



# Newsletter



January 2018

## Recently at Lake Farm...

The Spring term always feels short, and this one is following that pattern. I cannot believe that we are only 2 weeks away from half term. All the year groups this term have been teaching new plans, and it is wonderful going around school seeing the new learning and the engagement of the children in their classes. Reception have been blasting off into space, Year 1 are learning all about dinosaurs, Year 2 are engrossed in learning about Chocolate, and Year 3 have travelled back in time to learn about the Ancient Greeks. 3MS put on a wonderful assembly last week all about the different Greek Gods, and I was so proud of their confidence and the commitment they had shown to not just learning their lines, but songs and very complicated facts as well. Today, 3KW have also shared their learning with a wonderful assembly.

Last week I had the pleasure of showing Dr Young around our school, and he was so pleased with everything he saw; the behaviour and engagement of the children, their attitudes towards learning, and the quality of learning in their books. I also had a meeting with Dr Young and our school advisor, who talked with me about the data and results the school had achieved. I am very proud to tell you that in the recent reading and maths tests that all children in the Federation sat, Lake Farm is really doing well, and in most areas we are doing better than the national average. This is down to the hard work and commitment of the staff and the commitment of the children to do the best they can. It is also down to the partnership between school and home, and your help in

listening to children read, helping them with homework and coming into school to attend 'How to Help' sessions; showing an interest in their education. Thank you for this, and well done everybody – Lake Farm is moving forward!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents in their understanding as we move towards using ParentPay. This was a Federation decision that possibly came at the wrong time of year, and I appreciate that over the holidays it is easy to lose letters for which we haven't adequately explained the importance. Thank you to all parents who came into school to sort out the logging in problems. I am hoping these are now all resolved. We have to become a cash free school, so trips and payments will all move to ParentPay. We are working out how we can use it for Before and After School club, but this may take us some time. Please bear with us, and thank you all for understanding. If you have still not managed to log in and set up your payments, please do so as soon as possible, and come in if you need help.

Whilst the term is short, there is so much going on! Please read the newsletter and make notes of any events and dates which impact your family, and also think about how you can support the school as we continue to improve and move forward.

*Kate Day*

## Attendance and Punctuality

Congratulations to 3MS, our second class to manage to achieve a 100% week and be rewarded with a non-uniform day. The children really enjoy being able to show off to their friends that they achieved this – I hope more classes will



manage to all be in as the weather improves.

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## March Reading Month

One of our new initiatives at Lake Farm is for Spring Term 2 to have the focus of **READING**. This ties in well with World Book Day, and gives us lots of opportunities to celebrate reading. I will send a separate letter out with all of the facts, dates and details, but please make note of the following:

World Book Day – 1<sup>st</sup> March. We will have a competition

## Lake Farm Going Paperless

Just a reminder that from February half term, Lake Farm will no longer be sending out paper copies of letters unless we need a slip back from you. All letters will be going out via the APP and will be placed on the school website.

Please make sure you do not miss out on vital information. Download the APP today and ensure that in the settings you choose the year groups you need access to so you don't get every alert unnecessarily.

## Principal's Coffee Morning

I really enjoyed the coffee morning I ran when I first started, and am very aware that having two separate playgrounds to be in at the beginning and end of every day means sometimes I miss parents. With that in mind I thought I would run a Principal's Coffee Morning once a term. Therefore I would like anyone to join me for a cuppa and a biscuit on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February. If you have anything you would like to discuss, or even just to come for a chat, please drop in.

I hope you can make it.



We will always send letters out if we need a signature or response. If you genuinely cannot access letters via a mobile device or computer and need paper copies, please come in to the main reception and request them from Miss Ellwood. We will then make sure they get sent home to you on a Friday.

**GO**  
**PAPERLESS**



It does feel somewhat ridiculous to be mentioning this in January, but I know how hard it is to plan a successful event which everyone enjoys. Mrs Jorsling Thomas and I have set the date, and I am pleased to announce that Lake Farm's Summer Fair will take place on Tuesday, June the 19<sup>th</sup>. We will have all the normal fun activities as well as some new ones. If you would like to hire a stall or run an activity, please come in to see Mrs Jorsling Thomas. Stalls will be £15 for parents and £20 for people not associated with the school, so please get in early!

As always, we will be looking for help in organising some of this event. If you can offer a few hours of support or a spare pair of hands, Mrs JT will be happy to hear from you!

## Nuts in School

### Safety week 5-9<sup>th</sup> February

At Lake Farm we will be holding a Safety Week to highlight all different types of safety messages, from

### Parent Governor Election

There was only one parent who expressed interest and submitted ballot papers, so they are automatically elected to our governing body. So congratulations go to Ranu Ali, mum of Omera and Abia.

### Family Treasure Hunt & Quiz

On the last night of term, 28<sup>th</sup> March, Lake Farm Park will be holding a family Easter treasure hunt and quiz designed for all members of the family. Letters will go out after half term, but again, please put this date in your diary. The treasure hunt will take place in the school grounds and winners will be rewarded with a prize. This will then be followed by a family quiz in the main hall. We hope this event proves to be popular, but there will be limited spaces, so please book your tickets as soon as you can.

### Before School Club

All children must be dropped off by a parent for Before School club. They cannot be expected to see themselves in and pay for their attendance. If this continues to happen, we will inform social services as we cannot be responsible for anything that happens before handover.



We have again had some children who have been sent into school with nuts or nut based products in their lunch boxes. I need to remind all parents that we are a nut free school. To some of our children and staff, nuts are deadly, and we cannot take the risk. This includes things like Nutella and chocolate dippers, Ferrero Rocher and cereal bars that have peanuts in them.

Please take the health and safety of ALL our children seriously and do not send your child in with a nut based product. It will be confiscated.

## Phones in School

It has come to my attention that some children have their own personal mobile phones, and many use their parents' mobile phones unsupervised. Please can I remind all parents and children that mobiles are not allowed in school. They are not needed. If an emergency happened, we would phone you ourselves. Please also train your child in the safety that they now need to follow. Some children are giving out their phone number to friends on bits of paper. If this should fall into the wrong hands it could be disastrous, and would place your child at risk. Children should also not have social media accounts or be accessing social media. There is increasing evidence to suggest that this is detrimental to the mental health of children and causes unnecessary stress. It is also against the guidelines of these companies. Please think twice before you hand your phone over to your child.

## Dates for the Diary...

29.1.18	Year 3 trip to the Gudwara
30.1.18	Planetarium Reception and Year 1
5-9.2.18	Safety week
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