



Dear Parents and Carers

Happy New Year and welcome back to the new term. It was lovely to see all the children back in school eager to learn.

I am sure you will have seen the various news reports about shortages of staff within schools and other places. We are no different within Launde as we are finding that we have more staff off ill than we normally would have at this time of year. We are working hard to ensure that all the classes are covered and that individual children's needs are being met. However, we are having to postpone or cancel certain events due to staffing at the venue or our staffing levels are low.

Young Voices has been postponed so we will let parents know of the revised date once we have that information. I know the children will be disappointed as they have been working hard to learn all the songs. We understand that at the moment it is postponed and not cancelled and a new date will be given to us soon. Fingers crossed that we get this date quickly as I know the children were looking forward to it.

As always, we will make every effort to give you as much notice of any changes but as you can imagine that is not always possible when staff are taken ill at short notice.

Diary Dates

Friday 14 January –
Watership Down assembly
9.30am

Friday 21 January –
Stepping Stones assembly
9.30am

Friday 28 January – Beehive
assembly 9.30am

Friday 4 February –
Bosworth assembly 9.30am

Monday 7 February and
Tuesday 8 February –
Parents evening – virtual

Friday 11 February –
Oakwood assembly 9.30am

Monday 14 – Friday 18
February – Half term

Reporting absences due to Covid

On Tuesday 11 January the rules of testing are changing so if you do regularly check your children on a lateral flow test, you will know that it may be positive even though your child has shown no symptoms. If this is the case, please ensure your child self-isolates in line with the current government guidelines.

If your child does test positive on a lateral flow test, we require the following from you:

- a picture of the lateral flow test
- a copy of the email you receive after reporting the result to <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>

A reminder to all that the new lateral flow tests in the white and green box need to be read after 15 minutes and the result is invalid after 30 minutes (i.e. it might show positive but not be!)

This means that if the lateral flow result shows as negative within 15-30 minutes, your result is negative. If a faint line appears after this time it should be treated as invalid and you can retest if needed.

Family benefits and free school meals

If you think your child is entitled to free school meals can you please contact the office who will assist you in sorting this out. Also, please note that if your child receives the school dinner free because they are in younger age groups that this will stop once they go into Year 3. However, children who are on free school meals and are part of the pupil premium list will receive additional benefits such as free school uniform, assistance with school trips and are given a device to use at home.

If you think you qualify for this because your family are in receipt of universal credit please contact the office so we can make sure all children receive their entitlement.

Launde Parents Group

The Annual General Meeting for the Launde Parents Group is taking place on Wednesday 12th January 2022 at 2pm – 3pm in the hall. All parents and carers are welcome and refreshments will be available.

The parents' group has raised £154.50 by taking part in the BIG PTA Raffle, so would like to thank all those who bought tickets.

Parent volunteers are urgently needed for our film clubs to go ahead on the 19th, 20th and 27th of January. Without your help this event will have to be cancelled.

Email us at: parentsgroup@launde.leics.sch.uk to let us know that you can assist at the film nights.

Parents' Evenings

Parents' evenings will be held virtually on Monday 7 and Tuesday 8 February. More information regarding booking your appointments will follow shortly.

Class Assemblies

Watership Down will be the first class to do an assembly in 2022. It is on Friday 14 January at 9.30am. Please arrive at the office no earlier than 9.15am and wear a mask.

Scholastic Book Fair

We are pleased to be able to hold a Book Fair this year. The Book Fair will be with us at the start of February. More information regarding this will follow shortly.

Children being collected by siblings

Children can be collected by older siblings if parents inform the office in advance. However, we strongly discourage children from being collected by siblings in Year 7.

South Leicestershire School Sport Partnership

The South Leicestershire School Sport Partnership have created newsletters designed to give parents a basic understanding of health and well-being. They include links to websites for more detailed information and helplines/further support. Please see the included attachment for the first of these newsletters.

Attendance Award

This week the class with the highest attendance in KS1 is **Swiftwood**.

The class with the highest attendance in KS2 is **Watership Down**.



Author of the Week – S. A. Patrick



S.A. Patrick was born in Belfast. When he was a child, he wanted to write video games, become an author, and have magical powers. The first two came true. If he ever does get magical powers, he hopes people like dragons and griffins because there'll suddenly be a lot of them around.

His Songs of Magic series is perfect for readers aged 8+.

