



Lew Trenchard C of E Primary School

Fortnightly Newsletter – 20th November 2020



Together We Grow in Wisdom and Serve with Joy

Dear parents/carers,

Firstly, we would like to thank all of our families for the support and generosity over the past few weeks, as a school we have been able to support two fantastic support charities, the Royal British Legion and Children in Need. We are always grateful for your contributions, but even more so during these difficult times, “thank you”. I’m sure that you will all agree, that the children did a great job of decorating the front of the school for Remembrance Sunday, “Lest we forget”. As a school, we felt it was important to mark this occasion and learn about the history of the war, as always, the children impressed us with their enthusiasm for learning, from our youngest pupils to our eldest. We were also incredibly proud of the respect that they all demonstrated when we held a two minute silence on the 11th November.

We have decided to change the newsletter to fortnightly, as we use Class Dojo for the majority of our communication now.

Miss Davy

School Improvement:

Reading progress and attainment continue to be a high priority across our school and as such, our Recovery Curriculum plan reflects this, as well as Times Tables from Year 2 – Year 6. This week, we have received 14 netbooks on a chargeable trolley for use across the school. This will help with quizzing in Accelerated Reader, accessing Times Tables Rock Stars and Spelling Shed in addition to the normal ICT curriculum.

As you know, we are passionate about reading throughout the whole school and it has been brilliant seeing the pre-school playing rhyming games, learning nursery rhymes and developing their phonological awareness through games this week, we know how important this early foundation for reading is.

Pupils are learning their times tables through a range of different strategies, I have been so impressed by the creative ways that teachers are delivering this aspect of maths. We are creating a whole school times-tables display to show the different ways that can help embed times table knowledge, we will share this with you when it is finished.

Mr Payton has started planning PE provision for next half-term, we will let parents know as soon as proposals are confirmed.

Our outdoor learning room is almost ready for use, this has been named “The Dartmoor Room”. Pupils and staff cannot wait to start using this space next week.

A huge thank you to the “Friends of Lew Trenchard C of E Primary School” for funding the project and to the parents, pupils and staff who have generously given their time to build and prepare it.

Attendance for last week

Great Links Tor	87%
Fox Tor	94%
Brentor	97%
Oke Tor	95%
Whole School	93%

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.

Christmas cards

Unfortunately, due to the current restrictions, we cannot allow staff and pupils to exchange Christmas cards in school. We are thinking of a creative way that pupils can pass Christmas wishes to one another in school safely, we will let you know when we have decided, any ideas will be gratefully received. Thank you for your understanding.

Picture News

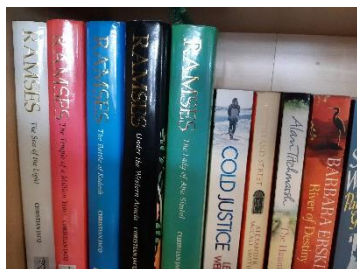
This week's big question:



Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others on our discussion board: www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss or message us on Class Dojo

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:

Monday 23rd November – Virtual cross country

Tuesday 24th November – Party food lunch

Friday 18th December – Last day of term

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 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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