Friday 13th May 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

The only place for me to start this week is by telling you how proud everyone at Littletown is of our Year 6 children this week as they have completed their Statutory Attainment Tests (SATS). The children have been coming in early, preparing well with shake awakes and breakfast from the kitchen before focussing on their tests in the hall each morning. The attitude, commitment and effort from every single one of them has been inspirational to all of us. I am glad that they have enjoyed their end of SATS walk and picnic today after not appreciating my joke about having to resit the Maths papers. My thanks to all the staff who supported the children and administered the tests. We received a Devon County monitoring visit today and all of our processes and arrangements were considered good practice. Some of our Year 6 children will also have their artwork displayed at Honiton Railway Station as part of their Platinum Jubilee display ‘Transport through the ages’.

Next week 3JS/SD have their visit to Charmouth on Wednesday. On Tuesday some of our Year 6 children will visit Honiton Primary school after school on Tuesday for TAG rugby. On Friday we have the return of the PTFA doughnuts!

You should, today, have received a letter from myself and the Chair of Governors Tina Sillitoe confirming that from September 2022 the school day will finish at 3:30pm. Many parents asked great questions during the consultation and there are many practicalities to now consider and work through between now and September.

I am pleased to share below in this newsletter the dates for our sports days this year. These are based on the success of the sports days last year (which we held under covid restrictions) and the positive feedback we received from parents regarding being able to see their children participate in more events/races. We look forward to welcoming you all to these sports days in June. More detailed information will be shared nearer the time.

We also look forward to welcoming you to our Platinum Jubilee Picnic on Thursday 26th May. My thanks to the PTFA for planning this event, details of which can be found below. Let's all start crossing our fingers for lovely weather! This day will be followed by the extra day of holiday on Friday 27th May due to the original extra bank holiday being in our existing half term break. My assembly today linking the importance of celebrating things in life and linking this to the school value of ‘Live’ with joy and meaning. This also began our focus on the Platinum Jubilee.

Speaking of celebrating things, I am pleased to finish by telling you that after over four years of work and applications we were notified today that we have been successful in securing funding from the Education Skills and Funding Agency to refurbish our very leaky school roof. I would like to thank the Governors for all their hard work in achieving this great outcome for the school. Work on the roof is expected to start over the Summer holidays.

Yours faithfully,

David Perkins 

Principal

**News from the children**

**Nursery**

This week, in Nursery, we have been playing with a farm yard set and junk models.

**Reception**

This week, in Reception, we have been making portals and went on a sea adventure and wrote about it.

**Year 1**

This week, in Year 1, we have been learning our 2 times table and playing team games in P.E

**Year 2**

This week, in Year 2, we have been learning about famous explorers and fractions in maths.

**Year 3**

This week, in Year 3, we learnt about Mary Anning and why she was famous. Also, the guinea pigs are back!

**Year4**

This week, in Year 4, we have started a new unit in maths called money. We have been classifying different sea creatures.

**Year 5**

This week, in Year 5, we have been learning about a timeline of objects from 200 years ago, multiplying decimals by 10,100 and 1,000 and completing Bikeability (this week for Mrs Binmore’s class).

Finally, we have been learning what Relative pronouns are.

**Year 6**

This week, in Year 6 we have finished our Sats. We had a picnic on Friday and we have been learning about Charles Darwin’s journey.

**Staff news**

**Mrs Veevers leaving**

Mrs Veevers (Year 1 teacher) will be saying goodbye to us at the end of this academic year after being at Littletown for 20 years! Mrs Veevers recently moved house and has been commuting a significant distance. She has now secured a job closer to home for September and we wish her all the best for the future. Last Friday we were very excited to appoint Miss Chalmers who will teach full time in Year 1 from September. Miss Chalmers currently teaches at Whimple school and some may remember her from completing Trainee Teacher placements with us in Year 2 and Year 5 last year. She will be joining us for class swap day and the ‘meet the teachers’ open afternoon in July.

**Student and Family Support Team**

Each week the Student and Family Support Team (SAFS) will be sharing useful websites, support materials or free courses for parents and carers. We will also be updating you with any up and coming events that are running in school.

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| **Timid to Tiger Course run by staff in school starting Wednesday 25th May 1:3pm**  **A series of workshops to support parents with anxious children.**  Do you need strategies to help with behaviours that your child may show and that you find difficult ?  Do you need strategies to build your child’s self confidence?  Help them with their worries and fears ?  **Areas covered are**:  -Building child bonds  -Understanding fears and worries  -Managing worry  -Praise and reward  -Setting boundaries  -Attention  -Consequences  **Interested? Want to know more?**  If you would like more information or to sign up ,please ask to speak to Mrs Layzell or Mrs Canniford or call 01404 548749 and ask to speak to us.  There will be 9 sessions, **one afternoon a week on Wednesday 1.30pm to 3.00pm in our community room. There will be cake**! |

**Mental Wellbeing**

This week, the guinea pigs have returned to school after their winter break with Mrs Binmore. Many thanks to Mrs Binmore for looking after them, they are looking very well. The Year 6 Wellbeing Ambassadors will be continuing to look after them along with the children from Year 3. Our wellbeing week will be the week beginning Monday 4th July and it will have a ‘being active’ theme.

**Sports days**

The dates for sports days for the different Year groups are as follows. Specific times and details to follow nearer the time.

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| **Tuesday 12th July morning** | Nursery and Reception |
| **Tuesday 12th July afternoon** | Year 1 and Year 2 |
| **Wednesday 13th July morning** | Year 3 and Year 4 |
| **Wednesday 13th July afternoon** | Year 5 and Year 6 |

**Pirate ship**

With the return of warm weather can I please remind parents that no children are allowed on the pirate ship climbing frame before or after school as per the sign on the playground. This is due to our insurance not being valid if children are not supervised by school staff. Thank you for your cooperation with this.

**Week Beginning 16th May 2022 events**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Monday 16th May** | **Tuesday 17th May** | **Wednesday 18th May** | **Thursday 19th May** | **Friday 20th May** |
|  | TAG rugby | Y3JS/SD Charmouth | Nursery outdoor classroom | Reception outdoor classroom |
|  |  |  |  | PTFA doughnuts sale |

**PTFA news**

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**DOUGHNUTS – FRIDAY 20TH MAY**

Thank you for all your doughnut orders. The delivery will be on Friday 20th May. Individual doughnuts will be available to buy on the day for £1 each.

**SCHOOL DIAMOND JUBILEE PICNIC – THURSDAY 26TH MAY**

We will be holding a school community picnic on the afternoon of Thursday 26th May to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee. This will include children, parents and members of the wider community and we will have music, food and a chance to all celebrate together. The children will be asked to provide a donation of food to bring and share with their year group. They will be taking part in different activities during the morning associated with the Jubilee, and they can wear non-uniform or Red, White and Blue. Look out for an email with further details. We hope that as many parents as possible will be able to join us from 1:30pm.

**SCHOOL DISCO – FRIDAY 10TH JUNE**

We will be having a school disco on Friday 10th June. It has been a long time since we were able to have a disco and I know many of the children really enjoy these evenings.

**Key Stage 1** (nursery to year 2) **6-7pm**

**Key Stage 2** (year 3 to year 6) **7.15pm – 8.15pm**

Children must be collected from the school hall and will not be allowed to leave unaccompanied.

**£2.50 entrance fee to include crisps and drinks**.

If your child has any allergies or medical conditions which we might need to be aware of whilst your child is at the disco please let us know.

There will always be members of staff present but the PTFA are ultimately responsible for the running of the disco. We want everyone to enjoy their evening and work hard to make this happen. Any children who persistently misbehave may be prevented from attending future discos.

If you would like to help serve drinks or do tattoos on the night,

please message us on facebook or email us ptfa@littletownacademy.org

Thank you to all those who have offered to help at the discos. These events really could not run without your help.

**SUMMER FETE**

The Summer Fete will be on Friday 24th June from 3.15pm. We are looking forward to this after not being able to hold one for a couple of years. There will be stalls, games, refreshments, a barbecue and entertainment so it promises to be a fun afternoon. If anyone has or knows of a business that may be willing to sponsor the fete or donate raffle prizes then please contact us.

Please make a note of the date and come along to support us. We will also be selling raffle tickets in the run up to the fete.

We still need helpers both setting up the fete and helping in the afternoon with selling refreshments, manning stalls and the barbecue, and face painting. Please contact us if you are able to offer us some time, even if it is just for half an hour. These events cannot take place without volunteers.

We would also be grateful for any donations of soft toys that you no longer want for one of our stalls. Please leave any donations in the box in the foyer.

**Community news**

**Honiton Rugby club**

Please see attached to this newsletter a flyer from Honiton Rugby Club.