



Lethbridge Primary School Newsletter

September 2016



Welcome to our latest newsletter

Welcome back after a fabulous summer break, we hope that you are all refreshed and ready for an exciting year ahead! And a special welcome to any parent whose child is starting with us this week for the first time. We will do our absolute best to make sure your child has the very best start to their education.

The children looked really smart this week. I could hear the squeak of new school shoes from my office! Thank you very much for making sure all the children are wearing school uniform. We really appreciate it.

We will be quickly moving into all the usual business of school with dress up days and trips planned already so please take a look at the 'dates for your diary' section of this newsletter. We will do our best to give you dates for these things as early as we can. I know there's nothing worse than having to source a special outfit at the last minute. Please remember though that these dress up days are always optional.

Those of you who have had children at Lethbridge for a while will notice that we have gone back to using the old style of reading record books. Don't worry; we will still be giving out prizes for every 25 reads your child does at home but you will now need to just write the number of reads in the right hand top corner of that day's section rather than in a special box. We have made this decision because these reading records are £1500 cheaper over the year than the ones we were using.

Each year we raise money for four different charities; one is allocated to each House group. This year however we have decided to split the money we raise between two causes: Ruby's musical memorial garden and to improve our Key Stage 2 playground environment. I think you'll agree that this is an excellent way to spend the money our children raise during the year and will support us during fundraising events.

I feel very privileged to be given the opportunity to be Acting Headteacher of Lethbridge this year. I very much look forward to working with you. Please try to come along to our first coffee morning of the year on September 23rd to say hello. We will use funds raised from this to contribute to the Brighter Futures campaign and Ruby's musical garden.

Kind Regards

Lisa Mayes

School Results

Last year saw another excellent set of progress and attainment results for our children at end of year R, KS1 and KS2. It was a difficult year with new assessments and children in Year 6 being tested on a curriculum they had only been taught for 2 years.

Results are still in the process of validation but here are the headlines for each key stage:

In KS2 children took 3 tests; reading, maths and grammar punctuation and spelling. This table shows how our school's scores compare to the rest of Swindon and to the national average.

	School	Swindon	National
Reading	107.3	102.4	102
GPS	109.4	104.1	103
Maths	106.2	102.8	103

In KS1 teachers make an assessment of whether a child has met the expected standard. The tests they do contribute to this judgement. This table shows how many children met or exceeded the expected standard in comparison to Swindon and national averages.

	School	Swindon	National
Reading	83.6%	71.1%	74.1%
Writing	82.1%	63.1%	65.5%
Maths	83.6%	69.6%	72.6%

In Early Years teachers make assessments about how each child is progressing against 7 different areas of learning including things like mathematics, communication and language and understanding the world. These assessments are converted to an average points score for each child. The table below shows the average point score for our school in comparison to Swindon and national averages.

	School	Swindon	National
Average score	37.7	34.6	34.4

As you may have read in the news there have been some issues with this year's assessments, especially with regards to consistency between different local authorities, nevertheless we are very proud once again to have demonstrated that this school ensures our children reach excellent standards of attainment. We are very thankful to the Lethbridge children and their families for all your hard work and support.

Pupil Premium Funding Grant

The pupil premium is additional funding for publicly funded schools in England to raise the attainment of disadvantaged pupils and close the gap between them and their peers. At Lethbridge we have a history of using this money highly effectively to ensure that our children who qualify for the funding achieve the best they possibly can. The ways in which we use the funding can be seen on our website. This additional money is really important to us. In the 2016 to 2017 financial year, schools will receive the following funding for each child registered as eligible for free school meals at any point in the last 6 years:

- £1,320 for pupils in reception year to year 6
- £935 for pupils in year 7 to year 11

Schools will also receive £1,900 for each pupil who has left local-authority care because of 1 of the following:

- adoption
- a special guardianship order
- a child arrangements order
- a residence order

We have seen a drop in the number of children that are entitled to free school meals. I think this might be due to the universal school meal grant which means that children in years R, 1 and 2 automatically receive a free school meal. However, we still need you to apply for free school meals for your child even if they are in years R, 1 or 2 as this is the only way we can access the Pupil Premium Grant.

Your child is entitled to free school meals (and the school can receive the pupil premium grant) if you or your partner claims:

Universal Credit

Income Support

Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance

Income-related Employment and Support Allowance

Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit

Child Tax Credit, provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and

have an annual income of £16,190 or less, as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs

Please pop in to the office to pick up a form if you think your child might be entitled. It makes a huge difference to our funding and really makes a difference to what we can offer to our children.

Dates for your diary:

September

*12th - KS1 topic launch
Madagascar Dress up day*

*Years 3 and 4 Victorian
Dress up day*

*Years 5 and 6 Greeks Dress
up day*

*14th - Reception parents'
welcome meeting 12pm*

*Years 1 and 2 school trip to
Bristol Zoo*

*15th - 5DT class assembly
10:40am*

*19th - Swindon Advertiser
taking photos of reception
classes for First Day of
School feature*

*22nd - 2MR class assembly
10:40am*

*23rd - Coffee morning with
Mrs Mayes, Mrs Short and
Mrs Harmer - all welcome*

*28th - Key Stage 2 visiting
Wyvern Theatre to watch
Gangsta Granny*

VALUE OF THE TERM:

THOUGHTFULNESS

RESPECT

Contact
Information

Email:
admin@lethbridge.swindon.sch.uk

Phone
01793 535033

Website:
<http://www.lethbridgeschool.org.uk>