



LONG DITTON

INFANT AND NURSERY SCHOOL

THE HEART OF LONG DITTON SINCE 1911

NEWSLETTER

21st September 2018

LATEST NEWS

Dear Parents and Carers

We have 100% attendance today for the first time this school year! Well done everyone! Please see later in this newsletter some information about attendance and our school expectations.

Parent Forum

At the parent forum this week the parents talked about:

- Things to do on the coaches on school trips
- Running a mile a day
- The transition from Reception to Year 1
- The curriculum in KS1 and the opportunities for creativity and outside learning
- Speaking to the teacher about reading levels
- Putting what the children WILL be learning in the newsletter not what the children HAVE learned in the newsletter

I will be talking to the teachers about all of these over the coming week. We will try to include 'what the children will be learning next week' in the newsletter from next Friday. Thank you to those who gave up time to come and talk to me 😊

Attendance

As a school we expect all children to attend every day. Surrey County Council issues all heads in Surrey guidance on term time absence. The important part of the guidance, that our school has agreed with, states that 'pupils are expected to attend school 100% of the time' and that we must 'issue penalty notices for 5 or more days unauthorised leave of absence.' For us this means that **any absence request of 5 or more days,**

regardless of the level of attendance, **may attract a penalty notice.** Holidays are not considered to be an 'exceptional circumstance'. Also any **unauthorised** absence over a period of 6 weeks of **5 days** or more will also be referred to Surrey for a Penalty notice. Please note that the money for these fines does not come to the school but goes to Surrey County Council.

I met with the Education Welfare Officer this week to look at the attendance of all of the children. If a child's attendance should fall below 90% a letter will be sent requesting a meeting and asking for medical evidence. If there is no improvement, then the school have to refer the child to the Education Welfare Service who will then set attendance targets that will need to be reached.

The national average is 96% and last year we met the national average – which is super. Sadly, to be Outstanding, attendance has to be above average – so we are still working towards that!

It is very important that parents and carers always let the school know why their child is not attending school. This can be done with a phone call or an email on the day of absence followed up with a letter when the child returns. The new 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' and 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' documents, that came out in September this year, identify 'Educational Neglect' as a kind of abuse and that schools are responsible to make sure children registered with them are seen and safe.

Remember that education is every child's right.

You can access the Government documents by following these links:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/worki- ng-together-to-safeguard-children--2> and

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keepi- ng-children-safe-in-education--2>

Our school attendance policy can be found on our website or by following this link:
<http://longditton.surrey.sch.uk/parent- information/school-policies/>

Pushy Parents?

One parent mentioned this week that they felt worried to talk to the teachers about their concerns because they didn't want to be labelled as a 'pushy parent'. Please know that our school 'open door' policy means that we are willing to listen to any of your concerns and take action where necessary and possible. It is important to time your concerns well though because schools are busy places. Teachers have time at the end of the day to speak to parents about any issues they have and will meet with parents on an adhoc or timetabled basis. It is always better to come to talk to us early rather than sit and worry about issues and the teachers understand this. In the first instance parents should always arrange to talk or meet with the class teacher to discuss concerns. Remember that we are a team working together in the best interests of your children.

Good Manners

After half term I am really looking forward to starting my 'Good Manners' table again. The Good Manners table is a specially laid table at lunchtime on which only those children who demonstrate good manners are invited to join me for lunch. I love it because the best of the best eat their lunch with me and we get talk to about such interesting things. Over the next few weeks you can help your child to ensure they are invited onto my Good Manners table by helping to make sure your child:

- Always says please and thank you*
- Uses a knife and fork*
- Can cut up their own food*
- Eats with their mouth closed*
- Doesn't talk with their mouth full*

I look forward to spending lunchtimes with excellently mannered people!

Key Rings and Toys from Home

Several children have brought to my attention the fact that some people are putting more and more key rings on their book bags. As a school we have said that one key ring, to help in the identification of a book bag, is allowed. More than one and they will be removed and given back at the end of the day. Please also ensure that your child's name is easily readable and the label not covered by any stickers as this makes it hard for everyone to find out who the bag belongs to.

Reception Saying Goodbye at the Gate

Next week Reception will be saying goodbye at the gate as they come into school. Having spent lunchtime outside in the playground, I can guarantee you that all the children manoeuvre independently around the school grounds with confidence. Mrs McQuillan, Mrs Emmett and I will be on hand to help. Please remember that one kiss and one hug is perfect as they are only coming to school for the day, school is an exciting place to spend the day and you will see them again very shortly.

Safety Week

Next week is Safety Week in school and the children will be learning about Fire Safety, ESafety, Personal Health and Safety (including medicines and the PANTS guidelines), Stranger Awareness and Road Safety. Please talk to your children about each one – there are some excellent resources online especially for Road Safety, ESafety and Fire Safety. We have had two successful fire drills since the start of term and next week we will be talking to the children about our 'lock down' procedures and carrying out a 'lock down' practice. The children always respond in a very sensible and calm manner to this and just treat it as part of our procedures to keep them safe. If you have any concerns about the lock down please come to speak to me.

On Friday the children will be invited to come to school wearing something bright in return for a donation to 'Brake' a charity that helps children to

learn about road safety. Please see this link <http://www.brake.org.uk/beepbeepday> for more information.

Information about PANTS can be found by following this link : <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/underwear-rule/>

Harvest Festival

Year 1 and Year 2 Harvest festival will take place on Monday 8th October at St Mary's church. All parents and carers are welcome to come to the church to celebrate with us. Reception and Nursery Harvest celebrations will be in school on Tuesday 9th October and this is just for the children and staff. The children can bring in a non - perishable food item (tins/packages etc.) or £1 donation.

Birthday Books

Thank you to Jennifer, Nancy and Iris for the birthday books they chose for their classes.

Class with the most attendance

The classes with the best attendance this week were Sapphire, Moonstone and Amethyst all with 99%. I will have to invest in more attendance stickers to celebrate!

Thought for the week



Have a magnificent weekend!

Mrs Paines

Nursery

We've had another fabulous week in Nursery this week. We have met even more new friends and have been designing and making our own flowers for the boards by our front door. We hope you'll be very impressed with the artistic efforts there!

The Nursery children made us very proud during the unscheduled fire drill – they were very calm and brave and were able to evacuate the classroom very quickly. Well done.

We have been talking about our homes this week and comparing them to each other's. Some of us don't have stairs in our home, some do. We have also noticed that different people can live in our homes. We would like to make a "My Home" display so if you would like to send in any pictures or photographs they would be very welcome!

It was very exciting when we opened our mud kitchen this week, the children have very quickly learned to change into their school wellies and start digging. Miss Pearson has been helping us to learn a new song for our Harvest Festival that is coming up next month. Perhaps the children will practise at home for you.

Next week we will be continuing with our "All About Me" topic and we will be talking about safety in our homes and on our way to school.

If you would like to volunteer to help in Nursery after half term, please could you contact the office ASAP. It is essential that all volunteers complete a safeguarding workshop and the next one is scheduled for 28th September at 9am. You will also need a DBS check, which can take a little while, and you will be able to collect information about how to do this at one of the Safeguarding meetings. Please see the dates for these on the Diary dates page.

In order for the Nursery to do baking we rely entirely on parent volunteers. It is a very valuable and enjoyable activity for the children, so if you are able to, we would please ask you to volunteer.

The Nursery Team 😊

Reception

Our first full week in Reception and the children continue to settle well and are doing a fantastic job remembering the routines of the day. They have

impressed us with their numeracy skills and they have become amazing artists, painting self-portraits. The children have also shown us their technology skills by taking selfies with our i-pads. Our 'Look at Me' display is going to be amazing.

Thank you for ensuring that your children do not play on the trim trail after school, there has been far fewer children there in recent days. We had our first PE session on Tuesday. The majority of the time was taken up with practising our dressing and undressing skills. Any help you can give us with encouraging the children to be independent at home, particularly with jumpers, shoes and socks, would be much appreciated.

Next week is Safety Week and the children will be learning about keeping safe at home, keeping safe travelling to school and keeping safe at school. We will have a visit from our resident lollipop man who will talk to us about how to cross the road safely. Friday is Beep, Beep Day and everyone is encouraged to wear bright colours.

A reminder that it is the parents' & carers' meeting for Reception next Wednesday at 2pm. We will be talking about the Early Years curriculum, the FRED programme for early reading and writing and ways you can support your child's learning at home. We look forward to seeing you then.

Finally, the children have risen to the challenge and are doing well walking across the playground at morning drop off. If your child is happy to do so, you could drop them at the school gate from Monday morning. Reception staff will be in the playground to guide them to their classroom.

Just a few reminders:

- Please can you ensure **only water** is in the children's water bottles
- Snacks in the afternoon should **only be fruit or vegetables**
- Friday is Beep, Beep Day – wear bright colours
- Reception parents' and carers' meeting is Wednesday at 2pm in the school hall

Have a lovely weekend!

Reception Team

Year 1

The children are settling so well into the Year 1 environment; we are really pleased with the progress they have made already.

Your child should now have a reading book; we encourage independence and teach the children to change their own books, so please remind them to do this as well. In Year 1 the children read to their class teacher on a weekly basis during guided reading, so the reading record is for you to record what you have read at home, and the class teacher will sign the book on the day your child has read.

In Literacy this week we have continued to focus on the book 'The Smartest Giant in Town.' The children have been sequencing the beginning, middle and end, acting out what happens during these and writing their ideas in sentences using capital letters and full stops.

In Maths we have been using the weighing scales to weigh various classroom objects and compare their weights. We also used cubes and estimated how many cubes would weigh the same as the various objects. We then checked to see if we were right. As well as this, we have been counting in 2s.

Some children will have been given a FRED book to read at home and also some spellings to learn. Please ensure that your child brings their FRED book back on Monday. Spelling tests will also be on a Monday (Note: not all children have spellings.)

Sapphire Show and Tell – Hippos. Please ask your child what animal group they are; if they are unsure then check with their class teacher.

Moonstone Show and Tell - Anyone who has been a superstar this week (they will know who they are).

The children can choose what they bring in as long as it is not a toy and they can tell us two facts about it. Show and Tell is on Friday.

Home Learning – Please can you read with your child as much as possible and recap all of the sounds that they have learnt so far. Help your child to learn their spellings (if they have them). Introduce your child to measuring, show them a ruler, cm and tape measure. Your child has been

given the words to our Harvest song 'Conkers'. Please help your child to learn these words.

Vocabulary

Maths – Length, measure, longer, shorter, estimate, compare, cm.

Literacy - Capital letter, finger space, full stop, describing word.

Year 2

What a great end to the week our Dead Famous disco was, and what marvellous outfits the children wore! We had a mysterious start to this week. Something very strange appeared in our playground. Luckily Miss Moss and Mrs Bradley managed to draw a picture of the creature to show us before it disappeared into the trees. We wondered what it could be so we decided to write a letter to the creature to find out more about it. We thought of lots of interesting questions to ask and talked about the importance of using a question mark to finish a question. We are hoping that he will write back to us.

In Maths we have been learning about place value, deciding how much each ten and unit is worth in a number. We have used this knowledge to order numbers from the smallest to the largest.

In Science we have been investigating the different materials objects around our school are made from. Also thinking about the properties of materials and why they have been used to make objects.

Homework: Please complete the place value worksheet that has been stuck in your homework book. Please return homework by **Wednesday**.

Next week is Safety Week. We will be thinking about Stranger Danger, Personal Safety, Road Safety and how to keep safe when using the Internet.

Vocabulary

Maths – place value, order, hundreds, tens, units

Literacy – question mark, conjunction, adjectives

School Office

Parent Helper Safeguarding workshops

Please come along to **one** of these if you would like to find out more about helping out in school with reading, library or baking and school trips. These will take place on:

- Friday 28th September at 9.00am
- Wednesday 3rd October at 9.00am
- Thursday 4th October at 2.15pm
- Friday 5th October at 9.00am

The workshops will last about 45 minutes and you will be able to pick up information on how to apply for a DBS check to help out in school at the meeting.

If you already have a school DBS check and would like to help out in school again this year, you must still attend one of the Safeguarding workshops. You will be required to complete/sign a new Disqualification by Association form and Parent Helper Code of Conduct form.

Please email the school office to book a place on one of the workshops. Thank you.

Friends

Welcome again to all the new families to the school, children, parents and carers!

Thank you to everyone who bought, brought and baked cakes yesterday; it was very successful, the money raised will be split between the costs for the Ground Force days and SANDS charity in remembrance of Freddie.

Thanks to those who came to last night's AGM in the school hall. It was great to see new members to the committee and discuss plans for the year ahead. The minutes will be circulated to all in due course so you can read what's in store for the year. Thank you to Mrs Emmett for taking the time to join us and to Emma for her military precision

timekeeping and ensuring the everyone got to the pub for 9.30!

A couple of dates to add to your calendars:

- Monday 24th 9.15am at Squires to discuss the Bounce, Ground Force day and Christmas
- Tuesday 2nd October 8pm at the George Evelyn pub, again further discussion on Ground Force and Christmas

Have a great weekend Everyone

Friends

ACHIEVEMENTS

ValueStars: Respect



Louis G
Marley
Dylan
Ethan

Golden Certificates:

Maia
Sophia A
Alfie W
Florence H
Megan S
Rayaan x 2
Ava D F
Vristhi

Credit Card:



Tate – 5
Nancy – 6
Jennifer – 6
Patrick – 5
Iris – 6
Theo – 5

Outside Achievements:

Leo H can ride a bike without stabilisers
Rory was awarded 'Little Golfer of the Week'

DIARY DATES

September 2018

Monday 24 th	Safety Week
Wednesday 26 th	2.00pm Yr R Parents' information meeting in hall
Thursday 27 th	6.00pm Full Governing Body Meeting – all welcome
Friday 28 th	9.00-9.45am Parent Helper/Safeguarding workshop in Rainbow Road Safety Beep Beep Day – wear bright clothes to school in return for a donation to Brake Road Safety Charity

October 2018

Tuesday 2 nd	Student photographs by Imago
Wednesday 3 rd	9.00-9.45am Parent Helper/Safeguarding workshop in Rainbow
Thursday 4 th	2.15-3.00pm Parent Helper/Safeguarding workshop in Rainbow
Friday 5 th	9.00-9.45am Parent Helper/Safeguarding workshop in Rainbow
Monday 8 th	9.15am Yrs 1 & 2 Harvest Festival at St Mary's Church
Wednesday 10 th	3.00-8.00pm Parent/Teacher consultation appointments
Thursday 11 th	4.00-6.00pm Parent/Teacher consultation appointments
Saturday 13 th	Ground Force Day
Friday 19 th	Finish at 3.05pm for half term break
22 nd -26 th	School closed
Monday 29 th	8.45am return to school Yrs R,1, 2 Nasal Flu Immunisations (information packs/consent forms will be sent home by the end of September)

EVENTS / ACTIVITIES (outside of school) / School Adverts

Please note the school does **not** promote or endorse any children's clubs or activities advertised.



Managing Behaviour Effectively for Parents & Carers

No one has ever said parenting was easy. Living with children can be one of life's most enjoyable experiences, but it can also be unbelievably frustrating. 123 Magic is a simple, precise and effective way of managing the behaviour of children. It's not magic but works like magic!

The aims of the programme are:-

- Job 1: Controlling Challenging Behaviour** – Learn an amazingly simple technique to get children to STOP doing what you don't want them to do (whining, arguing, tantrums, sibling rivalry etc.).
- Job 2: Encouraging Good Behaviour** – Learn several effective methods to get your children to START doing what you want them to do (picking up, eating, going to bed and staying there!, chores etc.).
- Job 3: Strengthening Your Relationship** – Learn powerful techniques that reinforce the bond between you and your children.

Will the programme work with children who have learning difficulties?

It certainly can. The program has been used successfully with Autistic, Asperger's, ADHD and ODC children. In fact when parents have children with these difficulties, the clarity of the 123 Magic warnings is especially helpful for the visual and auditory understanding.

The course is a 4 week programme and the following courses available are as follows:-

Wed 26th Sept 2018 (4 weeks) 7.30-9.30pm at Cardinal Newman, Hersham
Mon 19th Nov 2018 (4 weeks) 9am – 11am at St Marys, Long Ditton
Tue 26th Feb 2019 (4 weeks) 7.30-9.30pm at Cardinal Newman, Hersham
Tue 4th June 2019 (4 weeks) 7.30-9.30pm at St Marys, Long Ditton
Mon 17th June 2019 (4 weeks) 9-11am at Cardinal Newman, Hersham

If you would like to book onto a course please contact Michelle Talboys - Home School Link Worker on 07703 322066 or email at hslw@thames-ditton-infant.surrey.sch.uk

