



Lessness Heath Primary School

Newsletter

Headteacher

Mrs K O'Connor

Deputy Head

Mrs L Shields

Respect Belonging Co-operation Honesty Perseverance Responsibility

20.10.17

Dear Parents and Carers,

All parents were invited into school at the Parent Forum on Monday to hear about the developments in school and for parents to share their views and opinions about improvements they would like to see.

Mrs Shields and I shared the key priorities for the school this year which include:

- ▶ Reading and maths attainment at KS2
- ▶ Writing attainment across the school
- ▶ Parental engagement
- ▶ Attendance

Over this year all staff will be part of these improvements and we will be sharing the successes with parents as time goes on. There will also be opportunities for you to be part of the improvements in the form of parent workshops and information sharing meetings on ways you can be part of your child's education and their success.

At the end of September we had a visit from our Director of Education and other senior leaders from our Trust. This is what they had to say about our school.

- ▶ The Senior Leadership Team are strong, cohesive and determined. The wider team say that they listen well and respond to needs. They have a clear understanding of the school and are working well in partnership together to move the school forward.
- ▶ The Head Teacher and the Senior Leadership Team clearly know the strengths of the school and its next steps and are driven and committed to ensure that the school is no less than good by Christmas 2017.
- ▶ The quality of Teaching and Learning has improved. Where this is good or better:
- ▶ Pupil engagement in learning is high and purposeful;
- ▶ Adults are quick to seize on pupils' misconceptions and address them;
- ▶ Books are well presented and marking enables pupils to understand what they need to do next in order to improve;
- ▶ The most able pupils are quickly challenged and don't lose learning time waiting for others to catch up with them;
- ▶ Early Years settings across the school have significantly improved and these are vibrant and inspiring learning places for children. Activities are engaging and learning focussed both inside and outside.
- ▶ Behaviour, safety and welfare is a strong area of the school's work – the school manage pupils with challenging behaviour well and, as a result, the school has a calm and purposeful learning feel. Instances of disruptive behaviour are rare and pupils generally cooperate well together.
- ▶ Adults insist on high standards for behaviour as pupils move around the school. Pupils feel proud of their school.
- ▶ Pupils enjoy lunchtimes and playtimes – systems such as playground buddies ensure that pupils have a friend if they need one and problem areas quickly resolved.
- ▶ A strength of the school is their team approach and their "never give up attitude" to any child and their circumstance.

Thank you for your continued support and look out for our newsletter after half term advertising ways you can get involved.

Have a great half term.

Kate O'Connor
Head teacher

Woodville Halls Celebration event

40 children attended the third annual musical celebration event at Woodville Halls in Gravesend. All 6 Primary First Trust schools took part in the extravaganza. Our children did us proud and they sang their hearts out in the collaborative songs and their individual piece. The theme of the event was 'Unity in Diversity' and the event certainly took on this theme whole-heartedly – all different but totally united.



A special mention to Freddie Heller in Reception who won the postcard competition from across the Trust in the Early Years category.

Well Being Award for schools

Lessness Health are about to embark on an amazing journey that enables us to celebrate the fabulous work we have been doing here to support mental health and emotional wellbeing.

We are striving to create a whole school approach promoting emotional wellbeing and positive mental health across the whole school community; this will be at the heart of the culture and ethos of our school.

All pupils, parents and school staff will become part of this journey and contribute towards a healthy understanding of the importance of emotional health. Our hope is to build confidence where every person involved flourishes in their thinking and learning around mental health.

This is a chance for us to be recognised and celebrate all the exceptional work that we have achieved within our school community, and a chance to celebrate our successes from over the last year. I believe that this celebration of success will encourage more schools to adopt an approach that puts emotional wellbeing and mental health at the heart of what they do.

Our vision is a community where children, families and staff are supported effectively to build on their strengths and to achieve their goals in life. We will continue to promote resilience and wellbeing to make a difference to people's lives.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us raise happy, healthy, resilient young people.



INSET day and half term

A reminder to all parents that we have a two-week half term this year and we come back to school on Tuesday 7th November. Monday 6th is an INSET day and there is no school.

Parents Evening

All parents have had communication regarding parents evening next term. There are two parent's evenings on Thursday 9th November 3.30pm to 7pm and Tuesday 14th November 3.30pm to 6pm. Please make sure you sign up to see your child's class teacher. If you are having trouble signing up, please see the office.

(Hummingbird's parent's evenings have been changed to Monday 13th November and Monday 20th November).

Flu Vaccinations next term

Letters and consent forms have gone out to parents this week regarding the Flu Vaccinations in Reception, Year 1, 2, 3 and 4. The flu vaccinations will be carried out in school on 1st December. Please return all forms by 17.11.17.

Bexley Foodbank

On Monday 9th October, Lessness Heath welcomed some very special visitors into school from Bexley Foodbank. The purpose of their visit was to collect your kind donations and lead an assembly for our children. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents and carers for your generous donations, which have now been collected from school by Bexley Foodbank. These donations will be distributed to people living in our local community. Thank you.



Attendance and punctuality

There has been an increase in the number of children arriving late to school on a regular basis. The bell rings at 8.50am and all children should be in school by then. Our gates open at 8.30am and the doors open at 8.40am to give all children the opportunity to come into school in a ten-minute window to start the day in a relaxed way. Once they are in school, before the register is taken, they are engaged straight away in learning opportunities.

Families who continue to be late after half term, will have the lost learning minutes added together and this time will be made up before school. If there is a valid reason for your lateness, please see a senior leader on the gate.

A reminder to all families that holiday in term time is not allowed.

Year 6 – Isle of Wight

This week, Year 6 have been to Kingswood camp on the Isle of Wight. We have participated in a range of activities to help develop our life-skills, for example: persevering in challenging tasks, problem-solving, balance and independence. We have persevered and developed our resilience too! We have conquered our fears on high adrenalin activities. As well as climbing the highest wall. We have had so much fun during our time away. We have spent loads of time with our best friends – and best of all – the teachers even got on the dance floor!

Quotes from children:

“Despite missing home, at Kingswood we have had the best time away!” Riley (Eagle Class)

“I absolutely loved the beach trip – it was the best time ever!” Debbie (Falcon Class)

“The school journey was an absolute success. All of Year 6 had an absolute splendid time. The activities were a once in a lifetime experience!” Zak (Hawk Class)



Weekly attendance

Congratulations to Robin in KS1 and Heron in KS2 for getting the highest attendance this week.

Registration Group	Percentage Attendance
Miss Clarke AM	94.4
Miss Clarke PM	91.0
Miss Ransom	91.9
Miss Bennett	96.1
Miss Nkwo	100.0
Mrs Jones	98.6
Ms Harding/Miss Harmer	97.2
Miss Thorpe	99.0
Mrs Khan	96.2
Mrs Cross	96.7
Miss Jayne	96.9
Miss Bulbul/Miss Gawley	98.6
Miss Egan/Miss Bolton	97.6
Mr Jackson	100.0
Miss Kanu	97.2
Mr Liddiard	99.2
Mrs Leach	93.1
Mr Martin-Pitt	94.8
Miss Watt	96.7
Mrs Handley	98.2
Miss Long	97.8
Miss Steele	97.5

The class who gets the best attendance in Nursery or Reception each week will be rewarded by having the teddy in their class.

Congratulations to Miss Bennett in Owlet.