



Newsletter



January 2018

Recently at Lake Farm...

Welcome back and a Happy New Year to all our families and friends. I hope you all had a restful but exciting break. On behalf of all the staff I would like to thank everyone for the gifts, cards and good wishes we all received at the end of last year. Your generosity was wonderful. And I know it means a lot to all the staff to know how much their efforts and energy is appreciated by you all. I personally loved all the hand made cards and pictures I had been made by the children and my office now feels very drab and boring with all of the decorations put away. It's amazing what a bit of colour and sparkle can do!

This coming term is the shortest in the school year, half term is only 4 weeks away, but we still have to pack in the same amount of learning as we do in the autumn term, so it does feel like there are a million and one jobs to be getting through. I am so pleased that all of the teachers feel the children have returned to school in positive frames of mind and ready to learn. It makes such a difference. Before the end of term we asked all the children in years 1-3 to sit some tests, which were sat by all children across the federation, and we have just finished marking and analysing the results. I am really pleased to say that Lake Farm children are doing as well as all of the other schools in the federation, and better in some areas. These tests only form a part of our assessments – the most important evidence is the day to day work the children produce in their books. In order for them to do this it really is important that one of your New Year Resolutions is

to ensure that your child is in school as much as possible. Our attendance is still improving overall, but I was disappointed to see that in the first three days back after the holidays we had some classes below 95%, and even some classes below 90%! Children need to be in school and on time to start their learning every day; please do your best to support this.

Speaking of resolutions, a friend of mine posted this over the holidays, and it is by an author I love, so I thought I'd share it with you as food for thought:

"May your coming year be filled with magic and dreams and good madness. I hope you read some fine books and kiss someone who thinks you're wonderful, and don't forget to make some art- write or draw or build or sing or live as only you can. And I hope somewhere in the next year, you surprise yourself. I hope that in the year to come you make mistakes. Because if you are making mistakes, then you are making new things, trying new things, learning, living, pushing yourself, changing your world. You're doing things you've never done before, and more importantly you're doing something." Neil Gaiman.

So, with the best meaning in the world; here's to a glorious year of making mistakes and learning – what every child, and adult, should be doing!

Kate Day

Attendance and Punctuality



The three days back after the holidays seems to have hit us hard, and have certainly made a dent in our efforts to improve attendance. A timely reminder to all parents and families that as per our policy (which is on the website), no authorization will be given for holidays taken during term time, and all unauthorized absences where we know the reason to be a holiday, will be referred to the Participation Team at the London Borough or Hillingdon. It is their decision if a fine is then handed out.

Currently our whole school attendance for the year to week ending 05/01/18 is 95.2%, down quite a drop on last term.

It was lovely to see so many 100% at the beginning of the week. I hope we have many classes having non uniform days next week.

Ladybird	83.1%	Badger	97.1%
Butterfly	80.6%	Otter	91.1%
Grasshopper	94.4%	Fox	97.1%
Squirrel	94.4%	3MS	97.6%
Rabbit	92.8%	3NP	91%
Mole	96.6%	3KW	93.6%
Whole School: W/E 8.12.17		92.2%	

ParentPay

The whole of the Park Federation has now moved to ParentPay, an online payment system which we will be using in school for all payments going forward. Parents in year 3 will already be familiar with the system as they have been using it for school lunches since the beginning of term. You should have all received letters giving you your account details and log-ins.

What this now means is that for any school trip you will be sent home a letter with the trip details and permission form, and information about how to pay for the trip via ParentPay. You will then need to log in to ParentPay to pay for the trip. This eliminates cash being in school, and also human error in recording cash or it being mislaid or going missing between home and school.

There will be some transition time for use regarding ParentPay and payment of our Before School and After School Clubs, but I will inform you of that nearer the time.

We will continue to have cash collections for fundraising events and non uniform days, but day to day money will no longer be taken by staff. I appreciate this is a big change, and will take time for everyone to be able to use. It is a learning curve for us too, so I hope you will bear with any payments that appear in your child's basket which might not be for them. Remember, any trip will be accompanied by a letter home and information. Please wait for this before you commit to payment.

If you encounter any issues with ParentPay, please come in and speak to the office staff who will help you as much as they can.



How to support Lake Farm Park Academy

As a parent, your priority when choosing a school is you wanted one in which your child would be happy. Great education - probably. Close to home or walking distance - quite possibly. One where their / your friends were going – also probable. But HAPPY – definitely. Without being happy at school any child is going to find the learning part difficult. Therefore the senior leadership team and I have spent a lot of time working with all the staff to look at how we make our curriculum more exciting and challenging whilst keeping the children at the middle of it. What experiences do they need to have by law, but also what do we want them to have to grow up as resilient, self-motivated and independent children.

I hope that your children come home every day happy to talk about what they are learning and what has happened to them during the day. Whilst I cannot eliminate arguments between friends and fallings out, we can work with the children on finding the resilience to move on from them and deal with friendship issues. We can help the children learn how to cope with finding work challenging and how to face challenge positively. I go back to my opening message – we learn through mistakes, and it is right that children make mistakes. It's how we deal with the knock backs, the failures, the arguments that shape us as adults. We have to take responsibility for our part in the issue and move on. What could we change? What could we do better?

Another way we can support our children is by providing them with experiences as true to real life as possible. The nursery are working really hard to making the environment and resources they have better for the children. We have been working with an external expert who has suggested we work on our outdoor area and provide real opportunities for the children to learn skills which encourage communication, problem solving and team work. To do this we need some resources. I am asking if there are any families who might have any of the following they would be willing to donate to the nursery:

- Guttering
- Large planks of wood
- Tree branches
- Logs
- Buckets
- Hard hats
- Old manual tools – screw drivers, hammers, hand drills etc
- Throws
- Large pieces of fabric



I am also looking for donations of old wellie boots, and car tyres. I know it sounds interesting, but we have plans for using them!

Clothing

Mrs Jorsling Thomas has also asked me to remind you that if you do have any old school uniforms your children have grown out of – shirts, trousers, jumpers etc, and underwear, please would you consider donating it to the school. Children sometimes have accidents and we will always do what we can and send a child home with clean clothes, but we do not often get them returned. So, if you do have any of these items I would also love to hear from you.

Plastic Bottles

Reception are having an engineering day on the 17th January and need 2 litre plastic bottles as their launch pads – the big soft drink size bottles. If you have an empty ones, please could you donate them to reception so we can blast into space? Either take to the reception classes at drop off / pick up times, or donate via the front entrance please. Thank you very much for your help.



Local community information

I have received an email from 3rd Hayes Rainbows, who are looking for new members.

They are looking for new members, girls aged between 5 and 7 years old (if younger we can put your name on the waiting list) to come and join us weekly having fun, making and doing new things. They start back tonight - Friday 12th January from 6.30-7.30pm, term time in the Scout Hut behind Botwell Church. They have lots of special things planned for throughout the year. If you would like any more details please give Michelle a call on 07903894650 or go along on Friday 12th January.



Charitable Giving

Thank you to everyone who brought in their sponsorship money for the reindeer run which we held before the holidays. We were able to hand over £681 to Harlington Hospice. A fantastic results. Well done everyone. If you still have your sponsor money, it is not too late. Please bring it into school and we will pass it onto the hospice.

Census Day – January 18th

At certain points throughout the year the government collect data from the school which determines our funding for the next year. January 18th is one of these days. Please, please, ensure that your child is in school on that day to ensure we get paid the money for their education. The more children who have a school lunch, the more money we receive for our school lunches, so please take up the special menu that pabulum are offering. This is the only day that our pupil premium figures are collected. If you are in receipt of:

- Income support
- Income-based jobseekers' allowance
- Income-related employment and support allowance
- Support under Part IV of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of state pension credit
- Child tax credit, provided that you are not also entitled to working tax credit and have an annual gross income of £16,190 or less
- Universal credit

If you do get any of these benefits and have not informed the school, please come in before the 18th January to see Miss Ellwood at the front reception. Your child could be missing out on an additional £1300 per year being spent on their education if you have not.

Dates for the Diary...

12.1.18	Drama workshops for the whole school
15.1.18	Parent Forum
16.1.18	Year 2 trip to Ruislip Synagogue
17.1.18	Reception STEM day – launching rockets
18.1.18	School Census Day - Special lunch
19.1.18	Reception Screening Checks
29.1.18	Year 3 trip to the Gudwara
30.1.18	Planetarium Rec and Year 1
9.2.18	End of term

School Trips to Religious Buildings

As the weather hopefully gets warmer, many of our school trips and outdoor experiences will happen. These not only include trips which are linked to our core themes, but also trips which develop our children as rounded individuals and help them understand their place in society. Each year group from Reception to year 6 (when we finally get there) will be visiting a religious building. Each major faith within the UK will be recognised, and their place of worship visited – obviously we cannot do them all at once. The children will visit the building and look at its architectural importance, style and function and understand how worship happens there – covering Art, RE, Design and Technology, PSHE, Science and History / Geography. On no occasion will they be worshipping there themselves.

I would urge all parents to allow their children to go on these trips as it helps them understand the community we live in, and the cultures and values that build our society today. It helps the children learn respect and empathy – two of our core values.

These trips are starting in the next few weeks. I look forward to sharing photos and reports back with you from the children soon.

