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Executive Headteacher: Mrs RM West

Head of Schools : Mrs V Brown

Term 1 2023- Week 3

Dear Parents and Carers,

We appear to have moved from summer into autumn rather quickly! Please ensure that your child has a suitable coat for playtimes as we go out in all weathers.

We have a number of events coming up so please check for further information in this newsletter.

We have also attached a letter about our inclusion statement and ask that you all take a moment to read this. Both our schools take pride in our inclusive practice to try to meet the needs of all children. This can be quite a challenge with limited school budgets as this affects staffing and resources. We want to be a school where parents and carers feel comfortable to come in and talk about queries or concerns so please feel free to contact the school office if you require any further information.

ATTENDANCE

Congratulations to Underwater Class who had the highest attendance of **97.9%** last week and to Bugs Class for their attendance of **99.6%** this week. Well done.

Our target for our whole school attendance for 2023-2024 is **96.5%**

Our current whole school attendance is **96.3%**

Unfortunately, we have noticed that there has been a recent increase in term time absence. Please can we remind you that holidays are not authorised in term time. Any absence from school can affect your child's progress with their learning. All holidays taken in term time (of 10 learning sessions, which do not have to be consecutive) incur a penalty fine of £60 per child per parent. A session is am or pm.

We will continue to review everybody's attendance every three weeks as part of our attendance policy. If your child's attendance drops below 95% then we will send a letter home in the first instance. If your child's attendance shows no improvement by the next review point, a meeting will be arranged to discuss how we can work together to improve it again. We understand that there are a number of reasons for absence, and we would like to support you in every possible way that we can.

Diary

September 2023

Tuesday 26th LSA AGM

Friday 29th Macmillan Coffee Afternoon

October 2023

Monday 2nd Harvest Festival

Wednesday 4th Individual school photos

Wednesday 4th Year 6 Safety in Action

Friday 6th Poetry final at KAR

Monday 16th New to EYFS 2024 Open Session

Tuesday 17th Parent consultation evening

Thursday 19th Parent consultation evening

Thursday 19th Last day of term 1

Friday 20th **INSET**

Monday 30th Children return to school for T2

REWARDS

Congratulations to the following children who have received their next Pupil Point certificates.

200 Points **High Peaks:** Max
500 Points **Jungle:** Jess
600 Points **Jungle:** Molly, Leila
1200 Points **Jungle:** Ida



PARENT FORUM

Our first parent forum of this academic year is this afternoon at **2.15pm**. Mrs West will be sharing the priorities for school improvement for this academic year. Everybody is welcome to attend and it will be a chance for open discussion and to put your views forward. We are also happy to take requests for parent forums of matters that you would like to raise.

CENSUS DAY AND UIFSM – THURSDAY 5th OCTOBER 2023

On Thursday 5th October 2023, it is national School Census Day and, in an effort, to increase the uptake of the Universal Infant Free School Meal (UIFSM) on that day, the menu will be Fish and Chips. There will also be a jacket potato on offer on this day.

Census Day is when the Local Authorities collect information electronically from every school in their area, partly to guide them in planning and funding. They collect details such as pupil numbers, numbers of pupils with Special Educational Needs, entitled to Pupil Premium funding, entitled to Free School Meals, attendance information and so forth. One thing in particular they are looking at this term is the number of children taking the Universal Infant Free School Meal (UIFSM), to provide schools with appropriate funding for this service such as utility costs.

To maximise our potential funding, we would encourage all families with children entitled to UIFSM to enjoy their free meal on Thursday 5th October, rather than bringing a packed lunch that day. It is the number of children in Key Stage One eating the free meal on the actual day's lunchtime that informs our funding, rather than meals ordered for that day or children attending school. Pupils who bring a packed lunch from home unfortunately are not able to be included, nor are children who normally take UIFSM, but who are absent on 5th October. Once again, we encourage as many as possible to commit to eating the UIFSM on Thursday that week; this will record those children as having eaten on Census Day and therefore count towards the total Government funding that will be allocated to our school for UIFSM for a whole year. We hope that it will also create some enthusiasm amongst the children who don't normally take the meals and lead to more of them eating over the rest of the school year.

SAFEGUARDING

At Laughton Primary School, safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility and our top priority. All professionals who come in to contact with children and their families have a role to play. Within school, we have a number of staff members who are responsible or leading on child protection and welfare. We would like take this opportunity to remind you of who to contact if you have a welfare concern about a child. If you are worried about a child's safety, please do not hesitate to contact any of the Designated Safeguarding Lead staff members straight away.

The following members of staff are Designated Safeguarding Leads for Laughton School:

Mrs Vicki Brown – Lead DSL

Mrs Rachel West- Lead DSL

Mrs Lisa Geer - Deputy DSL

Mrs Natalie Bayliss is our safeguarding governor.

These members of staff can be contacted via the school office- laughtonoffice@oaktreefederation.co.uk or by telephone on 01323 811306.

CHANGING WEATHER

Now that the weather is changing, please can we remind you that all children should have a coat in school every day.



HEADLICE

We have become aware that we have cases of headlice in school at the moment. It is important that you check the whole family's hair as soon as possible.

You can do this using a special comb (widely available from chemists), a lot of hair conditioner and careful combing from root to tip every 3 days over a 2-week period. Conditioner helps make the hair slippery. This makes the hair easier to comb and the lice easier to remove. It is important that you remove the lice from the comb each time you put the comb through the hair and that you continue to comb regularly over the full two weeks as this breaks the egg/lice life cycle. We recommend the Nitty Gritty comb as a particularly effective comb for getting rid of lice. This is because unlike most combs it removes the little eggs as well as the larger and more visible lice. It is a metal comb with special rounded end teeth, which is slightly more expensive than most lice combs, but very efficient at removing even tiny eggs and lice. It is widely available (from Amazon, Boots, Tesco, Lloyds Pharmacy and many more).

We ask that children with long hair have it tied back.

PARENT CONSULTATIONS

The online booking window for our parent consultations on **17th and 19th October** will open on **6th October** You will need to use your parent eSchool login (not your child's) to access this so it would be helpful to check you still have your parent login information so that you can access the bookings when they become available. If you have any problems, please contact the office. Thank you.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

The children were informed in assembly this morning about applying to be on the School Council for this academic year.

If your child is interested in becoming a school councillor then they will have collected a manifesto sheet to fill in so that they can share why they want to be a councillor and what they want to do. These will then be displayed in the hall.

Please can these be returned to school in preparation for our class votes next Thursday when the children will read out their manifestoes to their year group and then vote anonymously to see who is elected.

We hope to announce the new School Council members in assembly next week so that they can help with the Macmillan coffee afternoon.

FLU VACCINATIONS

The flu vaccination nasal spray is on **Monday 13th November**. The NHS link for the e-consent form will be sent home shortly.

SECONDARY SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

If your child is due to start secondary school in September 2024 you will have receive a leaflet about how to apply.

Information can also be found on;

https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/educationandlearning/schools/admissions/secondary_school/

The closing date for secondary school admissions close on **Tuesday 31st October**.

OPEN SESSIONS

We are having the first of our Open Sessions for parents and carers with children due to start school in September 2024 on **Monday 16th October 2023**. There will be two sessions, the first at 9:15am prompt, and the second at 1:30pm. So we can monitor numbers, please can you book with the school office on 01323 811306 or email laughtonoffice@oaktreefederation.co.uk where you will also need to confirm who will be attending with you. The session will last a maximum of 45 minutes, and you will have the opportunity to meet with the Executive Headteacher, Rachel West.

Please spread the word if you know anyone who has a child due to start school next year. The other Open Day dates are on **Tuesday 7th November 2023** and **Thursday 4th January 2024**.

The ESCC closing date for applications is **15th January 2024**.

SCHOOL PHOTOS

Individual school photos will take place in school on **Wednesday 4th October** and the order forms will be sent home shortly afterwards. We are allowing sibling photos again this year, which will be done before school from 8:15am.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Our Harvest Festival will take place on **Monday 2nd October at 2:30p.m** you are welcome and join us if you would like. We are collecting food for the Hailsham Foodbank; and they will be collecting the donations from School the following morning.

Hailsham Foodbank are currently low in stock of the following items:

- Breakfast cereal
- Long-life milk
- Tinned vegetables
- Tinned tomatoes/past sauce
- Tinned meat
- Tinned soup
- Tinned fruit
- Sweets/chocolate/cereal bars
- Tinned Fish
- Instant coffee
- Instant mash
- Long-life apple or orange juice
- Tomato ketchup/brown sauce/mayonnaise
- Nappies/baby wipes
- Gluten free/vegan/non-dairy items
- Toothpaste/deodorant/shower gel/shampoo/toilet rolls



You can also visit their website to get up to date information on what they need or currently have enough of:

<https://hailsham.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>

POETRY COMPETITION

We are currently running a poetry reading competition for years 1-6. The children have chosen from a selection of poems in the categories, KS1, Lower KS2, and Upper KS2. They have selected which poem they are going to learn to read off by heart. They will then share this in class. If they do not want to recite it in front of the class, they can share it in smaller groups or with a member of staff. The finalists from each class will be heard in our whole school assembly on Friday 29th September. From this, a finalist will be selected to go to the finals at Kings Academy Ringmer on the afternoon of **Friday 6th October**. This competition is between the local primary schools and is to promote the reading of poetry and develop skills in memorising.

CLASS+ COFFE AND CHAT SESSIONS

The CLASS+ team would like to share their upcoming coffee and chat dates for this term. Whether your child has an Autism diagnosis or you are awaiting a diagnosis, meet and talk with other parents and members of the CLASS+ team. Part of the session will focus around the theme of autism and change. Please note that parents/carers do not need to book they can just turn up.

- **20 September 2023** – St Thomas a Beckett Primary School, 9:00 am – 10:30 am
- **27 September 2023** – Peacehaven Community School, 9:15 am – 10:45 am
- **28 September 2023** – Willingdon Primary School, 9:15 am – 10:45 am
- **4 October 2023** – Robertsbridge Secondary School, 9:15 am – 10:45 am
- **19 October 2023** – Telscombe Academy, 1:15 pm – 2:45 pm



MACMILLAN COFFEE AFTERNOON

We will be raising funds for Macmillan on **Friday 29th September at 2p.m** in the school hall. Staff will provide some cakes and we would also be very grateful for donations too. Please pop along for a chat, cake and cuppa from 2p.m on this day.

GLYNDE CLOTHES SWAP

Women's clothes and accessories, Saturday 7th October 10am to 1pm at The Coach House. Tickets are £10. Please bring up to 5 items clean and in good condition and take up to 5 items, refreshments are available. Tickets are available from Glynde Store. All money raised will go towards renovations for Glynde pool.

BASKETBALL NET

The basketball net on Pelham field has been taken out of use as it is deemed unsafe. We have told the children about this in assembly but please be aware of this for out of school hours.

FRIENDS OF LAUGHTON SCHOOL NEWS

A little reminder that our AGM will be held on **Tuesday 26th September 5.30pm** at the Roebuck. Everybody is welcome to attend.

A big thank you for everyone's support at the sales this week, we raised over £100 for the school, which is a great start to the year - thank you!

Thank you for all your support.

Kind regards

Mrs Rachel West and Mrs Vicki Brown