Friday 1st October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

The term continues to move at a great pace as we arrive at October already!

I would like to start by saying how great it has been to hear of so many brilliant positive conversations about children’s learning and happiness during parent consultation phone calls this week. Thank you to all parents for once again embracing the phone calls with teachers. Thank you also to the teachers for the late evenings. Feedback suggests it has been very welcome doing these particular consultations a couple of weeks earlier before half term This is something we will consider moving forwards.

A big thankyou to all parents for helping us with new start of the day arrangements and ensuring children are in school on time. I know it takes time to adjust to changes like this and as a parent myself I know how frenetic mornings can be! This morning routine is now settling down in school and children are settling in school and starting learning well and promptly. I’ve kept the information about the start of the day protocols from last week’s newsletter below for reference. If you have any questions please don’t hesitate to contact me.

This week, on Wednesday, 12 children from across Year 3 - 6 represented Littletown at the first Stockland Cross Country of the year and first since February 2019. There were some brilliant team and individual performances, bringing home 3 third medals! My thanks to Mrs Clarke and Mrs Hair for accompanying and supporting the children.

Also, on Wednesday all children were involved in our first Growth Mindset assembly of the year. This is a key focus once again for our children, as it was before the lockdowns, and an integral part of our Jigsaw PSHE curriculum and mental health initiative. We introduced the concept of the brain being a muscle and how we need to exercise it, like we exercise our other muscles exercising in P.E.

Today Year 6 have visited Exeter Quay climbing centre where they have developed resilience, growth mindsets and teamwork as they took on both the main climbing wall and the Clip and Climb. It was a pleasure to join them for lunch to hear and witness some of their achievements. They can now increasingly apply these attitudes to their learning back at school. I’m sure you’ll agree that it is fantastic to have school trips back in full swing. I would like to say on behalf of the Littletown children a huge thank you to all the parent volunteers who have accompanied trips already this term. I know it can be an exhausting experience(!), but we could not do these trips without you.

On Monday we will be taking part in the nationwide ‘Big Anti Bullying Assembly’ where the theme this year is celebrating diversity and creating communities of kindness. Year 3 have outdoor classroom on Tuesday.

Thank you to parents who have already completed the google form to say they can come to our Vision and Values parent workshop next Wednesday and/or give me their thoughts on developing school values. After great workshops with Year 5 and Year 6 pupils over the last couple of weeks I look forward to working with you. Parents can still sign up for this and full details can be found below.

Next week is also our first Mental Wellbeing week of the year. We accentuate Mental Wellbeing for the whole school community every single day, but these weeks allow us to give it an extra focus at a time where it is increasingly crucial to us all. The week will feature competitions, assemblies and of course our annual ‘Hello Yellow’ day on Friday supporting the children’s mental health charity ‘Young Minds’. Please find full details from Mrs Davis below.

Finally, please see an update from the PTFA below. Thank you to Year 6 parents for helping us raise £66.50 from the cake sale last Friday. A reminder that we will be holding the PTFA AGM at school on Monday 11th October at 3:30pm and we look forward to seeing lots of you there.

Yours faithfully,

David Perkins 

Principal

**News from pupil reporters**

I hope you enjoyed hearing from our pupil reporters for the first time last week. I’m sure you’ll agree they did a fantastic job. Here they are with news from the classrooms this week:

**Nursery**

This week the nursery has been making pizza.

**Reception**

Reception has been subtracting up to 3 and drawing pictures of people in their family.

**Year 1**

Year 1 has been learning about the primary colours. They have also been playing glockenspiels for the first time.

**Year 2**This week, year 2 has been making a map from their school trip and counting in threes.

***Year 3***

We have been exploring different types of jumps in gymnastics. We have also been writing diary entries.

***Year 4***

This week, we have been making our Christmas cards. We have also been learning a lot about gorillas.

***Year 5***

We have been creating our Christmas cards. We have also been learning about Henry VIII’s 6 wives. Did you know he was only married to one of his wives for 6 months?

***Year 6***

Today, we went to Clip and Climb in Exeter.

This week, we have been learning about the World War 2 evacuation.

**Mental Wellbeing week next week**

Our first Mental Wellbeing Week of the Year is next week and we will be supporting Young Minds. This year, we have planned our wellbeing week in conjunction with Honiton Primary School. During the week the children will be planting yellow flower bulbs, decorating their classrooms and reflecting on the importance of looking after their mental wellbeing.

‘Hello Yellow Day’ itself is on **Friday 8th October.** This is a day when all staff and children are invited to come into school wearing something yellow or bright and/or non school uniform. As always, please don’t go out and buy something especially as just paying **50p per child or £1 per family** to wear non-uniform helps raise money and awareness. The money raised will be split between the charity Young Minds and Mental Wellbeing at school. We are raising money to develop calm zones in the playground.

**Half term approaching**

An early reminder that at Littletown we have a two week October half term and so the last day of this half term is Friday 15th October and children return to school on Monday 1st November.

**Vision and values parent workshop**

As mentioned last week, this September we have been revisiting our school vision and values. This has involved a workshop with staff and Governors on our INSET and similar workshops with Year 5 and Year 6 pupils. It is really important that parental voices are also a part of the discussion and generation of our new school values. Therefore, I would like to invite parents to a vision and values workshop next **Wednesday (6th October) at 7pm in the school hall.** There will be refreshments on arrival then I will talk about why I am doing this now and share the work done so far. Parents will then work in groups to generate and prioritise key elements and values we wish to have in the school.

There was a slight error in this form which has now been fixed. This can be filled in by everyone even if you can’t attend the workshop, but there will be another more comprehensive form for consultation after the workshop: <https://forms.gle/HosWaMdwYmsVwGb7A>

Do get in touch if you have any questions.

**Parking again**

As mentioned in previous newsletters since the start of the school year, please refrain from parking on the yellow zigzags, double yellow or single yellow lines opposite school, or in the staff car park. This week there has also been further heated exchanges between parents so I ask again for you to please think about modelling the correct behaviour and language to all the children entering and leaving the school. I have also this week been in receipt of a complaint from residents of Gosceline Walk regarding vehicles being parked on pavements and private land. I really do understand the challenges surrounding parking outside school, but please try to park in legal and safe spaces. If you have any questions please don’t hesitate to contact me.

**Lates and absences repeated from last week**

As mentioned above, we have some actions from our attendance audit this week. The biggest thing to be aware of is that from next Monday children will be marked as late if they arrive after 8:55am when classes enter the school and begin learning (classes go in at 8:50am). They will have to enter the school via the steps and blue doors to be recorded as late. Registers for the morning session close at 9:20am. If a child arrives after 9:20am we have to log them as unauthorised absence for the morning session. A pattern of lateness and unauthorised absence will result in phone calls, letters and possible referral to the Local Authority. This is an area we as a school have been targeted to improve upon. The children have all been spoken to in assembly about the importance of arriving at school on time and how it may make them feel when they arrive late. They all agreed they want to come in with their friends and have time to chat to them before school starts. Please get in touch if you have any questions about this or if there is any way we can help you to ensure punctual attendance.

Nursery doors will continue to open at 8.50am for children who have siblings in the main school and 8.55 for all other Nursery families. The Nursery door will be closed at 9am.



**PTFA news**

We had our first cake sale last Friday which raised £66.50. Thank you to year 6 for providing the cakes and helping on the stall. Next cake sale will be on Friday 5th November with cakes provided by year 5.

The children have been busy designing their Christmas cards this week in school and you should have received your design and instructions to make an order. The quality of the products is excellent so please try to get lots of orders. We will receive money for the school for every order that is made. Remember, all orders must be made online following the instructions on the letter then the design must be returned to school for us to send off.

You should have received an information sheet about what we do as a PTFA. Please read it and find out about us and the things that you can do to support us. Next Monday 11th October we have our PTFA AGM straight after school in the community room. We would love to have as many people there as possible. You are not signing up to anything by coming, but you will be able to find out about what we are planning this year. We would obviously welcome any help that you can offer. Without volunteers we cannot run the events and activities that we want to and raise money for the extras in school that the children benefit from. This sheet also included information about the facebook group for our used uniform exchange.

We have organised a Bag2school collection on Thursday 4th November. You will receive a bag which you can fill with unwanted clothing, etc. then bring into school that morning for collection. The PTFA receives a paym**ent for each bag collected and it is a good excuse for a clear out before Christmas**

**Thinking of training as a teacher?**

Teaching really is the best job in the world! We are proud to be a partnership school of Devon Primary School Centred Initial Teacher Training (DPSCITT) and have several teachers in the school who trained under this Outstanding Ofsted rated programme. I am also proud to be a member of the Executive Committee for the programme.

If you or anyone you know is considering a career in teaching then please see here information about free to attend open evenings. You can also get in touch with me at school if you have any questions about this.



**A Note from Fresha – Your School Caterer:**

As always, we are keen to help your children flourish, through food! Our hot school lunches are tasty and nutritionally balanced to give a boost during the day but what can YOU do when they get home?

Have a look below at our 5 Top Tips

[Easy changes for a big boost](https://tinyurl.com/y3s6crzs)