday this week we had our first statutory Attendance and Lateness review with the Local Authority for quite some time. Although our overall attendance has consistently been over 97% target there are a number of areas for us to improve further or reset following a year of staggered starts etc. I will be in touch with more clarity and detail about some of these things in due course, but I wanted to bring your attention to one key area today regarding lateness so please see this important message below in this newsletter.

This week you should have received a letter with a google form for Parent Consultation phone calls next week. Please get in touch with teachers if there are any reasons that you can’t be available in the time slots allocated. Some parents should also have received a letter if their child is being part of the first round of the school based tutoring which begins next week.

Please see below an update on Mental Wellbeing from Mrs Davis in this newsletter along with some attachments which parents may find useful.

Next week Year 6 have their trip to Quay Climbing centre where they will take on the climbing wall and the clip and climb.

Finally, it is brilliant to have cake sales in the playground reinstated this year courtesy of the PTFA. Thank you today to Year 6 parents for starting us off with this. See you in the queue!

Yours faithfully,

David Perkins 

Principal

**News from pupil reporters**

I am pleased to reintroduce this popular section of the newsletter after 18 months of seemingly nothing but risk assessments and covid protocols from me… once again we will be having weekly news round ups gathered from each year group by our newly appointed News Reporters and compiled by our pupil editors. Please join me in welcoming them:

**5ZH**

Reporters

Chloe, Lily, Jack, Harley

Editors

Max and Sienna

**5CB**

Reporters

Leiya, Blake, Jacob, Edie

Editors

Daniel and Evie

Enjoy their first weekly news round up!

Nursery

This week nursery made gingerbread men

Reception

This week Reception did funky fingers to cool songs and have been playing in the sand outside.

Year 1

This week the children in year 1 were reading a book called ‘lost and found’ and have been comparing numbers.

Year 2

This week year 2 went on a school trip to Seaton wetlands to do pond dipping.

Year 3

This week, we have had a special visitor to talk to us about animals. We have also learnt how to say our names in French.

Year 4

We have been learning about the different types of teeth. Did you know that if you only had canine teeth, you couldn’t eat peas? We have also had an outdoor classroom day where we learnt to tie reef knots and made picture frames.

Year 5

This week we have been writing about Annie Edson Taylor going down Niagara Falls in a barrel. We have also learned about the clothes that the Tudors wore. They were very smart people!

Year 6

We have been painting portraits of Winston Churchill. We have also looked at World War 2 and have used Google Docs to write about what we have learned on our new chromebooks.

**Vision and values parent workshop**

This September we have been revisiting our school vision and values. This has involved a workshop with staff and Governors on our INSET and similar workshops with Year 6 pupils. I am due to speak with Year 5 children next week and then other children after that. It is really important that parental voices are also a part of the discussion and generation of our new school values. Therefore, I would like to invite parents to a vision and values workshop on Wednesday 6th October at 7pm in the school hall. There will be refreshments on arrival then I will talk about why I am doing this now and share the work done so far. Parents will then work in groups to generate and prioritise key elements and values we wish to have in the school.

Here is a quick form to fill in regarding values and to register attendance for the worksop. This can be filled in by everyone even if you can’t attend the workshop, but there will be another more comprehensive form for consultation after the workshop: <https://forms.gle/HosWaMdwYmsVwGb7A>

Do get in touch if you have any questions.

**Lates and absences**

As mentioned above, we have some actions from our attendance audit this week. The biggest thing to be aware of is that from next Monday children will be marked as late if they arrive after 8:55am when classes enter the school and begin learning (classes go in at 8:50am). They will have to enter the school via the steps and blue doors to be recorded as late. Registers for the morning session close at 9:20am. If a child arrives after 9:20am we have to log them as unauthorised absence for the morning session. A pattern of lateness and unauthorised absence will result in phone calls, letters and possible referral to the Local Authority. This is an area we as a school have been targeted to improve upon. The children have all been spoken to in assembly about the importance of arriving at school on time and how it may make them feel when they arrive late. They all agreed they want to come in with their friends and have time to chat to them before school starts. Please get in touch if you have any questions about this or if there is any way we can help you to ensure punctual attendance.

Nursery doors will continue to open at 8.50am for children who have siblings in the main school and 8.55 for all other Nursery families. The Nursery door will be closed at 9am.

**Staff news**

**Year 5/6 Phase Leader:**

Mrs Fallon will be finishing in her additional role as Year 5 and Year 6 Phase Leader and member of the Senior Leadership Team. Mrs Fallon has contributed massively to the school in this role over the last 3 years including helping me lead the school through ‘Covid times’ these last two years. I am pleased to say that Mrs Heywood (formally Miss Urry) will now take on this leadership role as of Monday. I’m sure you will join me in thanking Mrs Fallon for her hard work and commitment in this role and in congratulating Mrs Heywood as she commences the role. Do get in touch if you have any questions about this.

**Medical information google form**

Next week is the deadline for completing this form to update medical records. Thank you to those who have already done so. We are requesting all parents complete a medical questionnaire (even if your child does not have a medical condition) so that we have the correct information for ALL pupils. You can access the questionnaire via this google form<https://forms.gle/trc9nvCdwzn2fWeP9> Please could this be completed by Friday 30th September.

**Reception**

Apologies for any confusion regarding when we will be changing reading books. These will be changed Mondays and Thursdays to ensure you have plenty of time to share the books at home. A few parents have asked for help when hearing their child read, sharing picture books, learning sounds/tricky words or what to write in the reading record. We will be writing to you all with some ’top tips’ next week.

**Parking**

Starting this academic year without staggered starts and finishes was always going to make the roads seem busier than we became accustomed to last year. Although most parents now come on to the playground to meet parents, there are still many children walking home or exiting the site on their own and crossing Honiton Bottom Road. When people park on the double yellow lines opposite school and on the single yellow line (which is no parking between 8 and 4) opposite the car park, it creates congestion, reduces visibility and makes crossing the road even at the safety humps very dangerous. I know this has understandably caused some heated exchanges between parents. Please can all parents remember the language and behaviour we want modelled to the children. From next week I will be attempting to be more of a presence on the road after spending a couple of weeks ensuring the school settles well and children leave happy. I will also again request more regular visits from our PCSO and Traffic Enforcement Officers, but this has been an ongoing challenge. The best solution is if all parents refrain from parking on these lines in the first place.

**Mental Wellbeing**

Our first Mental Wellbeing Week of the Year is fast approaching and it coincides with Young Mind’s Hello Yellow campaign. This year, we have planned our wellbeing week alongside Honiton Primary School. Lots of activities are being planned for the week beginning 4th October culminating in Hello Yellow Day itself on Friday 8th October when all staff and children will be invited to come into school wearing something yellow or bright and/or non school uniform, as always please don’t go out and buy something especially as just paying 50p per child or £1 per family to wear non-uniform helps raise money and awareness. The money raised will be split between the charity Young Minds and Mental Wellbeing at school. We are still planning to use the money to develop calm zones in the playground.

One of the activities the children will be doing during the week is planting bulbs around the school grounds. If anyone has a plant container that is no longer being used and would be suitable for planting bulbs we would be very happy to give it a new home. If you are able to donate a container please bring it to reception when either dropping or collecting your child from school during next week.

The Mental Wellbeing Ambassadors have been hard at work planning activities for our Mental Wellbeing Week as well as looking after the guinea pigs, Toby and Carrot. They were presented with their rainbow badges in last week’s KS2 wellbeing assembly and I am looking forward to working with them throughout the school year.

We are very lucky in Honiton to have the Parent + Support Hub to support families who need mental health support. They run weekly and monthly meetups and various workshops. Please see the attached posters for more information.