



Lew Trenchard C of E Primary School

Fortnightly Newsletter – 28th January 2022



Together We Grow in Wisdom and Serve with Joy

Dear parents/carers,

We have had a fantastic fortnight here at school. A buzz of learning throughout and we are certainly enjoying the drier, brighter days.

Most of the classes have either revisited “Austin’s butterfly” or been introduced to it for the first time. The link, if you are interested, is:

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=austin%27s+butterfly&view=detail&mid=5F16D81E3BDA0EE07FCD5F16D81E3BDA0EE07FCD&FORM=VIRE>

The purpose of this exercise is to think about how specific feedback can help move learning on, resilience and that it often takes several attempts to get where you need to be in your learning. It is also a great exercise to look at progress within a lesson and how sharing steps to success (success criteria) helps us to be successful in our learning.

I had the absolute pleasure of introducing this in Brentor this week and I am beyond proud of how well every pupil engaged in this. They truly never cease to amaze us with what they can do. I will be sharing some of the examples with our school family soon.

Miss Davy

School Improvement:

This week, we had a visit from one of our Trust Improvement Partner’s, Mrs Saunders along with Miss Thorp, Trust Phonics Lead, to look at our phonics provision in EYFS and KS1. They were both extremely impressed by the teaching and the engagement of the pupils who made us extremely proud. Our reception pupils demonstrating our school Learning Dispositions so well throughout. They were both also impressed by the progress that they are making in phonics and reading.

Mrs Saunders also completed a Visible Learning scoping review, which again, was very positive. We have made great progress in the areas that we had highlighted during the last review a year ago. The pupils across the school were brilliant at explaining how they learn and the strategies they use. We are incredibly proud of them.

CPD

Lisa and Chloe are continuing their “Emotional Literacy” training and have both received great feedback on the assignments that they have submitted so far.

Mrs Thorp is continuing with ELSA training and other mental health training for her role.

In our internal meetings, we have been covering a range of subjects. Recently, we have revisited reading, identifying that the focus now is parental engagement. The targets set on our reading action plans have been, in large, achieved and this had been evident in the progress that we are making across the school in phonics and reading. We will be sharing our research and future targets soon. Your support with home reading is appreciated, as we know the positive impact that this has on our pupils. Thank you.

If you need guidance or support with home reading, please speak to a member of staff.

Grammar term of the fortnight:

Word classes:

Words have different purposes in sentences, depending on their word class or part of speech.

A word can belong to more than one word class, depending on its position and purpose in a sentence.

In school, we often ask the children to consider the job of the word, its purpose to help them to classify words correctly. This can be complex at times, and we often have meaningful discussions to justify our thought processes.

This fortnight, we are introducing **pronouns**:

Pronouns are words like **me, herself, yours, who, no-one or she**.

Mr Elliott saw Libby using a phone; thinking **she** was a student, **he** tried to confiscate it!

The pronoun **he** refers to Mr Elliott. The pronoun **she** refers to Libby.

This is a great song to help think about the “job” of a pronoun:

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=pronoun+song&adlt=STRICT&qvvt=pronoun+song&view=detail&mid=108DE15CD7C31DB80FB7108DE15CD7C31DB80FB7&&FORM=VRDGAR>

School Money Payments – A reminder that all payments for School Dinners should be made *in advance*. If you have any issues with payment or access to the website, please see the office and they will help where they can. **All dinner bookings should now be made and paid for in advance please.**

Please could we ask that any outstanding monies be paid as soon as possible. There should be no monies outstanding now please.

Free School Meals – A quick reminder that Free School Meals not only entitle your child to Free School Meals, but can also provide the school with extra funding for your child to go towards other areas of learning. If you think that you may be entitled to Free School Meals, even if your child brings a packed lunch every day, you can follow either of the links below:
<https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/school-meals>
https://oneonline.devon.gov.uk/CCSCitizenPortal_LIVE/Account/Login?ReturnUrl=%2fCCSCitizenPortal_live

Attendance

Great Links Tor	93%
Fox Tor	98%
Brentor	97%
Oke Tor	99%
Whole School	94%

National expectations are 97%

Please call the school office if your child is ill or late. We cannot rely on receiving Dojo messages, as the internet isn't great. Thank you.

Dates for your diary:

Friday 18th Feb - Last day of this half term

Monday 28th Feb – Back to school

Week of 14th Feb - Pupil progress meeting

June - Great Links residential trip to Bristol (more details to follow)

July – Oke Tor residential (more details to follow)

Breakfast Club:

Just a reminder that Breakfast Club now begins at 8am. If your child requires breakfast, please ensure you drop them at this time so that there is time to feed them and clear away before 8.45am.

If your child does not require breakfast, you are welcome to drop them at 8.15am.

Thank you.

Drop off/collection: Can we please ask that parents/carers park in designated areas. Drop off at the gates is only permitted at breakfast club due to parking limitations at that time.

PLEASE DO NOT PARK IN THE BUS STOP.

Also, can we ask that once you have dropped/collected your child/children, you move away from the gates promptly so that we can hand over pupils quickly and safely. At busy times, you are welcome to come through the main gates and out of the single gate to help with this.

Thank you.

An Daras Vacancies – Please follow the link for information on vacancies within the An Daras MAT
<http://www.andaras.org/web/vacancies>

(Information below is taken from “indirect.gov.uk/school-attendance-absence”)

School attendance and absence

Going to school regularly is important for your child's future. Parents are responsible for making sure their children receive full-time education. Parents are legally responsible for making sure that children attend school. If your child doesn't go to school, you could get fined or prosecuted.

Benefits of school attendance

Good attendance at school is not just beneficial, it's essential. Attending school is directly linked to improved exam performance which should in turn lead to further learning opportunities and better job prospects. As well as this, going to school helps to develop:

- Friendships
- Social skills
- Team values
- Life skills
- Cultural awareness
- Career pathways

Absence from school

- All schools must record details of pupils' attendance and absence at school. They do this at the beginning of morning and afternoon sessions meaning that each day your child receives two half day marks.
- If your child is going to be absent from school, (e.g. for an unavoidable appointment) then you should let the school know as soon as possible. If your child has been absent due to an unexpected event such as bereavement or illness then you must also let the school know on the first day of absence in accordance with the school's attendance policy.
- The school will then record the absence. If you fail to notify the school as to why your child has not been present then the school may record that period of absence as being unauthorised.
- The Education Welfare Service (EWS) has access to all attendance information for each pupil and if your child is missing school without good reason, schools and the EA have the authority to find out why.

Attendance in figures

- Schools will advise parents of a child's attendance levels at least once a year. This will usually include a percentage attendance figure.
- Achieving 90 per cent in an exam or test is a fantastic result but if your child is at school for only 90 per cent of the school year then they will have missed 19 days - almost four whole weeks of school.
- For primary-age children, this can mean almost 120 guided learning hours. This is a big gap for any child to make up.
- If your child is a pupil at post-primary school, 120 guided learning hours is the equivalent of studying one full-time GCSE (normally taken over two years).

How to prevent your child from missing school

You can help prevent your child missing school by:

- having a routine from an early age and sticking it to it
- making sure your child understands the importance of good attendance and punctuality
- making sure they understand the possible implications for themselves and you as a parent if they don't attend
- taking an interest in their education - ask about school work and encourage them to get involved in school activities
- discussing any problems they may have at school and letting their teacher or Head Teacher know about anything that is causing concern
- not letting them take time off school for minor ailments or holidays during term time

To avoid disrupting your child's education, you should arrange (as far as possible), appointments and outings:

- after school hours
- at weekends
- during school holidays

Term time holidays

- Term time holidays have been increasing over the last number of years. Parents should make every effort to ensure that their child does not miss school due to holiday plans. Schools are not obliged to agree to you taking your child on holiday during term time. They are entitled to record such holidays as being an unauthorised absence

Support for parents

- As a parent, if you find it hard to talk to your child about their attendance at school or other school-related matters, support is available.

Support from your child's school

- Your child's school should have an attendance policy in place and made available to you, normally from the school website. As a parent or guardian, you should ensure that you adhere to the guidance provided in that policy regarding attendance and notifying absence.
- Your child's school is the first place to discuss any attendance problems. The school should try to agree a plan with you to improve your child's attendance.
- A school can refer your child to the Education Welfare Service (EWS) if they feel there is reason to be concerned at their level of attendance. The EWS is a specialist education support service which helps young people of a compulsory school age and their families to get the best out of the education system.

The EWS can offer advice and support to help you and your child to have good attendance at school

Support from the Education Authority

The Education Authority (EA) can also help if you are struggling to make sure that your child goes to school

Support from other organisations

As well as school and the EA, you may also be able to get advice and assistance from other organisations. These may include your local community centre or local community group. ParentingNI provide a wide range of helpful advice and resources as well as a parent's helpline.

Parent Teacher Associations can also provide further information and resources through their website at ParentKind

School Dinners – Please can all Dinners be paid in advance of at least a week via School Money * **Sickness and diarrhoea** - If your child experiences an upset stomach, they should be kept off school for a **minimum of 48hrs**, in order to minimise the spread the illnesses * **Morning drop-off** - Children should be at school in time for the bell at 9am. If your child is ill, or will be in late, please could you make sure that you contact school (**01566 783 273**) so we can inform class teachers. If your child is not in school by 9.30am, and we have not received a message, they could be registered as late, and this will affect their attendance * **Wet Weather Coats** - please ask that all children come to school with appropriate outdoor clothing – water proof coats for all children please, and wellies for Yes Tor. * **Comments for Governors** - If you have any comments or suggestions for the school Governors these can be placed in the red box outside of the office



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