

LEIGHTON PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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February 2013

Message from the Chair of Governors



As you are aware, the Governing Body has progressed the application for Leighton Primary School to become an Academy under single trust status. The parent consultation has now been completed, and our thanks to all of those parents who took time out to come and talk to us.

The application is going well with lots of work going on in the background, but normal day to day schooling will not be affected. Our next steps are just the legal side of the application, so if things continue as they are over the coming weeks the autumn term will see us opening the doors as an Academy.

Away from the Academy application, I can tell you that the school is in a good place. Our new deputy, Jo Young, is a credit to the school and a good appointment. Mrs Young is working alongside Mr Turner

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Message from the Head Teacher

Just to echo the message from the chair of governors, a lot of work is being undertaken behind the scenes to ensure the school is able to meet the deadline for academy conversion.

Effectively, Leighton Primary will become a new school on the current site with a new name, new uniform and renewed sense of purpose. Of course there is a challenge to this work given the legalities involved in establishing a new school but the governors are determined to play a part in shaping the future for the children within the community. Running concurrently with the decision-making process, the governors will seek ways of communicating with all of the school community to elicit views and thoughts about emerging proposals where this is possible.

During the last academic year, groups of parents, teachers and children were invited to participate in communication groups to discuss relationship education under the guidance of Tracey Wire.

I appreciate some of the controversy around evolving a policy and curriculum designed to teach about the complexities of human relationships, hence the decision to invite parents to contribute through group discussion and help shape the policy. I am delighted to say the key stage 1 policy is now going forward to the governors for approval before final publication for parents.

Message from the Head Teacher

It is impossible, however, for any governing body to generate total support amongst ALL parents for ALL of a school's policies or procedures. Part of the reason for pursuing academy status is to reassert the importance of parents through elected representation on the governing body. Being a governor is challenging and academy status will bring even more responsibilities for the unpaid volunteers that constitute our governors.

There will be impending decisions that will not be supported universally by all of the community but there is also the democratic opportunity to seek representation through future elections. If you require further information about involvement with governors then please feel free to contact Martin Gillett (Chair) on the governor email.

Please take care if you bring your child to school by car. We are still experiencing some parking difficulties and, recently, a theft from an unsecured vehicle. I know parents can be rushed in a morning but please ensure valuables are out of sight and your car is locked before taking your child into school. I have asked the community support officers to increase their vigilance down Minshull New Road to both check on vehicle security and monitor the on going parking problem.

I also wish to say thank you to Alan Heath who is retiring in March for his dedicated service to site maintenance. Alan is someone who does not like any fuss but he has been an excellent ally in dealing with site and security issues over the years. We all wish him well in his retirement.

So much of the future will focus on change as we respond to the educational direction of the Secretary of State for Education and the increasing demands of accountability. The school will respond positively to the increasing expectations of the standards' agenda through the academy conversion process. The aim is to keep a focus on our children and their futures in an ever-demanding social and educational climate. Please support the governing body in meeting those demands for our community.

Email: governors@leighton.cheshire.sch.uk

Contact for Martin Gillett (Chair of Governors)

Changes to Funding Arrangements for Special Educational Needs

From 1st April this year new funding arrangements will be introduced by the Government. Cheshire East will be unable to continue financing Individual Pupil Funding and some Statements – except for those with the most complex needs. At Leighton we focus on 'Early Intervention' so that 'special needs' often do not emerge. We will continue to do this and try to meet as many demands as possible from the school budget. Thank you. Please feel free to contact me if you would like further discussion.

Mrs Robertson

Sports News

Sports Update Feb 2013

Leighton's indoor athletics team competed against 6 other schools in the Crewe and Nantwich final on Monday 28th January. We narrowly missed out on 1st place by 8 points, but all staff agreed how proud we were of all the children that represented the school. Look out in the next newsletter for updates on this term's sporting highlights:

KS1 and 2 gymnastics competition

Year 5 and Year 6 swimming gala

Year 6 Bikeability

Miss Brennand



Office News

School Dinners

We have received a letter from Brooks Of Sandbach suppliers of the meat in the school dinners on behalf of Cheshire East Catering:

Brooks of Sandbach has been established now for over 15 years and prides itself of exceptional quality, service and trust.

Any meat or manufactured products such as burgers & sausages will not and do not have any HORSE MEAT in them.

We served over 70 schools in and around the surrounding areas in which some staffs children go to, so it is in our best interests to give them the best. As a local Family run traditional butchers we support local suppliers because we know where our meat comes from.

We will endeavour to work closely with Cheshire East Council and continue to supply top quality products for all to enjoy.

Dinner Money Payment

If your child is having a hot school meal can you please send payment for that day, as you are aware the school cannot subsidise payment for school meals and we are spending much of our time making calls and sending reminder letters out to parents for non payments.

Visits Letters

If your child comes home with a visit letter of any kind can you please send the reply slips back as soon as possible as this will help teachers and the office staff having to chase up consents and payments.



Dates for your diary:

- Crazy Hair Day Friday
22nd March
- Easter Fayre Thursday
28th March after school
- Psychic Evening Friday
26th April 7pm
- Summer Fayre Saturday
6th July 12-3pm

COMMITTEE

Chairperson—Sarah Flaherty

Treasurer—Masha Cullen

Secretary—Ruth Small

Committee members and helpers:

J. Young, M. Speake, A. Millar, Z. Hart, N. Kay, J. Scarlett, W. Ridgard, J. Preece, M. Cooke, A. Edwards, L. Horne, R. Letts, E. Dean, M. Sharp, R. Stubbs, A. Garner

FIND OUR GROUP ON FACEBOOK:

LEIGHTON PTFA

Forthcoming Events

Following on from the fantastic response we had before Christmas with chocolate donations we will be holding a **Crazy Hair Day** on Friday 22nd March, your children can bring an item of chocolate for the Easter Fayre tombola and have their hair as crazy as they like (normal school uniform please). Nursery children can also take part. We're looking forward to seeing all your amazing hairstyles.

The **Easter Fayre** is on Thursday 28th March straight after school. Weather permitting it will be in the KS1 playground, otherwise it will be held in the school hall. Donations of cakes and biscuits would be greatly appreciated for our cake stall, these may be brought in on the morning of the Fayre.



On Friday 26th April we will be holding a **Psychic Evening** with renowned local psychic/medium Lesley Shepherd. Tickets for this event will be £5 and over 18's only. More information to follow.

Any ideas for fundraising or events are always appreciated.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Peer Mentors

The Peer Mentors are back!

Recently, it was safer internet day helping children to stay safe and be aware when using the internet.



Top tips for staying safe:

- You must be 13 or over to use Facebook .
- Never give out personal information to a person you don't know.
- If someone is being nasty to you do not respond.
- Tell a trusted adult.
- Always use a nickname and never use your real name , but never pretend to be someone your not.
- Never meet up with someone who you have only met online
- Keeping your kids safe:
 - Always talk to your kids about what they are doing online
 - Use parental controls on devices that link to the internet, such as the TV, laptops, computers, games consoles and mobile phones
 - Make sure you're aware of which devices that your child uses connect to the internet, such as their phone or games console.
 - Think about what they might see, what they share, who they talk to and how long they spend online.
 - Watch Thinkuknow films and cartoons with your child.

The Thinkuknow site has films, games and advice for children from five all the way to 16. It also tells parents how to keep their children safe and helps them to report anything inappropriate.

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk>



Our job is to keep YOU safe

By Hollie Jones and Faith Tew

Dates for your Diary

Friday 15th February 2013

Non school uniform

Friday 15th February 2013

School Closes

Monday 25th February 2013

School Opens



Just For Fun

Valentine's Day Word Search

E	S	M	W	B	F											
T	R	A	E	H	C	A	R	D	N							
O	R	O	S	E	S	V	I	V	M	N	F					
O	F	L	O	W	E	R	S	G	E	C	A	N	D	Y	X	
H	A	N	D	H	O	L	D	I	N	G	L	L	O	R	T	S
H	U	G	S	T	C	D	P	D	K	F	B	E	M	I	N	E
Q	S	R	O	T	I	U	S	U	N	E	C	N	A	M	O	R
D	I	P	U	C	H	O	C	O	L	A	T	E	V	Z		
S	G	N	I	L	E	E	F	C	G	I	F	T				
F	R	P	V	N	D	I	A	M	O	N	D	Z				
Y	E	W	Y	R	A	U	R	B	E	F						
V	V	P	Q	R	T	I	Y	T								
O	U	R	Z	E												
L	O	V														
W																



Arrow
Be Mine
Candy
Card
Chocolate
Couples
Cupid

Date
Diamond
February
Feelings
Flowers
Friendship
Gift

Hand holding
Heart
Hugs
Kisses
Love
Lovers
Romance

Roses
Stroll
Suitors
Valentine

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This newsletter is now available in colour on our school website Clc2.uniservity.com (choose Leighton Primary School)
If you do not have internet access at home, please ask to look at the school page on a school computer.