

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

Friday 13th January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a busy week this week and as we get full up and running for the Spring Term.

I would like to start by thanking all of you for your ongoing patience and understanding regarding staff absence and cover over the Autumn Term and start of Spring Term. As I’m sure you’ve heard me moan before, the teacher recruitment and retention crisis makes finding quality supply teachers an ever increasing challenge which is felt across the system. Despite having staff attendance well above national benchmarks, the large numbers of cases of Covid, Flu, Strep-A and various other bugs and respiratory ailments means that staffing the school on some days continues to be a difficult challenge.

We are very lucky to have excellent supply teachers in the school that we have built excellent relationships with, but, sadly, none of these have perfected the art of cloning themselves yet! I am also lucky to have part time teaching staff willing to do extra hours when available. You will probably have noticed that, on occasion, classes are covered by Higher Level Teaching Assistants (HLTA) rather than a teacher. This is where we have made the call that this offers better continuity of relationships and learning than drafting in a complete stranger to the school from a supply agency. Our curriculum and resourcing is designed in such a way that teaching can continue without too much disruption when the class teacher is away. I appreciate though, nothing is the same as having your teacher in the classroom. The other outcome of this is that sometimes the cover may appear ‘patchy’ with multiple people covering classes over a day or days. We try to avoid this, but sometimes this is the best way of covering classes. As the warmer weather comes our way we hope that both pupil and staff attendance improves. As always, please do get in touch with me if you have any questions and if you know of anyone who you think might be able to come and be a great teacher here at Littletown, please do let me know.

This week, on Tuesday, Year 5 children enjoyed beginning their swimming lessons delayed from Year 3(!) at Honiton Leisure Centre. We were pleased to start our latest Timid to Tiger parenting course yesterday. Also on Tuesday, some children went to Honiton Community College for a coordination sports event. On Wednesday evening, Littletown teachers joined with staff from across the Honiton Learning Community at Honiton Community College to explore learning in curriculum subjects and developing collaboration.

Yesterday, we welcomed our School Improvement Partner, Mr Herbert back to Littletown to assist leaders with conferencing children about subject specific learning in History, PE, Geography, Science and Music. Mr Herbert was really impressed with the articulation of the children and the quality of their learning. He will return to us after Half Term to conference learning in some other subjects.

Next week, On Tuesday evening we hold our Annual General Meeting at 5:30pm. On Wednesday, six Year 6 children will represent the school in the first Honiton Learning Community Youth Speak event since before the Covid pandemic at Honiton Community College.

Please find attached to this newsletter a Nursery open day poster. Please do pass this on to anyone you know who may be interested, thank you.

Finally, I look forward to seeing lots of the children at the school disco’s this evening. You should have received an email about the details of these from the PTFA earlier today. Mrs Hawkins spoke to the children today about ensuring these are enjoyable for everyone and have reminded them that they are not to bring mobile phones. My thanks to the PTFA for organising this popular event.

Yours faithfully,

David Perkins 

Principal

**Children’s news**

**NURSERY:** Nursery are learning about healthy cheese and vegetable snacks and making paper aeroplanes.

**RECEPTION:** Jigsaw Jenny set a challenge in PSHE to learn to bounce balls and they also were making Jack and the Beanstalk castles.

**YEAR 1:** In science, Year 1 are looking for signs of winter and went on a walk round the school looking for signs of Winter.

**YEAR 2:** In maths, Year 2 learnt about times tables and in art they learnt how to draw flowers.

**YEAR 3:** This week, Year 3 have been dividing in Maths and doing Yoga in PE. In Literacy they have been writing their own version of Stone Age Boy.

**YEAR 4:** This week, Year 4 have been drawing landscapes in Art and passing in football in PE.

**YEAR 5:** This week, in Year 5, we have been doing some one continuous line art. We have also been doing 4 digit numbers times 2 digit numbers in Maths.

**YEAR 6:** This week, in Year 6, we are learning about the Arctic. We are also learning about Jacques Cousteau.

**Reception Admissions for September 2023**

Is your child 4 years old before August 31st 2023?

If so, please remember to apply for a Reception class place by 15th January 2023 at www.devon.gov.uk/admissionsonline.

Please contact us to book a tour of the school on 01404 548748 or admin@littletown.devon.sch.uk

**Non-uniform day for See the Future charity Friday 27th January**

You may remember in the Autumn Term we held a non uniform day to support a charity close to members of our school community when we wore purple and pink for Charcot-Marie Tooth. With January being ‘Love your opticians’ month, on Friday 27th January we will have another non-uniform day to support a charity founded by one of our Littletown parents about the importance of eye health and accessing eye tests - ‘See the Future’. Children will be able to wear green, blue and brown (the colours of eyes) if they have them and make a 50p voluntary donation. You can find out more information about See the Future here: <https://www.see-the-future.org/>

**Kitchen Assistant Vacancy**

Term Time only – Monday – Friday 10.00am – 2.00pm

£9.50 per hour

General kitchen duties which include food preparation, serving children’s lunches and cleaning the kitchen after service. Previous experience preferred.

Please apply by email with a CV to Kirsty Stevens, Kitchen Manager email address:- littletown@fresha.org

**Honiton Littletown Primary Academy Trust**

**COMPANY NUMBER: 07851471**

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting (the “Meeting”) of Honiton Littletown Primary Trust will be held on Tuesday 17 January 2023 at 5.30pm to transact the following business:

1. To receive the Chairman’s report;
2. To receive and adopt the company's annual accounts for the financial year ended 31 August 2022 together with the directors' report and auditor's report on those accounts;
3. To appoint the Company's auditors to hold office from the conclusion of the meeting to the end of the next period for appointing auditors under section 485(2) of the Companies Act 2006, at a remuneration to be determined by the directors;
4. To appoint new Members to the Board and accept any resignations from the Board by current Members.

 By order of the Board

 Tina Sillitoe

Chair

Honiton Littletown Academy Trust

**Week Beginning 16th January 2023 events**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Monday 16th January** | **Tuesday 17th January** | **Wednesday 18th January** | **Thursday 19th January** | **Friday 20th January** |
|  | Y5 swimming pm | Nursery outdoor classroom |  | Reception outdoor classroom |
|  |  | Y6 Youth Speak event at HCC pm |  |  |

**Mental Wellbeing**

Parental Minds are running a workshop ‘Meltdowns and Mayhem’ on Monday 16th January 7:30-9pm on Zoom. It's an online workshop focused on helping parents to support their loved ones and themselves during times of distressing behaviour.

Sharing knowledge and insights, answering questions and helping parents to make informed choices about their loved ones.

Sign up here: [https://bit.ly/MeltdownsandMayhem](https://bit.ly/MeltdownsandMayhem?fbclid=IwAR0ZbK1MSBdCxPU0NygfmCor-ouZZd1mqiEYBzr8VLj48LIubpVeu8pD1QI)

**OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning)**

The project is progressing well with the children mixing at lunchtime on Monday, Wednesday and Friday this week. The older children taught the younger ones how to play ‘What’s the Time Mr Wolf’ as well as showing them skills like jumping. The older children have been articulate when talking about what is working well and what needs improving. Equipment is slowly beginning to make its way out onto the various playgrounds ready to be played with next week. Mrs Hawkins and Mrs Davis talked to the whole school in assembly about expectations when playing with the equipment. A big thank you to everyone who has donated items for the children to play with, there is still more we need;

* Duplo
* Mega Bloks
* Scrap material and ribbons for weaving
* Sand pit toys
* Kids gardening tools
* Collapsible toddler pushchairs )in working conditioner)
* Pots, pans and utensils
* Plastic watering cans