LEIGH NEWS

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CROSS COUNTRY

Congratulations to the cross country team who competed at the Schools at Summerhill last Friday in an inter-schools competition. All the children ran brilliantly and were a credit to the school. There were some notable performances from some of the children including Sam Barker who came 5th, Victoria Wynne who came11th, Andrew Saunders who came 12th and Ellie McCutcheon who came 22nd. All races had over 120 runners in them so these are extremely impressive results. A special mention also for the Year 5/6 girls who all came in the top 60 which is a great team effort. I would like to thank Ian Matthews and Kate Dorward for organising this for the children and for running the cross country club on a Tuesday lunchtime.

Taking place as part of the Remembrance of the outbreak of fighting in 1914, and heavily linked with our visit to Ypres, Belgium, we are holding an afternoon exhibition of some of our writing and artwork. Feel free to visit our exhibition at anytime during the afternoon but there will be poetry readings at 2pm and 2.30pm for you to listen to. Please encourage all family and friends to attend. Thank you.

SCAF CLOSING DATE – 31st October 2014

Parents of children in Year 6 now need to be applying for Secondary Schools. You can apply online using the Secondary Common Application Form which invites you to apply for up to 4 schools, putting them in order of preference. It's in your best interests to list 4 schools. Naming only one school does not guarantee your child a place at that school or give your child priority for a place over another child, neither does naming a school more than once. Please click on the link below or look on the school website for further information. The national SCAF closing date is the 31st October 2014 although the local authority have said that applications will be accepted up to the 5th November. We ask that parents send a copy of the application to the school office. This will enable us to resolve any difficulties that may arise later. Thank you.

http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places/secondary-school-places

OPEN CLASSROOM AFTERNOON

This term's Open Classroom afternoon will be this Thursday from 3pm-4pm. We would encourage all of you to come and see what the children have been working on this term and to share in their successes. It is also an opportunity for you to have a look in all the classrooms and see what is happening around the school. Please do attend this event if you can.

OFF BY HEART COMPETITION

We are asking all the children to learn one poem from the list on the school website under: 'Learning; Curriculum; Off By Heart'. The children will be asked to recite their poems in class and the two winning entries from each class will go through to the Grand Final to be held on Friday 7th November in Jessica's Hall. Good luck and get learning!

Next Week's Theme –'Being a Good Neighbour'

Golden Time Games/ DVDs

We are in need of additional board games and DVDs (universal certificate only please) for use during wet play and golden time. If you have any spare DVDs or games then please do speak with the class teacher. Thank you.

WALK TO SCHOOL WEEK

We are encouraging all the children to take part in the Leigh 'Walk to School' week starting on Monday. During this week the children are being asked, where possible, to walk to school. If families live outside the village then we would encourage them to park on the far side of the green as this will also count as walking to school! Not only is this obviously good for the children but we are also hoping that it might reduce some of the pressure on car parking around the school at the beginning and end of the day. Walk to school week will start on Monday and the class with the highest percentage at the end of the week will enjoy a longer than usual golden time on Friday afternoon.

PARENT WORKSHOP

Many thanks to all of you who came to the first of our workshops on Tuesday. We had some extremely positive feedback from the session and we are delighted to be able to offer these sessions once again this year. The second workshop is entitled 'Key Stage 2 Maths' and is for all parents of children in Key Stage 2 although if you are a parent of a child in Key Stage 1 you might also find it interesting. This will take place on Tuesday 4th November at 9am in Jessica's Hall and will last about 1 hour. Thank you.

MATHS WEEK

Due to other events taking over this week we haven't had the opportunity to fully prepare for Maths Week. This will now start on Monday 17th November.

HEALTHY SNACKS

Please note that we encourage all children to eat a healthy snack at breaktimes. Fruit is available from the school for all children but if children are bringing a snack in from home then we would encourage this to be fruit or a healthy alternative. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

Funky Friday

Today we have been raising awareness of dyspraxia through Funky Friday. Dyspraxia is a form of developmental coordination disorder and is a common disorder affecting fine and/or gross motor coordination in children and adults. It may also affect speech. Dyspraxia is a lifelong condition, formally recognised by international organisations including the World Health Organisation. Dyspraxia is distinct from other motor disorders such as cerebral palsy and occurs across the range of intellectual abilities. Individuals may vary in how their difficulties present: these may change over time depending on environmental demands and life experiences. It has been great to raise awareness of this condition today and thank you to all the children who spoke in assembly this morning.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

MANY THANKS TO ALL OF YOU WHO DONATED MONEY FOR OUR HARVEST FESTIVAL. THE MONEY RAISED IS GOING TO SUPPORT DAVID BENNIE IN HIS WORK WITH A SCHOOL IN THE GAMBIA. IN ALL WE RAISED £131.44. THANK YOU.

OPEN DAY

Our second 'Open Day' for parents who might be thinking about sending their children to Leigh Primary School is on Friday 7th November. I will give a talk at 9.30am and then our Year 6 children will be available to give tours of the school. If you know of anyone who might be interested then please do pass on the dates and encourage them to attend.

Free School Lunches

All children in the Infants (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2) are now eligible for free school meals. If you wish to take up this offer then please contact the school office if you haven't already done so. The meals are served by GSPlus and are of good quality. I eat lunch with the children on most days and the food is always tasty with some good variety. If you wish to find out more about GSPlus and the food they serve then please click on the link below or visit the school website (under 'Parents, School Meals'). http://www.gsplus.org/kent/

OFSTED

This week we have received a visit from OFSTED. Although the final report is yet to be written I would like to thank all of you for contributing so positively to the inspection through Parent View. It was hugely encouraging to receive such positive feedback from parents and I'm extremely proud of the very good relationships we share with parents and carers. The inspector spent a lot of time in the classrooms, in meetings, speaking with children, looking at children's work and generally getting to know the school well. The final report will be available in about 3 weeks time and I'm very much looking forward to sharing it with you!

Events

20.10.14	Walk to School Week
21.10.14	Treasure Island Perfomance
22.10.14	Yr 6 visit from the school nurse
23.10.14	Open Classroom Afternoon (3pm-4pm)
24.10.14	Football and Netball Matches End of Term 1
31.10.14	National SCAF Closing Date
3.11.14	INSET Day
4.11.14	Parent Workshop 2 – 'Key Stage 2 Maths'
7.11.14	Open Morning Off By Heart Poetry Final
10.11.14	Individual Photographs
11.11.14	Remembrance Day Events
12.11.14	Parent Consultations (1.30pm-3.30pm)
13.11.14	Parent Consultations (3.30pm-8pm)
18.11.14	Parent Workshop 3 – 'Key Stage 1 Phonics'

Further dates will be published on the website under School Calendar