



Littleham

CE Primary School



Firm foundations for the future

Welcome Back!

It's been wonderful to hear the stories from everyone's summer holidays. It was certainly a wonderful summer break. It's also been great to see everyone settle into their new classes, looking smart in their new uniforms and settling well to learning. As we like to say, 'Look Smart, think smart!'

This week the children have been completing their home learning agreements which will be shared with parents and carers at parents' consultation evening.

Look Smart and Dress Smart

We believe that if children take a pride in their appearance, they will also take pride in their behaviour and in their school work. To help maintain and support the high standards of learning at the school, we would like parents to support us in ensuring that children are dressed in the correct school uniform. Please make sure that socks are either black or white and that shoes or trainers are completely black. Also, don't forget to write your child's name on all items, but especially school jumpers. Thank you!

Congratulations

Miss Moass got married over the summer break. She is now known as Mrs Land! Mrs Atkin has now started her maternity leave and I am happy to report has finally had her baby girl!



Magical sunflowers

Brooke was delighted to receive 1st place in our sunflower competition on behalf of her sister Tatum who left us for secondary school. Daniel was thrilled with his second place and Theo couldn't believe how tall his sunflower had grown.

Award Winners!

We are delighted to say that we were awards winner in Best School Vegetable Garden and runner up in Best School Garden. Our thanks to Graham Bell and all the volunteers who helped make our school gardens such a wonderful learning experience for all. Let's see what happens in 2018!



Follow us on Facebook at **Littleham C of E Primary** for diary dates and interesting posts. Please see our guidelines for use for more information.

What Makes Littleham CE Primary a Special Place to be?

This half-term's value is **Thankfulness** and the children will be exploring a new acrostic poem.

Thankfulness is...

Thinking of good things

Happy memories

All creation praising God

Not taking anything for granted

Keeping focused on the positive

Feeling blessed

Understanding the sacrifices people make for us

Living joyfully

Not complaining

Expressing gratitude to God

Saying **thank you** to those who help us

Showing gratefulness by our deeds



Sunday Worship in School

As many of you will know, we have held worship each month on a Sunday in school. This worship has proven to be very successful and starts with coffee and cake. Rev Benedict and his team lead a relaxed and family based worship and we'd love to see you there with your children. This term the dates are **24th September , 22nd October, 26th November and 17th December.**

THANKFULNESS
HOME SCHOOL VALUES

This term we will be focussing in school on the value **THANKFULNESS**. We hope your family will find these ideas helpful as you explore the value and have fun together.

TALK ABOUT THANKFULNESS TOGETHER.

'Count your blessings' is an old saying, but it reminds us to be **thankful** and not take things for granted.

As a family you may like to talk about

- Remembering to let other people know when you are **thankful**
- Not taking things for granted
- Practical ways of showing gratitude
- How it feels when someone **thanks you!**



30 hours free childcare

The government are launching 30 hours free childcare in September 2017. Working parents of 3 and 4 year old children may be entitled to an extra 15 hours a week. Parents will need to apply through an online service. If you have not already done so, please email revans@littleham.devon.sch.uk for a letter which contains the links you will require in order to see if you are eligible and then apply.

If you are eligible, you'll receive a 30 hours eligibility code and parents need to provide school with their unique 11 digit reference number by 21 July 2017 in order for the 30 hours to start in September, if the code is provided to school after this date the 30 hours will not start until January 2018.

Holidays and Avoidable Absence in Term Time

We believe that in order for children to fully benefit from their education, good attendance is crucial. It is the policy of our school to celebrate achievement and full attendance is a critical factor to a productive and successful school career.

As of September 2013, an amendment to the Education Regulations 2006 came into force and greater clarity was introduced to the issue of schools authorising absence requests. These changes reinforced the government's view that every minute of every school day is vital and that pupils should only be granted authorised absence by the school in 'exceptional circumstances'.

A family holiday is not normally considered by the Government to be an 'exceptional circumstance' and therefore will not be authorised by the school. We must take this opportunity to remind you, that should you chose to take your child out of school without the authorisation of the school, then Parental Responsibility Measure could be instigated. This could mean receiving a Penalty Notice.

Unauthorised Absence from School

Schools are also required to notify the Local Authority if a child has a number of unauthorised absences. Unauthorised absences can be acquired when:

- Leave has been requested, but the circumstances are such that the school cannot authorise the leave and it is taken anyway
- Leave is not requested and the school has grounds to believe that the child has been taken out of school for an avoidable reason
- A child continually arrives late after registration closes, i.e. after 9.10am
- A child is ill for 5 or more consecutive days without medical evidence

The school is required to notify the Local Authority in all of the circumstances listed above.

We understand the disappointment that the refusal of a leave request may cause and we apologise, but as you can appreciate this policy represents the school's responsibility and commitment towards ensuring your child's education and their future life

Attendance - did you know?

Brandon has 90% attendance at school. Sounds pretty good doesn't it?... 90% ATTENDANCE = 1/2 A DAY MISSED EVERY WEEK! 1 school year at 90% = 4 WHOLE WEEKS OF LESSONS MISSED! Brandon's learning and achievement will be affected!...

What happens when children miss school?

- They miss lessons and crucial information
- They will fall behind with their work
- They may miss interesting activities that the class does follow up work on
- They may become isolated from their peer group
- They let down their classmates who may be working with them
- The Education Welfare Officer may become involved (90% attendance or less will trigger an enquiry by the EWO)

Why do children need to be in school regularly?

- so that they don't miss any lessons
- to maximise their learning
- to make sure they will be able to do the best they can in assessments
- to learn to socialise with their peers
- because it's the law!

Active Travel

At school we encourage children and parents to travel to school by cycling, scooting and walking wherever possible.

Some of the aims of *Active Travel* are to encourage healthier lifestyles by walking, scooting and cycling and to reduce congestion around the school

Being active on the way to school leads to more awake and alert pupils in the classroom; children need at least 60 minutes of physical activity every day and the journey to and from school is an ideal time for children to engage in physical activity. Walking, scooting and cycling to school are also great ways to help pupils become familiar with their local environment.

This year why not try to encourage your child to walk to school whenever possible; possibly joining with other families as a 'cycle train'. Let's see if we can make a real difference in this area.

Please remember to provide your child with equipment such as high-visibility clothing, lights, a lock and essentially a cycle helmet. We expect that all bicycles and scooters ridden to school are roadworthy and regularly maintained.



Dates for your diary

When	When	What	Who
15th Sept	PM	Swimming starts	Year 3
22nd Sept	PM	Swimming	Year 3
23rd Sept	5pm	PTFA Duck Race	All
24th Sept	10am	Sunday Worship in School	All
29th Sept	PM	Swimming	Year 3
3rd Oct		CAP Assembly	All
22nd Oct	10am	Sunday Worship in School	All
23rd Oct		Half term begins	All
30th Oct	All day	Non-pupil staff training day	All
26th Nov	10am	Sunday Worship in School	All
15th Dec		Last day of Autumn term	All
17th Dec	10am	Sunday Worship in School	All

For up-to-date term dates visit the school website: www.littleham.devon.sch.uk

