

Loddon Primary Federation

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FEDERATION NEWS Friday 15th September 2017

I hope you all had a lovely summer. It seems a distant memory now! Welcome to the new parents across the school as well. We have had several children starting across the school, as well as our new Reception and Nursery children. I must say how smart everyone is looking, thank you for ensuring that your children have got the correct uniform.

As I start my first full school year at Loddon, I should like to clarify and offer some background to a number of our arrangements.

There will be an extra issue of this newsletter next week outlining our approach and focus this year on Education matters - it seemed better to offer this in 2 more digestible bites!

Mr R Burbage

CONSIDERATE PARKING

The school welcomes considerate parkers! Please use spaces on the side of the road as much as possible, and also allow residents access in and out of their driveways. Please do not use the staff car parks. My priority is the children's safety, and encouraging safe and considerate parking to allow children safe access to school. I would appreciate your support in this matter so that the school can have good relationships with the community.

No parent parking in the school grounds please, except for disabled access, for the safety of your children.

INFANT SCHOOL BUS LANE

From Monday we will be having a child coming into school on a school bus so parents will no longer be able to use the bus bay to park in. Please can you keep this space free. Thank you.



JEWELLERY

Jewellery should NOT be worn in school. For pierced ears, simple studs only may be worn, which will need to be removed by the child for PE (or plasters / tape provided by parents if they cannot be removed). It would be advisable for the younger children, in particular, to have their earrings removed before school on PE days.

MSA STAFF

If you are interested in being a Midday Supervisor on an ad hoc basis to cover illness, please enquire at the office.

6C NEWS

This half term 6C have made a start on unravelling the mysteries of a newly discovered tomb in Egypt. Working in collaboration with the British Museum and Museum of Cairo, 6C have formed their own museum exhibition design company and are beginning to put their own exhibition of ancient artefacts together. What will they uncover? Who knows! The only thing that is certain is that their discoveries are sure to be breath-taking!



SWIMMING LESSONS

Swimming lessons will continue in Year 3/4, with the children making very good progress in their different ability groups. We will continue with the same format this year, swimming lessons will take place at Hobart Swimming pool, for Year 3/4 children only, in groups of approximately 18, with a White Dolphin swimming instructor. This will mean that the children will get 6 weeks of quality teaching in a large swimming pool. Now we have 3 classes of 3/4 children, we can take the children in ability groups rather than class groups so the teaching can be more focused around their needs. Separate letters will be distributed to Year 3/4 parents with more details.

LETTERS

Thank you for returning the Music Lesson and Swimming letters. We will sort music lessons out over the next week and let you know dates, times cost etc.

There are still a few places remaining for our Year 2 recorder lessons if any Year 2's would like to sign up.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE / LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUESTS

The Department for Education expects schools and local authorities to promote good attendance and reduce absences, including persistent absence. This is because we know that missing out on lessons leaves children/young people vulnerable to falling behind and disrupts the learning of others. Children/young people with poor attendance tend to achieve less in both primary and secondary schools.

As a school we work incredibly hard to support all children/young people and their families so as to ensure that all children/young people have good attendance.

The Government made amendments to the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 which came into force on 1st September 2013. These state that Headteachers may not grant any leave of absence for holidays during the term time unless there are exceptional circumstances; in these cases it is the Headteacher who determines the number of days a child can be away from school if the leave is granted.

In line with these regulations, I will not approve requests for leave of absence for reasons that are not considered to be special or exceptional such as, leave of absence for the following will not normally be granted:

- Availability of cheap holidays and cheap travel arrangements
- Days overlapping with beginning or end of term or inset days
- Parents leave of absence from work cannot be in school holidays

Parents wanting any leave of absence should complete a form from the school office before the anticipated start date. The reason for the request should be given in detail. Applications will not be granted retrospectively.

I would like to remind parents that this is Government policy for all schools and parents who take their children on holiday without permission will incur unauthorised holiday absence for their child. Please be aware that these remain on your child's record and are then monitored and further action by the Education Welfare Service if necessary. Parents could then be issued with a fixed penalty notice and/or court action.

KINGSWOOD RESIDENTIAL TRIP

The Kingswood Residential Trip for years 4 and 5 will take place 31st January to 2nd February 2018. If your child would like to go please return a reply slip and deposit by Friday 29th October.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

We are collecting for St Martins Housing this year, if you would like to donate any items please leave them with the office.

PARENT CONSULTATION EVENINGS

Tuesday 17 October - 3.30 to 7.00pm
Wednesday 18 October - 3.30 to 7.00pm

You will have an opportunity to meet your children's teacher on Tuesday 17 or Wednesday 18 October to discuss how they have settled in to their new class. There are 10 minute bookable appointments, which give parents and teachers an opportunity to discuss how your child has settled in to their new year group, areas they are working well in and areas that need more attention. Sheets for signing up for Parents Evening slots will be available from Monday 9 October.

JUNIOR TUCKSHOP

Tuckshop is available for Juniors from the School Hall. Free fruit is not available for Juniors now, this is an Infant government initiative.

Mon	Jam on toast	50p
Tues	Pizza or Cheese Bar	50p
Wed	Hot Dog or Bacon Roll	50p
Thurs	Cheese on Toast	50p
Fri	Cake, Biscuit or Sweet	50p
Available every day:		
	Raisins	50p
	Fruit	50p
	Cheese and 2 crackers	50p
	Fruit drink	50p

BUILDING WORK

Lots of building work has taken place over the Summer.

On the Infant School Site we have created 2 Year 2 classrooms, added unisex pupils toilets, and moved the Staff toilets to the old medical room / disabled toilet.

At the Junior School Site, we have refurbished the toilets near the dining room. These have also become unisex toilets. This will ease congestion around the toilets and reduce queuing, allow staff to check that the children are safe in the toilets as they can see into the hand-basin area, this has the added benefit of and also allowing for the occasional pupil who may be questioning their gender to access unisex toilets. There are still 2 sets of girls toilets and 2 sets of boys toilets on the Junior Site for everyone to use.

PE KIT

White T-shirt and black shorts, or plain coloured T-shirt appropriate to their House Team. Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 require plimsolls in a shoe bag, and Years 3 - 6 require trainers for outside use. The same footwear should not be used inside and out. Children who are keen on playing football on the field will need to change into trainers. If ear-rings can not be removed for PE, please could you send in plasters or

UNIFORM

Please can you ensure that all uniform is named, this makes it much easier to return any lost items. Thank you

SCHOOL DINNERS

The cost of a school meal for **Juniors** will be £2.30 per day / £11.50 per week.

Payments

Order forms for school meals are sent home on a Monday each week. Please ensure that the orders (and payment for the Junior School) are returned to the school office by a Thursday if lunches are needed the following week.

If you have a regular fixed order for the 3 week menu you can let us know what this is and we will automatically order the choices. The best way to do this is mark up the Vertas Menu and let the office have a copy.

We can provide packed lunches for all school trips but these need to be ordered in advance in the usual way.

We are also happy to accept half-term or termly payments or a lump sum.

Cheques should be made payable to '**Loddon Primary Federation**'.

CASTLE MUSEUM TRIP

The Castle Museum Trip is next week for classes 3/4G 3/4J and 3/4K on Monday and classes 5C 5H 6B and 6C on Tuesday. We will leave shortly after 9.00am and be back for 3.30pm. Children will need to be in school uniform and please send a packed lunch if you have not ordered one from the school kitchen.



HIGH SCHOOL TRANSFERS

YR6 High School Transfer Preference letters and forms from Norfolk County Council have been sent home. Preference for High School need to be submitted by 31st October. This can be done online on the County Website or the preference form can be returned direct to Norfolk County Council.

HEIGHT AND WEIGHT CHECKS

Reception and Year 6 will be taking part in the National Child measurement scheme for height and weight checks. A letter was sent home this week with information. If you do not wish your child to take part please contact the NCMP direct by 29th September 2017.

FRIENDS

The friends raise a significant amount of money for the school each year to provide 'extras' for the children. If you are interested in joining the friends or finding out more about what they do they will be holding a coffee afternoon at the Infants on 27th September at 2pm.

CHUTNEY

This week we have harvested our crop of courgettes, tomatoes, beans, sweetcorn and have been making chutney. We have left the 3 pumpkins in the grounds growing for Halloween!



SCOOTERING AND CYCLING

Children must walk with scooters and bikes across the school playground before and after school to ensure that there are no accidents. Thank you.



EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Please can Emergency Information Contact details and start of term permission slips be returned as soon as possible.

CLASS ASSEMBLIES

Each class will have one class assembly during the school year. The assemblies will continue to be at 9.00am (Infants) and 3.10pm (Juniors) on a Friday to hopefully make it easier for parents to come and enjoy their children's assemblies. The assemblies will be about 20 minutes long. The dates are as follows:

29 Sept—6C	13 Oct—1L	13 Oct—5H
24 Nov—1EY	19 Jan—3/4G	2 Feb—6B
2 Feb—2R	2 Mar—5C	16 Mar—2SB
16 Mar—3/4K	4 May—3/4J	18 May—RE
29 June—RC		

Celebration assemblies will continue as usual.

SCHOOL PHOTOS

The Junior School photos for individual children and brothers and sisters have been sent home. Please send orders back to school by Monday 25th September when they will be collected.

Another very busy year ahead!

Part 2 will be out next Friday.

I hope you find the year calendar useful; please be aware that some dates may change.

I do apologise for such a barrage of information in my first newsletter! My aim is to keep you as informed as possible about the school. I believe that the school needs to work closely with parents to ensure that we give your children the best possible education at Loddon Primary Federation, and also the very best possible start.

