Friday 10th July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to start by saying how wonderful it has been to welcome Year 6 back to school this week. Just as I knew they would be, they have been very grown up, sensible and had great smiles on their faces. They have also enjoyed living in their new leavers’ hoodies which they received on Monday! My thanks to the PTFA for once again arranging this for us. Likewise, I have been so impressed with the way all other children in school have responded to changes in their arrangements this week. Thank you also to parents for being so understanding with changing arrangements from Phase1 to Phase2. You will all be pleased to know that there are no more changes to school planned between now and the end of the year!

There is a lot of important information in this newsletter for you to be aware of so you thank you for taking the time to read it all carefully. This is due to the lateness of the guidance about reopening and therefore everything happening simultaneously and rather late in the day. We have been working hard making plans for September’s full opening following the guidance issued by the Department of Education last Thursday. We will do our very best to share further detailed arrangements with you before the end of Term. However, there are some things that I am able to tell you about today. I am also working on strategic planning for implementing ‘Covid Catch up’ funding, but at time of writing we still do not know how much money each school will get or what we are allowed to use it for.

Next year’s classes can be found below in this newsletter. We won’t be making any changes or mixing up children in classes this year. All children going into Reception next year will be receiving a letter on Monday 13th July. As we obviously can’t do class swap days or open classrooms etc, staff have been working hard making ‘Transition Padlets’. These will feature messages from staff, information on the classrooms and next year, as well as activities for your child to do in order to prepare for starting the year. These will be shared with you during the final week of term. My thanks to the teachers for working so hard on these excellent resources along with all their other tasks at this time of year.

To ensure we can be as well prepared as possible for all children returning to school in September, the Governors have agreed for us to change our term dates next year. We will now start the year with two non pupil days on Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th September. **Children will now start school on Monday 7th September instead of on Friday 4th**. This will also allow families who wish to, to book holidays in the week beginning Monday 31st August as restrictions allow. This will mean that after the Christmas holidays children will return to school to begin the Spring Term on Monday 4th January 2021.

Please make sure you read key information below about Breakfast and Afterschool clubs as we prepare to arrange for these to be running again in September, under certain restrictions.

Meanwhile end of year events and procedures are ongoing. I am pleased to say that the end of Year Reports will begin coming out over next week. Despite heavy workload due to Covid-19, teachers, Mrs Hawkins and myself have continued to allocate significant time and prioritise focus to reports in order to celebrate and record the achievements of Littletown children. Please note, you may not receive them all at the same time as they have to be emailed out manually one at a time by our admin team. There will be an enclosed letter from myself explaining how reports have had to take on a different format this year.

This week you should have had a letter from Miss Urry regarding e safety for your children. With children spending a lot of time on devices at home due to not being in school, this is an ever increasing issue. Please do get in touch with us if you have any questions or concerns in this area. My thanks to Miss Urry for putting this information together. Please also see below some excellent information and links about Mental Wellbeing for families from Mrs Davis.

You can also find below information about our ‘Virtual Sports day’ that we would like all children and families to take part in next week whether at school or at home. This is just another way in which we want to keep the whole Littletown Community together as we move through this time of having only some children at school. My thanks to the PE team for putting this together.

Please see below information about an opportunity for someone with Level 3 Early Years Qualification to work in our After School Club from September.

Finally, many parents have asked me if they will still be allowed to get cards and gifts to staff this year. From Monday there will be a box inside the blue doors at the school entrance. Parents will be able to put things in this box. They will be left in the box and emptied the following day and items distributed. Please make sure items are well labelled and packaged. Please note there is never any expectation whatsoever for parents to bring anything in for staff. We know you appreciate what we do and we choose to do what we do out of care for the children and because it is the best job in the world!

Yours faithfully,

David Perkins 

Principal

**Classes for 2020-21**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Old class | New class | Teachers | Teaching Assistants |
| RNK | CV | Mrs Veevers | Mrs Layzell |
| RNC | LM/CL | Mrs Lambert and Miss Meecham | Mrs Carnall |
| 1CV | DB/VR | Mrs Bentham and Mrs Rossiter | Mrs Talbot |
| 1CB/LM | AL | Mr Luxton | Mrs Thomas |
| 2DB/VN | 3JS/SD | Mrs Searle and Mrs Davis | Mrs Webber |
| 2AL | 3RB/GH | Miss Bodgin and Mrs Huguerre | Mrs Nuttall |
| 3RB/GH | 4SD | Mr Driscoll | Mrs Barrows |
| 3JS/SD | 4GW/GA | Mrs Wright and Mrs Arni | Mrs Kingdom |
| 4SD | 5ZU | Miss Urry | Mrs Small |
| 4GW/GA | 5CB | Mrs Binmore | Miss Groves |
| 5CB | 6JF | Mrs Fallon | Mrs Sweet |
| 5ZU | 6CP | Mr Priddle | Mrs Randall  |

**Virtual Sports day!**

As we cannot hold our usual sports days this year, the PE team has come up with a virtual sports day that can be done whether you are at school or home! Choose from the activities for each day (you can choose to do either activities or both) and fill in the score sheet. Perhaps if you are at home, you could compete against your family? The children at school will compete against other pods in their Year group/Key worker group. All the activities and score sheets will be available on the class padlet pages as well as this link on our website, where you can also watch videos of some of the PE team demonstrating all the activities!

<https://www.littletown.devon.sch.uk/website/virtual_sports_day_2020/496044>

Have fun and we can't wait to hear how you get on!

The PE Team.

**Summer Food scheme (for pupil premium free school meals pupils)**

We now have details of how eligible families will receive their Summer Food voucher. Forty families will receive a £90 voucher via email on 20th July. Thank you to Jenny Rawlins for organising this with us.

**Level 3 Early Years practitioner wanted**

We have a vacancy for Tuesday and Thursday 3pm - 6pm to work in our After School club provision in the Nursery building. Please contact the school via admin@littletown.devon.sch.uk if you are interested or have any questions.

**After School Club booking**

I am pleased to say that we are able to run our breakfast and afterschool clubs next year. However, we have to operate under certain restrictions. This means the provision is unable to cater for short notice bookings. To reduce paper going backwards and forwards we have moved the registration form to a google form. This will come out to you on Monday 13th July. Bookings will need to be made for the half term. Please can you fill this in by 12 noon on Wednesday 15th July. Please make sure you get in touch with us if you have any questions.

**Mental Wellbeing links for parents**

Please find below some links and resources which you may find useful. These links and others can be found on the SAFs padlet. If you come across any resources or links which you think other parents might be interested in, please email sdavis@littletown.devon.sch.uk

All parental signups are free. All links and resources have been endorsed by the government.

### British Psychological Society (BPS)

**Website:** <https://www.bps.org.uk/news-and-policy/bps-offers-advice-schools-parents-and-carers-help-children-through-uncertainty>

**Key stages:** early years foundation stage to key stage 2

**Description:** advice on dealing with school closures and talking to children about COVID-19.

**Registration:** not required

### Children’s Commissioner

**Website:** <https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/publication/childrens-guide-to-coronavirus/>

**Key stages:** early years foundation stage to key stage 2

**Description:** a downloadable guide for children about coronavirus (COVID-19).

**Registration:** not required

### MindEd

**Website:** <https://www.minded.org.uk/>

**Key stages:** early years foundation stage to key stage 2

**Description:** an educational resource for all adults on children and young people’s mental health.

**Registration:** not required, but registration increases functionality

### Muddy Faces

**Website:** [https://www.muddyfaces.co.uk/outdoor-hub/](https://muddyfaces.co.uk/outdoor-hub/)

**Key stages:** early years foundation stage to key stage 2

**Description:** a range of health and wellbeing activities and resources that can be completed outdoors.

**Registration:** not required