Friday 10th September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

It gives me great pleasure to start by saying a very warm and happy welcome back to Littletown after the Summer break!

A huge welcome too to our Reception and Nursery starters and to all our new families that have joined us across the school this week. I expect, like me, you have found it both joyful and surreal to have the school operate largely as it was before Covid-19 restrictions were introduced. Things have happened this week which have not taken place at all or in the same way since 20th March 2020 (some 538 days in total!). Welcoming and saying bye to a whole school community at the same time really has been amazing. I do also appreciate that after over a year of staggered starts and one way systems, it can all feel a little strange. Thank you for adjusting so well to the timings of the school day and the arrangements for before and after school. It’s been great to see so many smiles on faces on the playground not covered by fabric. I’ve summarised these arrangements again below for reference.

We’re also, of course, adjusting to new Covid-19 directives regarding self isolation and testing which have come into effect since July. These are very different to when we were last in school so please do read these below and get in touch if you have any questions.

What a brilliant week we have had this week! We’ve welcomed children back into the hall for assemblies, lunches and indoor PE, we’ve had year group mixing at break and lunchtimes, we’ve had full use of the school library and we’ve had teachers and myself being able to visit different classes over the week. We’ve also started using lots of brand new chromebooks and very soon children from Year 2 to Year 6 will have their own one allocated to them all day every day at school. We’ve also started planning and implementing lots of things from our school development plan this year. I’ve added the summary table I shared in July back into this newsletter below as a reminder. I’m always happy to answer any questions about any of the priorities and strategies listed head@littletown.devon.sch.uk I’ve seen so much amazing learning throughout the school this week. Special mention to Year 4 and their amazing leaning paper towers and to Year 1 for their great costumes for Superheroes day today!

With the start of the year comes assessments so teachers can effectively plan teaching and interventions. This year part of this process for the first time has been ‘replacements’ on Lexia. This is the first time we have done this. Please see my explanation below in this newsletter.

This morning in assembly I spoke to children in Year 3 to Year 6 about the 20th anniversary of the September 11th Terrorist attacks. It is possible they ask you some questions about it. I didn’t show the children any footage or photographs of the attacks and mainly wanted to stress to them that if they saw it on the news this weekend, it is something that happened a long time ago.

Next week we have our reception children starting with us full time from Wednesday and on Friday Year 5 and 6 take part in a very exciting Virtual Reality workshop. Next Friday we will send home Autumn Term year group curriculum letters.

I’m expecting you to have some very happy, but very tired children coming home to you this afternoon which is always a sign of a very good week at Littletown. Wishing you all a restful weekend!

Yours faithfully,

David Perkins 

Principal

**Lexia placements**

The Lexia programme saw children make some excellent progress in Literacy last year. This is the first time we have returned to using the programme after a Summer holiday. The ‘replacement’ activity allows us to see what knowledge and understanding children have retained over the Summer and what elements may now require some reinforcement. This means some children may have moved down a level or two from where they were in July in order to reinforce these gaps. It should mean that children move through very quickly to where they were, but ensures they have the foundations required to access and succeed at the higher levels. This has also given us an opportunity to discuss how learning is not a straight line, we can learn things, forget things and re-learn things and that progression in learning is important. All teachers have taken time to discuss this at length with their classes. I do understand that whenever a child ‘moves backwards’ it can seem alarming, but this is very much a natural process when you move from one academic year to another. We certainly don’t want children struggling to access higher levels because they have gaps that have gone unaddressed. Please do use class email addresses etc to speak with teachers if you have any specific concerns or questions about this.

**Start of day arrangements**

* Gates will be opened at 8:40am
* Senior Leadership Team presence on playground welcoming and accessible to parents from 8:45am
* Children will be parent’s responsibility until 8:50am
* No staggered start
* No one way system in place
* Nursery staff will take children from parents on the playground at 8:50am
* Y3,4,5,6 children can make their way to wait outside entrance doors for classrooms (as they do now)
* At 8:50 children line up for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 in six lines on playground with teachers
* Parents exit either gate
* Gates closed at 9am

**End of day arrangements**

* Nursery children will be brought out to parents by staff at 3pm
* Reception finish at 3:10pm down ramp and pass to parents on playground
* Everyone else finishes at 3:15 Year 1 down ramp pass to parents, Year 2 out of white door pass to parents, Years 3,4,5,6 teachers dismiss class out of back door, but walk those going down to the bottom playground round to the playground
* No staggered end
* No one way system in place
* SLT presence on the playground until 3:20pm but no longer supervising children out of gates (all parents will need to be on the playground unless their child is walking home on their own/meeting parents somewhere outside school).

**Wearing P.E kits**

Years 1-6 to continue wearing P.E kits on class P.E days. Reception will still get changed as part of life skills.

Here are the days each class has PE in school for your reference:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **class** | **day** | **class** | **day** |
| RNC  |  Tues and Wed | RNK/MH  | Tues and Thurs |
| 1CV  | Tues and Fri | 1LM  | Mon and Fri |
| 2AL  | We and Fri | 2CL/DB | Wed and Fri |
| 3JS/SD | Mon and Tues | 3RB/GH | Mon and Tues |
| 4SD | Thurs and Fri | 4GW/GA | Thurs and Fri |
| 5CB | Mon and Thurs | 5ZU | Mon and Thurs |
| 6JF | Tues and Wed | 6CP | Tues and Wed |

**Sports coaching and after school clubs**

This week we have welcomed our new sports coach courtesy of our partnership with Primary Sports, Mr Bilcock to the school. Mr Bilcock will begin working with children alongside teachers next week.

Yesterday you should have received flyers announcing the range of after school sports clubs on offer for the Term via Primary Sports and Mr Bilcock. I understand that a large number of children have signed up for clubs already and we look forward to these starting next week.

Here is a summary table outlining what we intend to do and what the intended impact is:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **School Development Priority**  | **Intended Impact (including expected additional progress based on research toolkit where appropriate)** | **Notes** |
| Academic tutoring for 180 pupils over the year | Small Group Tuition +4 months progress | Using the National Tutoring Programme with Littletown teachers.  |
| Pupil Conferencing weekly with targeted Y5/6 pupils  | Increases accountability, aspiration and esteem. +8 months progress  | Y5/6 teachers along with Principal and Vice Principal  |
| Chromebook per child from Y2 to Y6 for increased immersive use of technology | Impact across the curriculum +4 months progress | Builds on provision in place last 3 years  |
| Nursery (Welcomm) and Reception (Speech and Language Link) Speech and Language interventions  | Daily intervention programmes for targeted pupils.Effective early years interventions +5 months progressOral language interventions +5 months | Compensating from time lost in early years settings developing social and language skills  |
| New Literacy Mastery learning sequences ‘Pathways to Write’  | Will secure increased writing progress through progressively challenging teaching sequences. +5 months progress | Will be similar to current literacy teaching, but with higher focus on developing skills.  |
| Mastering Number research project in Key Stage1 (R,1,2) | Increases fluency and number confidence +5 months  | National project via Jurassic Maths hub |
| York Assessment of Reading Comprehension | Allows identification of different strands of reading progress so can lead to accelerated progress with targeted pupils +6 months  | To work alongside continued use of Lexia so all children who need it receive support with reading progress |
| Focus on Metacognition and self regulation within Growth Mindset  | Excellent attitudes to learning and challenge can result in up to +7 months progress | In class and whole school approach through assemblies focus |
| Rebuild parental engagement | Can have a significant impact on achievement up to +3 months progress | Express events, stay and plays, curriculum evenings |

**Community news**

**Honiton Library**

My thanks on behalf of the school to Iinda and her team at Honiton library for kindly donating to us a wonderful colour world map which is now in the refurbished school hall. This allows us to discuss world events and develop children’s knowledge of world geography in school assemblies. Please also see a poster attached to the newsletter about an event on 8th October at the library and their book amnesty.

**Honiton Rugby Club**

Honiton Rugby Club is planning to hold a taster session as part of a recruitment drive on the 19th September at 10am. All are welcome to come along and get involved regardless of experience. Please see flyer attached with more information.

**Twitter and Facebook**

Over the last 18 months or so there has sadly been very little for us to make use of when it comes to posting and tweeting on our socials. As we start this year, with hopefully much more going on at the school we expect to be sharing more again on these platforms. The restrictions on the Parent Pay platform means that we still can’t put photos in the newsletter so these act as a good way of sharing photos of school. We also share and retweet some relevant and useful information for parents from other organisations as appropriate.

We can be found on **facebook as Littletown Primary Academy and our twitter handle is @LittletownAcad**