



Lew Trenchard C of E Primary School

Fortnightly Newsletter – 21st May 2021



Together We Grow in Wisdom and Serve with Joy

Dear parents/carers,

It is hard to believe that we are in May and not November! We have been so impressed with the resilience that pupils have shown during this cold and wet time, especially when they have been learning outside. Sadly, it was just too cold, wet and windy to have our “Health and well-being day” outside yesterday, but the wet weather plan worked really well, and everyone had a fantastic day, it was just what we needed.

The pupils were such a credit to the school, demonstrating our Christian values and learning dispositions to everyone involved.

We look forward to planning more enrichment events as restrictions begin to lift.

Miss Davy

School Improvement:

On Monday, Bex, Justine, Lynda and Miss Davy attended a virtual session as part of the “Devon Right to Read” programme. This session focused upon the importance of developing vocabulary and oracy, which are the foundations not only underpinning reading, but equipping children with key skills and knowledge for writing. We will be reflecting about what we are already doing across the school in these areas and then planning how we can map and improve this crucially important area of learning. We look forward to sharing our journey as we go.

On Thursday, our Trust Academy Improvement officer led a writing moderation for Years 1-5 with Mr Elliott and Miss Davy. This was the chance to quality assure our teacher judgements in writing as well as provide feedback and support to develop what we are already doing as a school. This was a very positive experience, and it was a brilliant opportunity to look at the progress that the pupils are making across the school, despite the lockdowns. We will have another meeting looking at the Year 6 writing in Summer Term 2.

As part of his subject leader role, Mr Elliott has been looking at grammar and punctuation and plotting the progression of skills for the whole school. We are passionate about developing our pupils’ ability to write as a reader and really thinking about the effect they are having on their audience. Their learning in grammar and punctuation will help them to do this, so we want to make the links between their knowledge in these areas to application in their writing very explicit.

Trips and enrichment:

Staff have been working hard to plan and book trips and enrichment opportunities for their classes. We have a very robust Trust procedure which usually takes around six weeks, as well as the Covid restrictions, so the pressure has been on! We are passionate about ensuring that we provide our pupils with a trip/enrichment opportunity before the end of the academic year, so will confirm dates and details as soon as possible. These will be shared before half term.

Attendance

Great Links Tor	97.7%
Fox Tor	96.6%
Brentor	98.7%
Oke Tor	97.8%
Whole School	97.7%

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.

Friends of Lew Trenchard School (FLS)

If you would like to keep up to date with the Fundraising efforts of the FLS, you can find us on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Friends-of-Lew-Trenchard-School-and-Pre-school-1062986837045475>

We would like to thank our fundraising committee for all their time, hard work and continued dedication to support the school and provide the children with so many wonderful experiences.

PE Days for Summer Term 2/After school enrichment activities:

Mr Payton is just confirming PE/enrichment days, so we will share these with you next week.

Please can pupils continue to come to school in PE kit on PE/club days, thank you.

Ted

Lola has settled so well into school life and the children really enjoy spending time with her that we would now like to introduce Ted, he is a 2 year old Cockapoo and lives with Tracey and Joe's family. He loves cuddles and fetching a ball.



Book Swap

The following books are available in our book swap, please message admin if you are interested...



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

Dates for your diary:

31st May – 7th June: Half-Term

23rd July – 6th September: Summer Holidays

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.

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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