



Newsletter



February
2018

Recently at Lake Farm...

Half way through the year! How did that happen? This half term really has been a whirlwind of learning, growing and improving. We have held a How 2 Help session in every year group, all of which have been really well received. I was particularly pleased with the results of the maths survey which came back in. Nearly half of the responses showed that you are attending the workshops we put on, although several of you have commented that you did not know how school teaches maths. Therefore, I urge you to make the most of these parental sessions. We run them so you know how things are taught in school, and what the expectations are of your children. 80% of responses said that you always come to Parent's Evenings, and only 1 response said they were unable to attend. Please put the date of Parent's Evening week in your diary now: 5th-9th March. All teachers will have one late night slot, and one earlier slot, and some are offering before school slots. We are trying to be more flexible to meet your needs, so make sure you do book in. It is so important the relationship between school and home, and this meeting will cover where your child is doing well, but also how you can support at home and what their targets for the rest of the year are. The senior leaders and I have written a new report format for you. Please let me know what you think of it when you get them after half term.

We have also held curriculum celebrations in year groups. All year 3 classes have performed an assembly – it was lovely to see so many parents and friends supporting the children on

each occasion. Year 2 have well and truly enjoyed their topic of 'Chocolate' – we have even had our very own chocolate factory running – although ours was run by the children and now Oompa Loompas! Year 1 have thoroughly enjoyed their new dinosaur topic and have linked their learning to a trip to the Natural History Museum as well as an experience with scientists in the visiting Planetarium, which also supported Reception's new topic of Space. I am amazed and in awe of the learning that they have achieved, and the steps that all children have taken in their education. It is lovely to see children on a daily basis who are sent to me to show me their work, and to walk around the classrooms and see the good work going on.

Next half term is already jam packed with events as we launch our Reading topic across the school. Authors, book sales, sponsored reading in the Shelfie Challenge and the Extreme reader challenge to name but a few. Please support your child as we immerse them in a world of literature. We also have our very special Day 100 the Tuesday after we return. I know spaces are booking up for the family workshop after school, so I will see many of you there, otherwise hopefully you can make coffee on the 22nd! Have a wonderful break,

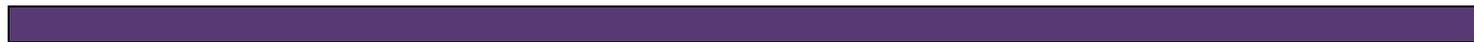
Kate Day

Attendance and Punctuality



We have seen a recent fall in attendance and punctuality across the school this half term, so I really do urge all parents to make sure you leave the house in the mornings with enough time to make the 9.45 start for KS2 and 9.50 for KS1 and EYFS. Being in school on time sets the children up for the day; they are less anxious, they are more settled and ready to learn when they arrive on time. As the mornings get brighter, I hope to see this improving. With attendance overall at 95%, this is below the national average, so please do try to get your children into school, even when they are feeling a little bit under the weather; a headache or sore throat does not stop learning.

Ladybird	91.2%	Badger	95.7%
Butterfly	95%	Otter	97%
Grasshopper	92%	Fox	98%
Squirrel	88.1%	3MS	95.4%
Rabbit	91.3%	3NP	94.6%
Mole	93%	3KW	92.9%
Whole School: W/E 2/2/17		93.7%	



Goodbye Mrs Ahmed

Wednesday the 21st February will be a sad day for many of us at Lake Farm, and especially Squirrel Class as Mrs Ahmed will be leaving us to move to Birmingham. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Ahmed for all she has done for everyone at Lake Farm over the past few years. She greets everyone – staff, parents and children- with a smile and always goes above and beyond her duty to ensure that the children achieve and excel in school. We all wish her well in her new home with her family and will miss her, but know she will keep in touch.

Dates for the Diary...

9.2.18	End of half term – Non-uniform; wear green for safety week
20.2.18	DAY 100! Special School Day and events
22.2.18	Principal's Coffee Morning
1.3.18	World Book Day Launch of 'Shelfie Challenge'
5-9.3.18	Parents Evenings this week
6.3.18	Book Bring and Buy Sale
9.3.18	Mother's Day event
12.3.18	Class Photo Day
13.3.18	Author day – Nursery and Reception
15.3.18	Author day – Years 1-3
16.3.18	Sports Relief Day
21.3.18	Year 1 Church Visit
22.3.18	Career Aspiration Day
28.3.18	Year 1 show Family Easter Treasure Hunt & Quiz
29.3.18	End of Term Easter Assembly
16.4.18	Term Starts End of Shelfie Sponsored Read

School Trips

Whenever you talk to the children about learning, or even as you cast your mind back on your own school days, I would guarantee that the memories that stand out include going on school trips. I can certainly remember my very first one when I was 5 (to Bekonscot Model Village)! However, trips are a luxury that school budgets simply cannot support. We have to ask for parental donations. Legally, we can pass on the cost of an attraction – if we went somewhere and we had to pay to get in, just as you would if you took your own children; that we can ask you to pay for it – but how we get there is the voluntary donation part.

This term we have had several trips to religious buildings to support and consolidate our RE curriculum – which again is something the children have to learn in school by law. However, we have had very little support for these, and in fact, only just over half of the parents paid for the trips. We are not allowed to only take the children who do pay, and we have to divide the cost of any trip amongst the children who should be going, which means that school is left paying the bill. At just under £1000 missing in payments so far this year, this is having an impact on the school.

Please could I ask all parents to really think about withholding any payment for a school trip? It means that realistically, your child will lose out on something else. If this trend continues, I will have no option but to not offer school trips at all, which will impact on the education, learning and enjoyment for your children...

Community Request

I have been sent the following in an email from the Friends of Lake Farm, who meet at the school termly:

"At our recent meeting of the Friends of Lake Farm, thanks to the encouragement of Ingrid, an active local resident, we have decided to hold a litter pick for a couple of hours starting at 11am at the Botwell Rec children's playground on Tuesday 13th February.

Please do join in. A limited supply of gloves and litter pickers will be available."

Please consider if you can go and help make the local environment a place that everyone can enjoy and respect. This is taking place during half term – why not take your children along to help them understand the role they play in the local community too.

World Book Day...



On Thursday March 1st, Lake Farm will be celebrating World Book Day. All of the children will be off timetable and will be looking at different books, characters, genre and working together on lots of different activities all based around the world of books.

We invite all children to come into school dressed as their favourite book character or book. There will be a prize for the best costume in each year group, and a runners up prize for the best costume in each class. So please, get your sewing kits out, your papier mache skills to work, and start making over the half term break! I cannot wait to see what all the children (and staff) come to school in!

...and Book Month

Just a reminder that after half term the school has a focus on reading and books. All classes have chosen their novels and have planned some exciting learning opportunities with the children. The Shelfie Challenge this year is a sponsored event throughout the month of March, so please encourage all children to read every night. All monies raised will go towards buying new home readers for the school, so all children will benefit.

We have three visiting authors, a week long book fair as well as our Bring and Buy Book Sale. Please bring in any books for the Bring and Buy from half term and leave in the main reception in the box labelled. All books will be on sale on the 7th March after school in the main hall. Again, all money raised will go towards buying new books for the school.

There is so much going on. Please check the App out as well as the classroom doors throughout the month to keep informed.

GO PAPERLESS

This is the last newsletter to be sent home on paper – after half term all newsletters will be sent out via the App and on the school website. Please, if you have not downloaded the App yet, do it now – you are missing out on photos, messages and lots more!

Maths in School

On Friday mornings at 9am, in the year 6 spare classroom, Miss Whitehead runs a maths workshop to support parents in understanding how year 2 and year 3 teach maths. In this parental group, the parents are also helping the school write the calculation policy to ensure that it is easily understood by parents as well as staff. There is no need to book, if you would like help with supporting your child in maths and making resources which you can take home to use with your children, please do come along. Miss Whitehead would be delighted to see you.

We have also purchased all of the children log-ins to a website called MyMaths. MyMaths is a fully interactive, online mathematics learning solution for children of all ages and abilities. It helps your child to develop their understanding of maths through a variety of engaging activities, games and assessments. .

Whilst we are not using it for setting homework, it is there as a resource for you to use with your child. We shall be using it in school during lessons, but you are able to log in at home. Your child will receive their login via a separate letter today, and the whole login process is explained in the letter. Please give it a try over half term if you wish. If you have any concerns or questions, please ask your child's class teacher after half term.

Day 100 on Tuesday 20th February will be a very special day with all of our learning being based around the number 100. Please sign up for our family workshop on the Tuesday evening – remember there are only 100 spaces!

Year 2 Chocolate Festival



Congratulations to Year 2 who made £125 to go towards the cost of the ingredients for their Chocolate Experiments through their sale.

The Park Federation Dodgeball Tournament 2018

Lake Farm Park Academy took part in the 2018 Park Federation Dodgeball Tournament on Thursday 25th January 2018. The tournament itself took place at Montem Academy with all 8 Federation schools taking part. LFPA prepared for this tournament well and had a lot of practice in their own time giving up lunchtimes to train. The tournament consisted of teams of years 3 and 4 so our children had to face a tough challenge.

Some of the dodgeball on show was amazing; Miss Skipp and I were very impressed at the determination and passion our children showed throughout. Unfortunately winning 6 of our games and drawing 1 was not enough to see us into the semi-final. The children showed great sportsmanship and didn't drop their heads as they knew how well they had done to get so far. The skills, teamwork and attitude of all the children did not go unnoticed and they were complimented on several occasions by other academies, who of course were able to field children.

We are extremely proud of all of them! Well done Lake Farm Park Academy Team: Saada, Remae, Muhammed, Kishan, Amirali, Amin, Adam, Navneet, Mudaser, Deetya, Malika and Aliyah!



Reception Space Odyssey



Online safety tips for parents of primary school children 6-10 Year Olds

Checklist

✓ Put yourself in control

Make use of the parental controls on your home broadband and any internet-enabled devices. You can find out how at your broadband provider's website or by visiting internetmatters.org.

✓ Search safely

Use safe search engines such as swiggle.org.uk or kids-search.com. Safe search settings can also be activated on Google and other search engines as well as YouTube. You can find out more at google.co.uk/safetycentre.

✓ Agree boundaries

Be clear what your child can and can't do online - where they can use the internet, how much time they can spend online, the sites they can visit and the type of information they can share. Agree with your child when they can have a mobile phone or tablet.

Over 65 % of parents are most concerned about their 6-10 viewing inappropriate content online*



✓ Explore together

The best way to find out what your child is doing online is to ask them to tell you about it. Encourage them to use devices in communal areas so you can see what sites they're visiting and share with them.

✓ Check if it's suitable

The age ratings that come with games, apps, films and social networks are a good guide to whether they're suitable for your child. The minimum age limit is 13 for several social networking sites, including Facebook and Instagram.

Know this stuff matters, but don't know where to turn?

Internet Matters is a free online resource for every parent in the UK. We'll show you the best ways to protect your children online - with information, advice and support on all

**internet
matters.org**

