



Lew Trenchard C of E Primary School

Fortnightly Newsletter – 12th November 2021



Together We Grow in Wisdom and Serve with Joy

Dear parents/carers,

On our first day back after half term, we welcomed the WREN community folk group to Lew Trenchard C of E Primary School and pre-school. The day started with a short introduction to folk music, the tales and songs collected by Sabine Baring-Gould. As a school, we have historical and geographical links with Baring-Gould's legacy within and around the village of Lewdown and Lew Trenchard, including his family home of Lew Trenchard Manor and connections to St Peter's Church.

Throughout the day, each class were immersed into music and song during a singing workshop with professional folk singer Paul Wilson, as well as a tunes workshop with professional musicians. The children had the opportunity to explore and experience a range of tuned instruments and collaborate as a band to perform a short piece of music.

Our enrichment day ended with a short performance of achievements and celebration. Our children have been inspired by the enrichment day which has ignited curiosity for musical instruments, singing and our local heritage.

Last week, we held a whole school "alternative sports day", consisting of events such as fencing, table-tennis, archery, lacrosse, catch the flag and frisbee. The coaches were very impressed with pupils across the whole school, especially the youngest pupils as they had never taught such young pupils archery. They were amazing.

Years 4, 5 and 6 have started swimming lessons again. They were a credit to the school and loved their first session.

Yesterday, some of our pupils represented us at Castle Drogo in the Cross-Country event. Our boys team won the small school trophy and the girls came second in their category. Thank you to the adults who transported the teams and supported them throughout the morning. We are very proud of the respectful and sporting attitude that the pupils demonstrated as well.

The rest of the term promises to be just as eventful, please see diary dates below for more information.

Miss Davy

School Improvement:

Last week, some of our staff attended Day one of RWI training, day two will be in January.

Mrs Thorp continues to attend ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistants) training. This training is over thirteen sessions and will enhance the social, emotional and mental health support that Mrs Thorp already leads in school.

Mrs McMorrow has begun a three-day Health and Safety course and all staff have completed their Child Protection refresher course.

This week, teaching staff took part in our first virtual writing moderation across the Trust. Every Trust school met in year groups via TEAMS to focus on age expectations in writing. This was a useful session to facilitate professional dialogue and share good practise.

We have also had an external visit from our AIP, Mr Swait, focusing on writing. This too was a very positive visit with useful feedback. Writing is our main school priority this academic year, but we continue to keep momentum with reading as they naturally interlink.

Grammar term of the fortnight:

Grammar is the way that words are used in sentences. Every word in a sentence has a job to do and if the grammar in a sentence is correct, then the meaning will be clear. We introduce grammar verbally in EYFS but more formally in Year 1 throughout the school to Year 2. The National Curriculum provides the progression that we follow.

As a staff, we thought it would be useful to share these with families so that you can support your child/children in this area of learning.

Our first term is “noun” – the job of a noun is to name a person, place or thing in a sentence, for example: **Kate** came to **school** today.

Proper nouns – give the particular name of a specific person, place or organisation. Proper nouns begin with capital letters, for example: Mary, Dartmoor, Lydford Foxes. The names of days and months are also proper nouns.

Mary plays football for **Lydford Foxes**. She can see **Dartmoor** from the pitch.

Common nouns – nouns that are not proper nouns are called common nouns, do not use a capital letter for a common noun, for example: organization, continent, boy, day.

Would you choose to play **football** or **rugby**?

BE AWARE

Some nouns can be proper nouns or common nouns, depending on how they are used.

All the **dads** were invited to play in the match.

*The word **dads** refers to fathers in general therefore it is being used as a common noun.*

“I saw **Dad** yesterday,” said Laura.

The word **Dad** is what Laura calls her father. It is being used as a proper noun, just like the name Laura.

There are other types of noun that we will look at in the next newsletter.

Please see the following link for a song that may help:

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=grammarsaurus+noun+song&docid=608014923714467201&mid=7EFEFA18CB23523DEA197EFE>

Vision screening

This week, Brentor pupils had their vision screening in school. They were all amazing and the lady who conducted the screening wanted us to inform our families how wonderful they were; happy, polite, respectful and welcoming. We are very proud of you all.

Just to remind families that children should have a minimum of two-yearly vision checks, which are FREE.

Attendance

Great Links Tor	99%
Fox Tor	100%
Brentor	96%
Oke Tor	100%
Whole School	99%

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)

Christmas Hamper – Thank you for all off the donations. Please look out for raffle tickets which are now being sent home.

Table top sale – Saturday 20th Nov Lewdown Victory Hall free entry. We would welcome any donations of good quality books and cakes please for our school table. We would also be grateful for help with manning the stall.

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>

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:

Thursday 18th November – Whole school M and M productions “Snow White” pantomime

Last day of term – Friday 17th December 2021

First day of Spring term – Wednesday 5th January 2022

We are currently confirming dates for Christmas events. We will share these via Class Dojo as soon as possible.

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.

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



flsfundraising@hotmail.com
lewtrenchardgovernors@andaras.org
lewtrenchard@andaras.org