

NEWS



Where learning has no limits

Newsletter No 1, 7 September 2018

News

Welcome back to the 2018/19 academic year, I hope that you have had a wonderful Summer break and that you are refreshed and ready to go for what I'm sure will be an exciting year. As always, I acknowledge the unusual length of this newsletter but we have a lot of information for you, so please make yourself a cup of tea and settle down for a long read!

Welcome and staff update

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new families. We operate an open door policy so please do not hesitate to contact either the class teachers directly (preferably at the end of the school day) in the first instance, or myself if you have any concerns with regard to your children settling in.

It is with great pleasure that we announce Ms Davies will be stepping up to the role of Assistant Head. This is well deserved as we thank her for the great work she has done since joining the school 3 years ago, and look forward to her continued efforts as we move forward.

May we offer a huge welcome to Miss Glargaard, our new Year 5 teacher who has joined the staff team. We also welcome Miss Dobson to Year 3, she is a PGCE student training to be a teacher and will be with us for the whole year, in addition, we welcome Mrs Anwar who joins us in EYFS.

We are also delighted to announce that Mrs Hosier will continue to work with us in the Reception class. Finally we welcome back Mrs Tapping who is returning to LKCS to support students in small groups as required.

We hope that all new staff and students will be very at LKCS.

Meet the teacher

We have organised 'meet the teacher' sessions as follows, the intention of which is to:

- inform you of activities that are taking place for that class and the cost implications
- advise how you can help your children with reading and homework
- present any opportunities for you to come in and help in the class.

We very much hope you will be able to attend. The termly letter will be on the website [here](#) and will detail information covered at the meeting.

Monday 17 th September	8.45 – 9.15am	Year 1 and Year 2
Tuesday 18 th September	8.45 – 9.15am	Year 3 and 4
Thursday 20 th September	8.45 – 9.15am	Year 5 and 6

Thank you

At the end of the last academic year, the leavers presented the school with a selection of items for the eco garden including a bench. After the hard work that was put into developing this area over the course of the year, it was a perfect gift. On behalf of the children, staff and governors may I please offer my thanks and appreciation for this very generous presentation which will be much appreciated by parents and children alike.

Start and End of School Day

A prompt arrival in school is expected of all our children to ensure they benefit from a settled, calm start to the day. Could I please remind all parents that school starts at 8.45am when the gate to the lower playground will be locked. Registers officially close at 8.50am and children arriving after this time will be registered as late.

The main gate will open at 8.30 and the gate for the lower playground at 8.35

School finishes at 3.10pm for KS1 and 3.15pm for KS2. We will endeavour to release the children on time and ask that you collect your child at the appropriate time.

As always, our Reception children are already proving that they can enter school independently. We will continue to encourage this for the rest of the year. Well done Reception!

The Reception class will finish at 12 noon from now until Friday 28th September after which they will finish at 3.10pm. While the children are part time, please collect your child from the Village Hall car park, however please note that parking in the Village Hall car park is strictly forbidden. Thank you for your co-operation.

We are excited that this is the first year our Nursery will offer the option to take 30 hours childcare, thank you to Ms Davies and Mrs Lewis for making this possible. Our Nursery sessions will be 08.45–11.45 and 11.45–2.45. Again we request that all children are dropped off and collected on time, to allow the transition between sessions to flow and avoid children becoming unsettled.

Differing arrangements

Please note that permissions for alternative pick-up arrangements are not carried over from year to year, therefore if you grant permission for your child to be collected by other people on a regular basis, please write a note for us to keep on file for this academic year.

For ad hoc changes to arrangements, please ensure that a note is put in your child's book bag at the beginning of the day. Please do not send emails as we cannot guarantee reading these before collection. In the event of an **emergency please call the school office before 12.30**, as we cannot guarantee messages received after this time will be passed on in a timely way.

Office Hours

The school office opens from 8.30am to 4.15pm. There may be staff in the office before 8.30 but they are preparing for the busy day ahead.

Communication

In order to make our communication more efficient, we will be using the school website as a source of information much more. Please note that weekly letters, club schedules and forms will all be uploaded to the website. There is a search facility on the website if you cannot immediately find what you are looking for. We request that you check the website for information pertaining to clubs and trips before calling the office. Class letters will be uploaded [here](#) on a weekly basis.

Absences

If your child is absent from school owing to illness or an urgent medical appointment, please ring the office before 8.30am explaining the reason for the absence. We will telephone, where we do not have a reason for absence, to ensure the safety of all children in our care.

If you are aware that your child will be absent from school in advance, please hand a note to the school office.

Forgotten items

We encourage the children to be independent from an early age and ask parents to support us in this by not bringing in forgotten items. If something is forgotten and is urgent, ie lunch boxes, these will be held in the school office and children will be required to claim them at break time.

Water bottles

It is very important that your child is sufficiently hydrated during the school day, and therefore they may bring a bottle of water into the classroom. Please ensure that these are named, transparent and have a sports style cap in order to avoid accidental spillages while they are on the children's desks.

PE

If your child is to be excused from PE, we need this in writing. If it is to be long term, we will require a doctor's letter.

Consent forms for medication

Should your child require medication, please come to the school office and ask to see one of the first aid trained staff who will assist you with completing the appropriate paperwork.

Parking

Please can I take this opportunity to request that we start the term as we mean to continue, with regard to consideration of our neighbours. Parking should take place considerately, on the opposite side of the road to the school and taking note of any road markings. Please do not use the school or Village Hall entrances to turn your car around, particularly at the very busy drop off and pick up times. It is better to park considerately and walk your child a little further than cause disruption to our neighbours, thank you in advance.

Academic calendar

Please see the attached calendar which includes all dates that we currently know about including the cross country race meeting dates and information evenings for the proposed River Dart, Shortenills and French trips.

Dates and Clubs

A schedule for before school, lunchtime and after school clubs is attached. Any forms required for these clubs can be found on the website [here](#). Information regarding the breakfast and after school club is also available on that page. Please note that we have taken the conscious decision to not offer clubs to Reception children for the first term to allow them to get used to school life, however they will be able to join in from the Spring Term. They can of course use Quackers our breakfast and after school provider.

Class Assemblies

As most of you will be aware, over the course of the year each has the opportunity to perform in front of the whole school and their parents at their class assembly.

We will endeavour to give you plenty of notice, but for your information, this year class assemblies will **usually** take place at 09.00 in the Village Hall. Can I politely remind parents that it would be in the performers' best interest for you to find child care for pre-school children. The staff and children work very hard on their assemblies and deserve to be heard by all those in the hall. If this proves to be difficult, please position yourselves by an exit so that you can make a hasty retreat should your child become restless and noisy. Can I also remind parents that no flash photography is allowed during the performances and photographs must not be uploaded to social media. If this is abused, we will have no option but to ban cameras from events. Thank you for your co-operation.

This half term we have the following class assemblies planned:

Year 2	Thurs 18 th Oct
Year 4	Thurs 8 th Nov
Year 5	Tues 13 th Nov

Ordering Hot School Dinners

School dinners can either be ordered online from home, or your child can order them daily at school during registration. If your child arrives after registration and has not pre-ordered they will need a packed lunch for that day. All school meals ordered and not cancelled by 9.30am will be charged by Dolce. Therefore if you pre-order hot dinners for your children and your child is absent, you will need to cancel the order online to avoid payment.

Please note that if your child has a specific dietary requirement you are able to contact Dolce at toni.licursi@dolce.co.uk to discuss any needs directly with their team.

Please may I bring to your attention the fact that we have children at school who have life threatening allergies to nuts and dairy products. We therefore request that all packed lunches are free of nut products including peanut butter or packets of peanuts. Please could we also request that any foods that contain dairy products are in an easy to open wrapper/container to try and avoid spillages. If your child has eaten a breakfast that contains the above allergens, please could you ensure they wash their hands. Your support in these matters is greatly appreciated.

Message from FOLKS

Our school dinners are provided by Dolce, however in order for this to run smoothly, we require a rota of keen helpers to assist. This involves filling water cups, overseeing waste and helping to clear up at the end of lunchtime. It is fun and gives an insight into how the lunchtime process works. It involves arriving at school just before midday and you will be all done by 1pm at the latest. You will only be asked to help out once every few weeks and you do not need to have a DBS check to help as you will not be working on a 1:1 basis with the children, **it's not a weekly commitment!**

If you are able to help, please contact Melanie Burnside at demziuk@aol.com to advise which day/s are best for you, together with your name and number. Many thanks in advance for your help!

Free School Meals and Pupil Premium

All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are eligible for universal free school meals. However, free school meals are also available to pupils in Years 3 – 6 whose parents receive certain benefits. Eligibility for FSM may also mean that we can receive Pupil Premium for your child. This money can be used towards raising attainment or towards school trips etc. Please complete and return [this form](#) by Friday 14th September should you believe yourself to be eligible.

Music Lessons

Music lessons will start next week (w/c 10th September). While we settle into new timetables, please ensure that children have their instruments in for 8:45am. Timetables will be on the music noticeboard for pupils to check as soon as we have them. Lessons will be on the following days:

Woodwind	Wednesday (12 Sept)	Mrs Hockings
Violin	Friday (14 Sept)	Mrs Priestly
Guitars	Wednesday (12 Sept)	Mr Mayo
Piano	Friday (14 Sept)	Ms Parr

School Trips

This year we will be providing details of proposed trips for your child's year group at the beginning of the year to include an estimate of costs to help you plan for the year ahead. Please read the weekly letters for final notification and information regarding any trips or experiences. Where possible we will keep to the provided list, but occasionally wonderful opportunities arise that we feel will benefit the children.

In order to further reduce paperwork, we will be using the annual consent for offsite visit forms which you signed when your child joined the school. For any trips where there is no payment required, we will advise you in the class letter and give you the opportunity to withdraw your child should you not wish them to take part. Where there is a payment, extended hours or residential element we will obviously still seek your permission.

School diaries

We would like to thank Swift Diary Publications for the provision of LKCS branded school diaries, one will be given to each child and there are spares in the office if you would like to collect one.

Parent librarian

We are looking for a voluntary parent librarian to help keep the library correctly resourced. Ideally this will be one person, however if you are able to arrange a job share we would be delighted to talk to you about this. Training will be provided to enable you to use the computer software as required.

WI centenary

On Saturday 15th September, children from our choir are invited to perform a medley of songs at the centenary celebrations for the Little Kingshill W.I. which will be held at the Little Kingshill Village Hall at 11.30am. The children need to be at the hall for approximately 20 minutes and will be accompanied at the event by Mrs. Sutaria and Mr. Barnard. We do hope that as many children from the choir as possible are able to attend and represent the school as their singing is superb and deserves to be shared with the public. A form will be on ParentMail shortly for you to register attendance.

House naming competition

Before the holiday we announced a competition to name the school house groups, currently known as red, yellow, green and blue. Please visit ParentMail by Wednesday 12th September to register your ideas, the winning names will be announced in the next newsletter.

Celebrations

We are delighted that already, only two days into the new term we have some things to celebrate!



Before the Summer break, a Head Teachers Award was given to:

Eva Hearsey

Congratulations!

Many congratulations to the following pupils for doing very well and passing their Grade 1 exams; Imogen Samat and Lydia Cross (flute) and Megan Scourfield (bassoon).

Next Week ... at a glance

Monday	
Tuesday	Y6 Transfer test (preparation)
Wednesday	
Thursday	Y6 Transfer test
Friday	
Saturday	

Yours sincerely

G SUTARIA