



Launde Newsletter

06 January 2023

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the new year. It was lovely to welcome all our families back on Tuesday and hear from the children about their special times that they had during the holidays.

We began the term with a whole class assembly on the theme of new years resolutions. Ms Priddey and the children looked at different people who had been awarded recognition for their success in the King's New Year Honours list and explored how the children had worked last term and the rewards that they get whether for sports, music or academic. The children all considered the steps needed for them to gain such accolades themselves and what they want to achieve by the end of this term. There was a time of quiet reflection where they made a promise to themselves about their personal resolution which I hope they will be able to share with you.



Diary Dates

Tuesday 10 January Yr 1 Rainbows
End Phonics Lesson 9.00-9.45am

Wednesday 11 January Yr 1
Stepping Stones Phonics Lesson
9.00-9.45am

Thursday 12 January Yr1 Rainbows
End Phonics Lesson 9.00-9.45am

Friday 13 January Yr 1 Stepping
Stones Phonics Lesson
9.00-9.45am

Friday 13 January – Swiftwood
Assembly 9.30am

Tuesday 17 January Yr 1 Sunburst
Phonics Lesson 9.00-9.45am

Thursday 19 January Yr 1 Sunburst
Phonics Lesson 9.00-9.45am

Friday 20 January - Stepping Stones
Assembly 9.30am

Friday 27 January – Bramblewood
Assembly 9.30am

Friday 3 February – Foxtan Assembly
2.15pm

Reception New Starters for 2023

Closing date for applications is the 15 January. Please tell friends and family who have children ready to begin school next August to make sure they have applied. Applications for Autumn 2023 intake need to be made by Sunday 15 January. A range of information is available at www.leicestershire.gov.uk/admissions to help families apply.

8.50am Start Time for all pupils

As it is the beginning of the new term, I would like to remind all parents about the merits of coming to school on time in the morning. At the end of last term, we noticed there was more and more parents who were bringing children in late. I know it is ever so hard to get up in the mornings when it is cold and dark but it is important to be on time. Not only does it foster good life skills for the future for the children but it also helps them to settle more quickly in the morning and not miss out on valuable learning time. Teachers are reporting that some children are missing 10mins every day which in a week is just under an hour and in a month is 3 1/2hrs. It does add up! Please make sure you are at school on time. The gates are open from 8:30am. Both the gates and the doors to the corridors will be closing at 8.50am rather than being left open from 16 January, giving some families that need it, a week to adjust to an earlier routine. From 16 January, anyone arriving after this time will be asked to buzz at the gate and bring the children up to the office to be recorded. All corridor and classroom doors will be closed as well. By doing this, more children will be able to get on with the day's learning. I know there are some parents who also go down the corridors to take late children into class. Although this is helpful, it is disruptive and so do make an effort to get into a school routine so you arrive at school in time for your child to line up and go in with the rest of the class. Teachers will still be available at the beginning of the day to speak to and at the end of the day and also can be contacted via email but it is difficult after 8.50am when they are with the class.



Average learning time per day: **5 HOURS.**

If you are 15 minutes late each day, you will have missed **2 FULL WEEKS** of school in one year.

Following simple steps can help protect children, minimise the spread of illness in education and childcare settings and protect wider communities.



Flu and coronavirus (COVID-19) are [currently circulating at high levels](#) and are likely to continue to increase in coming weeks. High numbers of scarlet fever, which is caused by group A streptococcus, also [continue to be reported](#).

Professor Susan Hopkins, Chief Medical Adviser at the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), said:

It's important to minimise the spread of infection in schools and other education and childcare settings as much as possible. If your child is unwell and has a fever, they should stay home from school or nursery until they feel better and the fever has resolved.

Helping children to learn about the importance of good hand hygiene is also key, so practice regular handwashing at home with soap and warm water. Catching coughs and sneezes in tissues then binning them is another simple way to help stop illness from spreading.

Adults should also try to stay home when unwell and if you do have to go out, wear a face covering. When unwell don't visit healthcare settings or visit vulnerable people unless urgent.

Remember that flu vaccination is still available for all eligible groups and is the best protection against the virus. We have seen good uptake in older age groups but vaccination among young children remains low. Flu can be very unpleasant and in some cases can lead to more serious illness. Getting your child vaccinated protects them and others they come into contact with, and it's still not too late.

Eligible children include:

- those aged 2 and 3 on 31 August 2022
- all primary school-aged children
- some secondary school-aged children

You can get more information [getting your child vaccinated against flu](#) on NHS.UK.

Attendance Award



This week the classes with the highest attendance in KS1 is **Poppyfield & Sunburst**.

The class with the highest attendance in KS2 this week is **Rosewood**.

Congratulations!

The consultation period for the proposed extension of the school day finished at the end of last term. Thank you to all who responded.

The responses have been counted and we can confirm that **96%** of the responses were supportive of the extension of the school day of 5 minutes to be at the beginning of the school day at 8.45am. 4% of replies did not support the extension.

Considering the responses, I can confirm that as a majority were in favour of the morning extension we will be extending the school day from the beginning of the Summer Term 2023. We have read the few comments made carefully and will address these in our planning next term in preparation for a smooth transition to the new start time in the summer term. There was a comment about the gate opening times and about the morning groups. I can reassure these two factors are already been considered and plan to be amended to reflect the earlier start time.

The details of arrangements will be shared with parents after half term.

Lunchtime Provision

Some parents have queried the food served at lunchtimes. We buy in this service, it isn't one run by the school. However, following the concerns that have been raised, I have been requesting regular meetings with the company to share any concerns and to work with them to help ensure the children get a balanced meal at lunchtime. They did clarify that as well as the main and vegetables, they do always serve a side dish which is on the menu and is usually bread, pasta or rice. This is optional for the children and helps those that want further food to supplement the main dish. The catering service has agreed the following points:

- Children to be served a meal with a main and vegetables
- Food served to be exactly what is written on the menu sent out to parents
- Description on the menu to be easy for children and parents to understand

Please be reassured that my meetings will continue to take place with the food managers throughout the coming months.