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Long Lawford News...

Spring 5

A reminder to parents and carers that this is the last edition of our school newsletter going out in a paper form. After the half term break the newsletter will only be available from the school website and school app. For latest news and updates please download the school app and check on the school website. As part of our work to communicate effectively with parents and carers we will be having an Anomaly (outdoor communication screen) fitted on the lower playground on Monday 22nd February 2016.

Parent / teacher meetings - This week it has been wonderful to see parents and carers attend meetings with class teachers. The aim of the meetings is to give parents and carers an update on how your child is progressing with their learning in school. I hope that parents and carers found these meetings useful. I would encourage parents and carers to give their feedback on these meetings on the survey section on the school app. Thank you

We love reading - To celebrate and encourage a love of reading we have an amazing display in the main school corridor. Photos of this display can be viewed on the school app or school twitter page. A big thank you to the teaching assistants who put up this wonderful display.

Readathon - A big thank you to families for supporting our Readathon initiative in school. Over £1,500 has been raised, which is a fantastic effort. The monies will go to buy new books for each class and we will be involving the children in choosing the books which will be purchased. It has also been pleasing to hear from parents and carers how the Readathon has inspired their child to read more.

School dates - A reminder that school closes for the half term break today, Friday, 12th February 2016. School will reopen on Monday, 22nd February 2016 at the usual time. We also have another Teacher Training day (schools have 5 over the course of an academic year) to arrange. I hope to have a date for this shortly.

Monies - Please ensure that all bills for meals, trips, music lessons, clubs etc are paid. Thank you

E Safety - We have recently held a very successful E Safety week in school. Having the week has helped us to focus the children on how to keep safe online. During our E Safety work with the children it has emerged that ooVoo is very popular. OoVoo is a video chat app. It lets you make video calls, voice calls and send texts to friends and family. However it also comes with risks. Namely it allows you to start a group video chat with up to 12 people. The default privacy settings are set to 'public', so you can talk to people you don't know! It also has a minimum users age of 13 years +.

Leave of absence - For any request for leave during term time, including funerals, dance exams etc, parents and carers must complete a leave of absence form. This form is available from the school office and can be downloaded from the school app.

Contact phone numbers - Please make sure that the school has up to date phone numbers and contact details. We have had instances recently when we have been unable to contact parents when their child was unwell. Thank you.

STARS OF THE WEEK

Star workers - Meghynn Dennis, Sienna Smyth, Lexie Ball, Obinna Azogu, Jacob Hirons, Maisie Walters, Poppy Douglas, Matei Ichim, Alpha White-Jatta, Mia Green, Faye Taylor, Laura Brand, Elle Johnson, Ellie Henehan, Mellisa Critchley, Tim Duszynski, Martyn Inns.

Star people - Evangeline Wood, Shayla-May Furness, Kayla Woodward, Alexia Owen-Singleton, Sophia Batchelor, Aiden Clarke, Natalia Juchniewicz, Tobias Cornish, Darcie Hodge, Sophie Cook, Tobi Gladman, Jennifer Lee, Sofia Anczarski, Sonny Greenhalgh, Sophie Brackenridge, Max Higton, Emily Beaver.



WELL DONE TO THEM ALL

Information to support an improved Attendance

Parents/Carers of a child in school have a legal responsibility to ensure their child attends school both regularly and punctually, providing a reason to the school for any absence. If you fail to do this you risk getting a penalty notice or prosecution.

Over an academic year, school expects each pupil to achieve at least 95% attendance.

Illustration of lost learning opportunities over an academic year:-

90% - 3 weeks, 4 days learning missed - poor attendance

85% - 5 weeks, 3 days learning missed - very poor attendance

80% - 7 weeks, 3 days learning missed - serious concerns about attendance

75% - 9 weeks, 1 day learning missed - serious concerns about attendance

Under local authority guidelines, any child achieving less than 85% is considered to be a '*persistent absentee*'

If you are having problems getting your child to come into school we can help. Please ask at reception to speak with the School Family Support Worker, Mrs Rosemary Chapman. If she is not available immediately she will contact you to arrange a mutually convenient meeting time. (*Please ensure your contact details are kept up to date.*)

Children who arrive late can miss important learning. Late arrival can also cause pupils to miss important information about what is happening during the day causing them distress and anxiety. Additionally a child's lateness disrupts the normal classroom activity for the whole class. If your child arrives after 9:20am they will be marked as having an unauthorised absence in the register.

Sometimes children can experience problems in school that can lead to them not wanting to come in. Please do your best to find the cause of their concern and talk to them positively about how to resolve any problems and encourage them into school. If there are recurring minor ailments, difficulty with friendships or anxiety please come into school and discuss this with Rosemary Chapman or their Class Teacher. Together we can help solve the problem.

Equally, e.g. family breakdown, bereavement, illness, housing problems, financial difficulties and family members in prison may be impacting attendance. Being non-judgemental and a good listener Rosemary can help support you through these difficult times.

Our school asks that Parent/Carers make all but emergency appointments for medical and dental check-ups outside of the school day.

There are 190 school days each year and 175 other days for shopping, celebrations, non-urgent appointments and holidays.

Over a pupil's school career:-

- One day a week absence is the equivalent of 2.5 whole years of education missed
- 10 days holiday in term time a year is the equivalent of two whole terms of education missed
- 15 minutes of daily lateness equals one whole year of education missed

Safeguarding the interests of each child is everyone's responsibility and within this school, promoting the children's welfare and learning opportunities is 'key'. Failing to attend school on a regular basis may be considered a safeguarding issue.

Full attendance leads to the best educational outcome for pupil. Please give your child the best chance for their future. Make sure that they are in school every day and on time.

Together Everyone Achieves More

Rosemary Chapman School Family Support Worker