



Leechpool Link

Academic Year
2023-2024
Issue 6

General updates

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reception@leechpool.w-sussex.sch.uk

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This Issue:
Feb 2024

General Updates

Staff Information

Safer Internet fortnight

Parent Consultations

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Curriculum Updates

Reminders

Special Dates of Interest:

- ♦ 6 Feb Safer Internet Day
- ♦ 8 Feb LEAF Disco (Thurs)
Infants 5.15 pm
Juniors 6.30 pm
- ♦ World Book Day 7
March—in class activities
- ♦ 27 March Easter Assembly

See the Diary Page
Updates for further
dates for this term
and 2023-2024.

Dear Everyone

January was very busy with lots of learning and excitement during the International Fortnight and now we are all excitedly working hard on our new topics and ensuring that reading and spelling are a key focus.

The school recently received a letter from the Department of Education recognising the work of Early Years and Year 1 in phonics. This was an amazing achievement by the staff and children and they should be very proud to have their achievements being recognised nationally.

Sporting events have started again and this has involved football, netball and dodgeball. Some of our meetings are competitive and these are carried out with real determination by the competitors. Other events that we get involved in are to build up confidence and self esteem and give the children a chance to represent the school.

We would also like to say a big well done to Penguin class (Year 2) as our first successful Infant swimming group. We are looking forward to seeing lots of swimming certificates over the coming weeks.

A big thank you to all the families who support the events—it is much appreciated by everyone.

Staffing Update

We are pleased to announce that we have appointed Miss Danielle Henley as the new temporary phase Leader of Years 5 and 6. Miss Henley will take up the position in March once Miss Lloyd Jones goes on maternity leave.

Miss Henley will be the class teacher of Giraffe Class and will be based in Year 5 until the end of the school academic year. Miss Henley will take on the responsibility of science across the school.

Before half term Miss Henley is working across the school supporting with the school's enrichment programme. This is giving her an opportunity to get to know the school routines and to know the children in Key stage 2.

Miss Cullern our enrichment lead is currently on long term sickness leave and we wish her all the best for a speedy recovery.

The school is currently recruiting for additional support staff and we hope to be making an appointment soon.



Safer Internet Day—Tuesday 6 February 2024

The internet is a fantastic resource and support throughout the world and is used daily by everyone. However, the internet does provide us all with challenges and areas of concern. At all times, Leechpool works to educate and secure the children's access to the positive aspects of the digital world and spends a focused whole 2 weeks at the beginning of February (29 January— 9 February) to educate children on how to use the internet safely.

There are a number of useful websites for families to use and we have listed these on our [school website](#). Please ensure that you keep updated on the different trends so that you are best informed to support your children.

Parent Consultations

The next parent consultations will be:

Tuesday 27 February 3.30pm - 7.00p.m.

Thursday 29 February 3.30pm- 7.00p.m.

All children are invited to attend the consultations with their families. Families will be able to make an appointment for all year groups on MyChildAtSchool (MCAS) using your personal login. Sign up for the consultations will go live on Tuesday 20 February 2024. Any questions regarding this please email MCAS@leechpoolprimaryschool.co.uk

Miss Payne (SENCO/Inclusion Manager) will be sending out invites to families to attend separate consultations with her.



Attendance and Lateness



Attendance at school is very important and children should attend school when well enough to do so. Non attendance can create bad habits for children, and families need to ensure that the reason a child is not in school is fully justified.

Appointments such as the dentist should be made out of school time and family trips should be avoided whenever possible. The children attend school for 190 days and have 175 days/holidays to carry out family events.

Attendance of children in schools is a national issue and last week **15% of children did not attend a full week**. Being on time for school is also very important. Last week **11.5 % of children were recorded as late** at Leechpool.

Junior children (Years 3–6) need to be in school, sat in the classroom and ready to learn by 8.45 a.m.
Infant children (Years R–2) by 8.55 a.m.

Being on time for school is key for successful academic progress. Late arrivals disrupts and slows down the learning for the class, as teachers are having to repeat instructions multiple times.

Curriculum Information

We are constantly updating our curriculum information for families on the school website and would encourage everyone to regularly check the website for updates.

We also have a useful [Parent/Family Home School Booklet](#) which provides families with all the information they need for children in the different year groups at Leechpool School. It provides families with a great deal of useful information on how the children can be helped at home.



We also produce half termly Curriculum and Inclusion Newsletters to focus on key areas of the curriculum and inclusion/mental well-being. For information on your child/children's progress we provide termly updates through a face to face meeting. We also encourage all families to contact their child's class teacher if they have any questions or areas of concern. This can be done by contacting the School Office or speaking to a teacher at the end of the school day.

Safety

The safety of children at Leechpool is a key aspect of our work and we would like to strongly remind families that driving in the vicinity of the school should be carried out with the utmost consideration for the safety of children. We have recently been made aware of parents driving too fast down Leechpool Lane and Woodlands Way. The start of the day and the end of the day is staggered to ensure all families can pick up within a 10–15 minutes time period and staff are on hand to facilitate this. **AT NO TIMES SHOULD CARS OR VANS BE SPEEDING ALONG LEECHPOOL LANE.**

School Uniform

Thank you to everyone for ensuring that the school uniform policy is followed. The children all look very smart and they wear their uniform with pride. Please **remember school shoes should be worn – trainers are only for sporting activities.**



Could we also ask that PE kits are brought to school on a Monday and taken home on a Friday for washing and checking, by all year groups. This will ensure that PE kits are regularly monitored and it should help to keep our lost property collection down.

Hair

- 1) For safety reasons, all long hair needs to be drawn back from the face and tightly secured (e.g. by hair bands).
- 2) No extreme fashion hairstyles are acceptable i.e. Mohicans, sculpted patterns, tramlines or shaved heads etc. If you are unsure – please seek advice before cutting or styling your child's hair.
- 3) Ribbons, clips, headscarves etc. should be kept simple and to school or hair colours. Braiding and coloured beads are best kept for school holidays. We monitor this at all times.

Head lice

Whenever we have a case of head lice reported to the school, we do inform all families of the class and we ask that all families check the hair of their children and treat as necessary.

Remember to combat head lice **all families** have to take responsibility.

Parking Outside the school



Could we please ask you to ensure that at all times whilst parking near the school you are considerate of local residents and that you are vigilant regarding the safety of all our children.

All car users should ensure that they do not park on yellow lines or near the drop down pavements used for crossing the road by the children. Thank you.

School Office Opening times

The School Office opening times are from 8.00 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday. All families visiting the school should do so between these times only. Changes to pick up arrangements for children should **not** be emailed to the school. Parents need to speak to a member of staff by telephone before 2.00 p.m. Thank you.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the School Office.

Nicola Davenport

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