



Lew Trenchard C of E Primary School

Fortnightly Newsletter – 10th December 2021



Together We Grow in Wisdom and Serve with Joy

Dear parents/carers,

What an eventful fortnight we have had! Thank you all so much for your support and understanding, as always. We really appreciate it. We are so proud of all the pupils, both those at home and in school who have continued to show their amazing attitude to learning, resilience, responsibility and independence too.

A huge thank you also to the staff who worked tirelessly to ensure that we continued to offer learning opportunities to the whole school community. They certainly did above and beyond, I am so blessed to have such a wonderful team.

Although the last week of term will be slightly different to the one that we had originally planned, we will ensure that the week is full of magic and festivities. We have some surprises in store too!

Please see below for PE for the first half of Spring Term and enrichment clubs.

We would like to wish our school family a peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to the Spring Term

Miss Davy

School Improvement:

Despite recent events, our focus on school improvement has remained at the forefront of our minds and although we have had to reschedule some of our monitoring and training, we have managed to begin to review our curriculum offer, specifically looking at local history and geography as well as what makes our school unique. This will be the focus of our inset day in January.

As you are aware, we have postponed assessments until the new year and therefore progress meetings which we will hold virtually. More information to follow at the beginning of the new term.

We have started some assessments this week, RWI phonics assessments, AR STAR assessments and some others too where possible. These will be used to help planning next term.

On Monday next week, Mr Payton will be meeting with one of our Academy Improvement Partners to monitor maths books and she will also be monitoring the geography that we have been learning so far.

Mrs Thorp has attended another ELSA (emotional literacy support advisor) training day too.

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 continue to focus on verbs:

Verbs are words like **see, eat, sleep, sit, give, think, be** or **can**. Some of them identify an action.

Mary **ate** her toast.

*The verb **ate** tells you what Mary did.*

The number 10 bus **runs** every twenty minutes.

Tom **finished** his home learning just in time.

Year 11 **will be having** a revision day tomorrow.

The teacher had **gone** to a meeting.

The Year 6 netball team **have won** all their matches this term.

Other verbs identify thoughts and feelings.

She **wondered** whether she should throw it away.

*The verb **wondered** tells you that she was thinking.*

Politicians are **ignoring** these concerns.

Do staff **know** what to do in the event of a fire?

All of the pupils **enjoyed** the theatre trip.

Unfortunately, this candidate **had** not **understood** the question.

Here is a song we use in school: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8tVxS1jFI4k> via Google Chrome

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

PE days Spring 1:

Classes will keep to the same PE days as Autumn 2. The focus is gymnastics so we will be using the village hall again.

Please can pupils continue to wear their PE kit to school on PE and club days, thank you.

Tuesdays: Fox Tor and Great Links

Wednesdays: Brentor and Oke Tor

Enrichment after school clubs:

Mondays: Oke Tor (all pupils) – multiplication club – Mr Payton

Tuesdays: To be confirmed

Wednesdays: To be confirmed

Thursdays: Choir – Yes Tor, Brentor and Fox Tor

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.

Dates for your diary:

Last day of term – Friday 17th December 2021

First day of Spring term – Wednesday 5th January 2022

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

Attendance

Great Links Tor	94%
Fox Tor	94%
Brentor	85%
Oke Tor	62%
Whole School	85%

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.

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.

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.

(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

SchoolMoney – Please can all Dinners and provision be paid for in advance of at least a week via School Money

Sickness/diarrhoea - If your child experiences an upset stomach, they should be kept off school for a **minimum of 48hrs**, to minimise the spread of the illnesses

COVID-19 – as per national guidelines, if your child has a fever, a new continuous cough, or a loss of taste/smell, please keep your child off school and arrange for a PCR test. Please inform the school so that we can put measures in place. Children should stay off for 48hours if they have a temperature

Morning drop-off - Children should be at school in time for the bell at 9am, the gates will open at 8.45am. 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 can we ask that all children come to school with appropriate outdoor clothing/footwear

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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