



Lessness Heath Primary School

Newsletter

12.1.18

Respect Belonging Co-operation Honesty Perseverance Responsibility

Headteacher

Mrs K O'Connor

Deputy Head

Mrs L Shields

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly I would like to wish all of our parents and carers a Happy New Year and welcome you all back to the spring term at Lessness Heath. Already our timetable has been jam packed with a variety of learning opportunities across the school, parents meetings and New Year assemblies.

The most exciting thing about this term is that we have entered it with a shiny new Ofsted report which encapsulates the hard work that has been put into the school over the last few years to ensure our children get the very best deal academically and to leave our school ready for the new challenges ahead at secondary school. The Ofsted report was emailed out to all parents yesterday and can also be found on our website. The report will be uploaded to the Ofsted website next Thursday 18th January.

At Lessness, we are now planning the new ways in which we can ensure our children get the very best. We are working closely with our Trust partners to enrich our P.E provision, we are working towards a National well-being award and we are growing all our teachers and leaders so that they can be the very best they can be. Please don't forget we are always willing to listen to your view and suggestions to make our school a better place and we have our suggestion box anyone can use in the foyer. I'll look forward to reading your suggestions over the next few weeks.

I'll leave you this week with this image. If I could I would organise this for real, sadly our budget will not stretch that far! Thank you to one of our governors for sending me this fabulous image.



Kate O'Connor
Head Teacher

Well Being days at Lessness

Lessness Health's newly launched wellbeing days, were a real success. The atmosphere around the school was very calm and the feel of a sense of happiness was in the air. Our pupils and staff commented on the return to school certainly feeling a lot easier. The pupils benefited from attending Yoga and mindfulness sessions and various workshops around school that supported mental health and wellbeing. We were lucky to have visitors in from the outside community to support our wellbeing days. The workshops had a positive impact on all the children and adults in our community. Here are some feedback quotes from the days:

'I have learnt we are all unique, all special and all have a strength' - Yr 6 child

'I felt very calm' 'I felt much better' 'It made me smooth'

My golden moment was seeing the children in year 3 taking yoga seriously and smiling and laughing through it.

'Yoga is fantastic - at first I thought it was kind of weird but then I got used to it and loved it' - Yr 3 child



Our Focus this half term

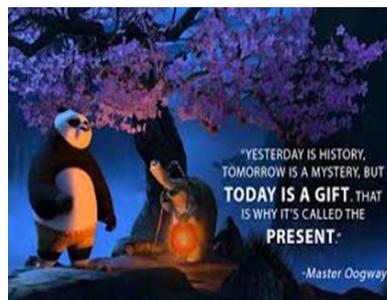
Concentrate on the “take notice” and “connect” elements of the 5 ways to wellbeing.

Here are some ideas for you to practice these at home:

- **Talk, listen, be there, feel connected**
- **Remember the simple things that give you joy**
- **Go for a mindful walk and practice breath work**

CLENCH YOUR FISTS, HOLD FOR 5 SECONDS AND RESEASE.

CONNECT TO HOW YOU FEEL



WAS Update

- The wellbeing days have been delivered and were a great success
- The change team are currently working on a SWOT analysis (strengths, weaknesses, opportunity and threats document) to gain a deeper understanding of our schools wellbeing drive
- A parent CHANGE TEAM is being create for parents to volunteer to be part of the school wellbeing journey
- Parent questionnaire will be shortly sent home, for all parents to evaluate our schools approach to supporting mental health and wellbeing

Outside of the classroom learning

On Monday, Year 4 embarked on an exciting trip to the British Museum to support learning in their new Aztecs topic. The children hopped onto the train and tube like pros and before they knew it were immersed in the wonderful exhibitions and displays that fill the museum. Each class had a chance to visit the Greek and Viking areas of the Museum first, making links to our past and future topics. The children created some wonderful drawings of sculptures and artefacts that interested them, explaining to their partners how they thought the items may have been used and by whom. Later in the Aztec area of the Museum, each class was set a series of fact hunting challenges, which they devoured with enthusiasm, finding key information out about the fearsome Aztec civilisation. The day was amazing from start to end and really helped the children to get a real life insight into many past societies.



On Monday Year 1 had a 'Traditional Tales' day to kick-start their English topic for this half term. The children looked great in their costumes and the classrooms were full of Goldilocks, Little Red Riding Hoods, Big Bad Wolves and even beanstalks! The children visited each others classrooms for different stories and were busy all day with story themed activities including making and decorating salt dough Gingerbread Men, 3 Little pigs board games and beanstalk number bonds. We finished the day by eating porridge; trying it plain, with salt and then with honey. Most children agreed that with honey it was "just right"!



On Wednesday, Year 3 had an amazing day learning about the Ancient Greeks in the hall with an outside company.

They learnt that the Ancient Greeks took part in a sport of jumping bulls (which are twice the size of cows). Bull leaping is a sport that is 5000 years old.

After this the children dressed up in Ancient Greek clothing. They then bartered to sell things in the market, prayed at the temple, saw the hippocracy (doctor) and voted on ostraka (pieces of pottery) for the leader who didn't keep their promises. Miss Jayne was voted out and had to be sent away.

The children carved designs into tiles of plaster for decorating the Parthenon.

In the afternoon they took part in a marching competition (see pictures) and chariot racing before participating in the Olympics.

The children really enjoyed the day and learnt a great deal.



Changes to our office team

There have been some changes to the office team over the last few weeks before and now after Christmas. Mrs Harvey and Mrs Fletcher have left the team and we wish them all the best for the future.

Mrs Bowes now works full time and we would like to welcome Mrs Trezies to our school. Many of you have already met Mrs Trezies and I hope you will all join us in welcoming her to our team.



**Job advertisement:
Governance Administrator**

Hours:	Variable (on average 4-6 hours per meeting). Total of 18 meetings, per full term, to be covered by a 'pool of Governance Administrators'. Term time only
Salary:	£9.62 per hour (plus travel expenses)
Closing date:	29/01/2018
Interviews:	05/02/2018

The Primary First Trust (PFT) is seeking to appoint additional Governance Administrators to join the team, working with schools within Bexley, Kent and Medway. This is an exciting role for somebody who wishes to have impact throughout an organisation rather than just one school.

You will be a person of integrity, extremely well organised and be able to maintain confidentiality. Your main responsibility will be to provide a clear and concise written record of each governing body meeting taking place. You will work closely with the Lead PFT Clerk to ensure the smooth running of each meeting and you will have the skills needed to ensure this vital role is carried out effectively and professionally.

For you, the job will bring an opportunity to be part of an organisation that is changing the life chances of children. This opportunity will bring with it the need for a flexible approach to working hours, including evening meetings.

For further details, please contact Jane Hingston Jhingston@theprimaryfirsttrust.co.uk

Applications closing date: Monday 29th January 2018

Interviews date: Monday 5th February 2018

Only those shortlisted for interview will be contacted.
References will be taken up for those shortlisted prior to interview.

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. We expect all staff to share this commitment and to undergo appropriate checks, including enhanced DBS checks.

Mobile phones in school

A reminder that only Y6 children are allowed to have a mobile phone in school. If your child needs a phone in school because they are walking home on their own, you must fill in a consent form. These can be obtained from the school office.

From Monday there will be a new system in place to ensure mobile phones are kept safe. All children with a phone in school in Y6 need to take it to their classroom where it will be put into a box and the box will be given to the school office and locked away. The box will then be taken back to the classroom at the end of the day. No parent should be at the office collecting phones.

Key dates for this term

Mrs Shields has sent out a comprehensive list of key dates for families last week. If you did not receive these dates, you can get a copy from the school office.