Friday 17th September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a brilliant first full week back at school this week with lots of great learning happening all over the school and children and staff with smiles on their faces. Having enrichment visits is something which is a focus for this year and this started this morning with our Year 5 and Year 6 pupils taking part in a fantastic workshop on online safety called ‘virtual reality’. This week has also seen the commencement of after school clubs which have started with very high numbers with Mr Bilcock. The Governing Board and I enjoyed our first face to face meeting for 18 months on Tuesday evening and it was great to have our Brass ensemble rehearsing in the school hall. It was a real pleasure to present badges to our new Year 6 house captains today and I’m pleased to say that for the first time since March 2020 we will have Year 5 news reporters reporting in next week’s newsletter!

From Wednesday this week we have also enjoyed having all of our Reception children in full time getting to know all their classmates. We are really pleased with how well they have all settled into school. Well done Reception!

You should have all received today ‘Curriculum letters’ from your children’s year groups letting you know key information and what the children will be learning this term as well as how you can help at home. I have also added class email address again below in this newsletter.

Hopefully you will feel that you know the covid-19 situation and protocols for your children and the school from previous newsletters. The NHS have produced a leaflet which you can find attached which summarises the information I have shared with you in previous newsletters about procedures for your child and the school this academic year. Might be a good thing to add to fridges, pin boards etc in case you need to refer to it.

As previously mentioned as part of the planning for this year, we will be holding our Autumn Term Parent Consultations earlier than usual this year. I can now inform you these will be held in the week of 27th September. We were hoping to be able to return to hosting these in school. However, due to uncertainty over Covid-19 case rates in the future and the fact we are already seeing cases rise in school, we will once again conduct these via telephone calls as we did last year. Many parents have said they prefer the phone calls for a range of reasons. It remains my hope that we can welcome parents into the school for consultations in the Spring Term to share books and have a face to face conversation with teachers. Details on classes and days for phone calls will come to you next week.

I’m sure you would like to join me in saying a huge congratulations to Kirsty and her team in the kitchen for this week achieving a maximum 5 star hygiene rating from the Food Standards Agency.

There are lots of important updates below on a range of areas as we get into the swing of the school year, particularly the new arrangements for sharing medical information. Please don’t hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions.

Finally, please see below news from our PTFA. They play a key role in the Littletown community and It has been a tough couple of years for the PTFA due to restrictions the school has been operating under. Please support them in any way you can and I look forward to seeing lots of you at the Annual General Meeting on Monday 11th October.

Yours faithfully,

David Perkins 

Principal

**Mastering number**

This week staff in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 have begun their training for our participation as one of 4000 school across the country in the exciting maths research project ‘mastering number’. The project involves the use of new resources alongside new and current teaching strategies to deepen children’s early understanding of number concepts. Children in these classes will benefit from some short extra maths sessions alongside their usual maths lessons.

**Medical information google form**

We are currently updating the way we record our pupils' medical records at school. 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.

**Nuts free school**

Please be reminded that we are an entirely ‘nut free school’. This means no nuts of any kind, nutella paste or food items containing nuts can be brought in as snacks or in packed lunchboxes. This is in order to increase protection for a number of children in school with severe allergies. Thank you for your assistance with this. Please do get in touch if you have any questions.

**National Tutoring Programme**

We have used the school budget alongside extra government funding to set infrastructure to get 15 hours of tutoring to 180 children over the course of this school year. This means we will start with 30 children this half term in 10 groups of 3. If your child was in receipt of tutoring which was incomplete, the DfE is still confirming how we can go about covering this this year. This means it is possible that some ‘unfinished’ blocks of tutoring are not necessarily beginning straight away. Parents of children in the first set of tutoring will receive letters next week. Just because your child is in the first group of chosen pupils does not mean that they are the furthest behind or anything like that so please don’t let either being selected or not being selected be a cause for concern.

**Pirate ship after school**

As per the signs on display, please do not allow your children to go on the pirate ship after school even if you feel that you are supervising the children. This is due to first aiders not being on site after 3:30pm and injuries after school not being covered by school insurance.

**E-safety awareness**

Please be aware of a relatively new APP and website called 'Monkey' which allows users to have video calls with strangers. The platform markets itself as an alternative to omegle, with a tick tock vibe. This platform contains inappropriate, disturbing and harmful content transmitted by web cameras. This content is unpredictable, meaning the users have no warning of what may appear. Cameras are on, location is shared and online purchases are available . The website states users must be over 18 but there are no age verifications. Here is a link which gives guidance on how to set parent controls on a range of operating systems and devices: <https://www.pandasecurity.com/en/mediacenter/panda-security/parental-control/>

This link is more for tablets and phones:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/smartphones-and-other-devices/> If you ever have any questions about any of this, please don’t hesitate to contact us.

**Music lessons**

Our drum tutor, Matt Parr, currently has a few vacancies for new students wishing to learn the drums. All ages welcome, no experience necessary at all. You don’t need to rush out and buy a drum kit immediately as there is lots to work on without one initially. Please contact Matt directly on either matt.parr@btinternet.com or 07875537516 for more details.

Our piano and brass teacher, Gail Denning has a limited number of spaces available for lessons, as does Emily Miller, our violin and ukulele teacher and Alan Webster, our guitar teacher. If your child is interested in learning any of these instruments, please email littletownmusic@littletown.devon.sch.uk for more information.

**Class email addresses**

A couple of parents have mentioned not knowing or forgetting class email addresses for contacting teachers when needed so here they are again:

| class | email | class | email |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| RNC | classrnc@littletown.devon.sch.uk | RNK/MH | classrnkmh@littletown.devon.sch.uk |
| 1CV | class1cv@littletown.devon.sch.uk | 1LM | class1lm@littletown.devon.sch.uk |
| 2AL | class2al@littletown.devon.sch.uk | 2CL/DB | class2cldb@littletown.devon.sch.uk |
| 3JS/SD | class3jssd@littletown.devon.sch.uk | 3RB/GH | class3rbgh@littletown.devon.sch.uk |
| 4SD | class4sd@littletown.devon.sch.uk | 4GW/GA | class4gwga@littletown.devon.sch.uk |
| 5ZH | class5zh@littletown.devon.sch.uk | 5CB | class5cb@littletown.devon.sch.uk |
| 6CP | class6cp@littletown.devon.sch.uk | 6JF | class6jf@littletown.devon.sch.uk |
| Admin | admin@littletown.devon.sch.uk | Principal | head@littletown.devon.sch.uk |

**PTFA News**

We had our first committee meeting of the year this week and we are very pleased to be making plans to be able to start organising some fundraising and events again. After a year of not being able to get together it is going to be especially important to run these events, not only to raise much needed funds for the school, but also to be able to get together as a school community again. In order to do this, we need volunteers who are able to help us and we would love to hear from anyone who has any fundraising ideas or is able offer a bit of time, however small, to support our events.

Our first fundraiser will be our Christmas cards. In the next couple of weeks your child will be designing a card in school which can be made into quality printed cards and other items which you will be able to purchase. More details will be sent home with the finished designs.

On Friday 24th September there will be a cake sale in the front playground after school with cakes provided by year 6. Cakes will be 30p each or 4 for £1. The money raised from this stall will go towards events or trips for the children in school.

The PTFA will be having their AGM on Monday 11th October straight after school in the Year 3 classroom. Please come along to meet us and find out more about what we are planning to do this year. There is no obligation to get involved, we would just love to see you there. We will also be sending out more information about what we do in the next couple of weeks. Please do get in touch with us via our email address: ptfa@littletown.devon.sch.uk