



26.1.18

Lessness Heath Primary School

Newsletter

Respect Belonging Co-operation Honesty Perseverance Responsibility

Headteacher

Mrs K O'Connor

Deputy Head

Mrs L Shields

Dear Parents and Carers,

Ove the last few weeks I have seen a slip in the number of children who are late to school and who are late being picked up from school.

The school recognises that parents have a vital role to play in supporting and encouraging good attendance and punctuality. By accepting responsibility in partnership with the school, we can work together to ensure the children's right to a full education, as well as enabling parents to fulfil their legal responsibility.

To help with punctuality, there is a breakfast club in the canteen from 7.30am and information about this service can be found at the main reception. In addition, the playground opens at 8.30am and parents/carers are welcome to bring their children and wait with them from this time.

The school is monitoring punctuality more closely this term. After 9.20am is considered half a day's absence and all lateness/attendance is recorded and monitored by the school and the Education Welfare Officer.

Why is punctuality such a good thing?

Being on time:

- gets your child's day off to a good start and puts your child in a positive frame of mind, so that he / she can make the most of his / her learning;
- sets positive patterns for the future;
- leads to good attendance;
- leads to better achievement;
- leads to understanding that school is important and education is valuable;
- helps your child develop a sense of responsibility for him / herself and towards others;
- helps your child make friends and keep friends;
- reaps rewards; it leads to success and self-confidence.

Why is lateness such a bad thing?

Being late:

- gets your child's day off to a bad start;
- can be embarrassing for your child;
- will be noticed by other children who might make negative comments;
- may lead to your child losing confidence;
- may lead to your child feeling confused all day! He / she will have missed out on vital instructions, information and bits of news at the start of the day;
- disrupts the lesson for everyone;
- can cause your child to fall behind with his or her work;
- creates a bad habit that can be hard to break at secondary school and in the workplace;
- can lead to poor attendance - if your child thinks it is okay to be late for school they can soon start to think it is okay not to go to school at all.

There are some occasions when we are all late but consistent lateness will be looked at and you may well be spoken to about this if your child is late coming to school or late being picked up from school.

I hope to see an improvement in punctuality over the next few weeks.

Kate O'Connor
Head Teacher

Outside of the classroom learning

This term Year 2 took part in a Great Fire of London workshop by the Freshwater Theatre Company. The children took part in drama activities which guided them through the events leading up to, during and after the fire. Samuel Pepys, King Charles and Thomas Farynor were among the historical figures that the children acted out, exploring their contributions to saving London.

The children thoroughly enjoyed the workshop. 'It was great fun learning about the Great Fire of London because I found out facts that I didn't know before. I acted as a horse on one of London's streets and later I acted as a dancing flame showing how the fire spread so quickly! It was so interesting and fun.' Jasmine Y2.



Earlier this week, I went on a school trip, with my fantastic friends in year 5, to a Victorian school named Horton Kirby. We went on a coach and it took around 25 minutes, however, it felt longer! Finally, when we arrived, we saw the grand building: Horton Kirby. We stepped through the door to a massive building with many rooms.

We went upstairs into a small cube-like room. Each of us was given a name of a child that actually went to the school! I was a boy named Edgar Darntnall. We then went downstairs and went outside. Mrs Cooper (our teacher for the morning) was ordering us to put our right hand on the person in front's shoulders.

We came back into the classroom and we were told to read off a sheet. It was like singing a song since it rhymed. After, we did drawings of hares and rabbits. Next, we did maths – it was pounds, shillings and pence. After doing a few more lessons, we packed up and went into another classroom-like room.

In the afternoon, we went for a walk around the neighbourhood and played a games to see whose stick could go the furthest in the stream.

We finished the trip and I slept all the way back!

Josh Smale, Magpie.



Year 1 have just spent 2 days getting very creative, and messy, with the artist Tim Davies who came to work with the children on an art project linked to our Science topic of animals. Focussing on birds, given our class names, Tim showed the children how to create willow frames using 'withies' (willow sticks) and masking tape. The children then stretched tissue paper over the frames and decorated them with brightly coloured tissue to add detail. There was a real buzz in each session as the children discovered some new art skills. The end result is 5 amazing bird sculptures which we hope to display in the entrance and library area of the school very soon. It was wonderful to see the great teamwork from all classes, they worked in groups of 15 on different stages of the whole process and took great pride in their contribution - a wonderful example of co-operation!



Wellbeing photos

In our newsletter last time we shared the experiences we had in our wellbeing days at Lessness at the beginning of term. Here are some photos from the two days and some examples of the wellbeing activities the children took part in.



Nursery Admissions

Nursery Admissions have opened for children who were born between 1st September 2014 and 31st August 2015. The closing date is April 6th 2018.

Here is the website you need to apply online: <https://www.bexley.gov.uk/services/children-families-and-education/education-and-services-children/school-admissions/nursery-classes>

Lessness Heath are having two open sessions to allow parents and carers to visit our nursery and talk with the nursery staff before they apply to our school.

We will welcome families to look around the Nursery on February 20th at 9.30am and March 2nd at 2pm.



Dodgeball tournament

Boys and Girls from Lessness Heath, Barnehurst, Mayplace, Cuxton, Westcourt and Wayfield in Years 1 - 6 took part in a dodgeball festival on Friday 12th January.

This is a very different sport to those they usually play and the team were really keen to learn new skills and make some new friends in the process. The children made lots of new friends and there were smiles all around.

A massive thank you to Mrs Shields, Freya's Mum in Kingfisher's class, Jack's Dad in Woodpecker for attending and really getting into the spirit. Mr Farrell would also like to say a massive thank you to all of the Lessness Heath children who attended the event and represented Lessness, they were a credit to our school.



Forest School in Year 1 and 3

Our children in Year 1 and Year 3 have started some forest school sessions this term led by Mrs Meekings a qualified Forest school leader.

It was a beautiful frosty, sunny morning today at Forest School, which led to lots of discussion about how cold it was despite the sunshine with the 5&6 year olds. Their theme for these sessions is

'Traditional Tales', which fits beautifully with outdoor learning in a Woodland environment. Our first activity was to walk from the gate to base camp...would they be 'good' and follow the path to Grandma's House...or would they deviate from the path? So interesting to watch which children made which choice...

Lots of fun was had in the mud kitchen, bugs were found, catkins collected (more discussion about whether they were bugs or not), snail eggs found under a log and plenty of free play. Every time I looked around the children were all fully engaged with their activities and the time flew by. This afternoon's session seemed colder as the sun had disappeared from the site. Thank you so much to all of those who have donated spare hats, scarves, gloves, waterproofs and wellies...most of it was used today! The session again flew by and we nearly forgot to stop for a snack and got chocolate!! Can you imagine to upset if that had happened?! The children continued investigating ramps and wrapped the planks in tin foil to reduce the friction and make their own slides. A large group engaged again in den building, with a clear hierarchy of roles and a 'list' of who was allowed in (adults were definitely not on the list!) We have been really lucky to have had two dry weeks so far, so one group worked with me to work out where we could erect a shelter should we be faced with rain at any point. I think this will lead us naturally into a den building week next week, as this seems to capture the imagination of a lot of this class. I'm excited to see what they will create.

Mrs Meekings

P.E and sports Leader

We are delighted to tell you that Nick has been employed by the school as the P.E and Sports leader. This role is a lot different to his role previously and you will notice he is teaching more and more involved in school life. To reflect his new position, we would like all the children to refer to him as Mr Farrell like all the other adults in the school.

Primary First Pledge

SAVE THE DATE: WEDNESDAY 18TH APRIL 2018

Have you ever thought about the experiences children should have before they leave primary school? Maybe you think all children should feel sand in their feet? Or possibly learn to swim? Build a campfire and toast marshmallows? Or even catch a fish with a net?

In all our schools in the Primary First Trust we want to look at all the amazing experiences children should and could have outside of their day to day school life. We feel it is really important that children are rounded individuals and have many fun experiences before they go onto further education.

We are inviting all stakeholders from all of our schools to the Launch Event on 18th April which will give you the opportunity to share your ideas and have your say on what experiences should be on the Passport.

More details will follow nearer the time but get thinking and please save the date!

Weekly attendance

Our whole school attendance this week was 94.7%. Each week we aim for an overall school attendance of 96%.

Congratulations to Owlet in EYFS, Wren in KS1, and Heron in KS2 for getting the highest attendance this week.

Registration Group	Percentage Attendance
Miss Clarke Duckling 1	95.0
Miss Clarke Duckling 2	90.4
Miss Ransom	95.2
Miss Folan	98.6
Miss Bennett	93.3
Mrs Nkwo	94.1
Mrs Jones	93.4
Mrs Mensah	96.2
Miss Thorpe	94.3
Mrs Vankirk	93.8
Mrs Cross/Mrs Claire Clifford	91.0
Miss Bulbul/Miss Gawley	98.6
Miss Egan	90.3
Miss Jayne	91.4
Mr Jackson	99.3
Mr Liddiard	95.1
Miss Harmer	93.8
Mr Martin-Pitt	98.3
Miss Watt	96.5
Mrs Leach	96.2
Miss Steele	93.4
Mrs Handley	91.1
Miss Long	96.6