

***Up to the minute……***

Dear Parents and Carers,

The first few days back were a bit tricky for everyone last week. Adults and children alike found themselves flung back into early morning, uniforms and routine after two weeks of food, duvet days and fun. This week has been much more settled and I am very proud of the children’s effort towards their learning and their behaviour. I look forward to an exciting Spring Term.

**Eschools App**

The Up to the Minute is sent out every Friday via the app, email or a paper copy. If you are not receiving it in the format you wish, please pop into the school office. If you have not downloaded the app, you will receive it via email, however we urge you to download the app as you will get notified of any school closures or other important messages immediately and it reduces the cost to the school. If you are experiencing any problems, please speak to the school office.

**Wish List**

Everybody in the school is thrilled to be receiving and using items from their Wish list.

Year 1 would like to say thank you for the easi speak microphone. They are very grateful to a member of the public, from Loxwood, who generously bought this for them.

**Parking**

As always I would like to ask that parents and carers are parking sensibly, safely and legally during pick up and drop off. It is a very busy time of the day – we all have to get to work and drop the children off and it can become very stressful. Please take extra care, our pupil’s safety should always be our highest priority and at the forefront of our mind when driving and parking around the school.

**Loxwood as a Healthy School**

Lunch boxes

Just reminder that we do like to encourge a healthy lunch box; this would include a range of foods including sandwiches and fruit. We know that a little treat at lunch time is nice but please can you avoid large amounts of chocolate or overly sugary foods. If we have any concerns about lunch boxes or if your child doesn’t seem to be eating very much we will contact you directly. If you are concerned please let us know and we can keep an extra eye on your child for you.

We do ask that the children do **not** have any fizzy drinks or energy drinks (we find they have enough energy already!) or anything with nuts in due to allegies within the school. Thank you

**Self Help Day**

We will be having our self help days on Saturday 12th January and Saturday 19th January 9.30am to 1.30pm. We appreciate this is short notice, but if you are able to spare any time it would be much appreciated. We will provide tea and cake!

****

**Reading Rivers**

****During the first two days of term, children throughout the school enjoyed creating their own 'Reading Rivers’. These collages are an opportunity to share and reflect on what the children read both in and out of school. Many were surprised at the variety of reading they actually do, and the opportunity to recommend books to each other was a happy outcome too. Reading is for enjoyment, and this activity has reminded us all of the rich variety of material our children can choose from.

**Birthday Sweets**

As part of our drive to become more healthy we would like to remind you that we will not be allowing children to bring sweets into school on their birthday. Thank you for your co-operation.

**Helping in School**

Would you like to volunteer? We have volunteers from the local community, grandparents, parents and former members of staff.

**FAQ**

**What could I do to help?**

Our volunteers help in a wide range of ways including: reading with children regularly; helping out on activity days (such as cooking or art) and Forest School. Some volunteers can only manage half an hour and other a full day. It is quite flexible and very rewarding.

**Which class would I be in?**

We can arrange for a class for you or you can support your child’s class. Sometimes supporting in the same class as your child becomes unsettling for the child. If this happens we will be very honest with you and will either suggest you try again at a later date or help elsewhere in the school.

**What do I need to do?**

Firstly you will need to complete a DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service). This is a criminal records check and is completed with Mrs Hannington in the school office. With a few pieces of ID it takes about 15 mins to apply and approx two weeks to be returned.

Secondly you will need to attend a Safeguarding talk with Ms Kitson. This takes about 30 mins and covers your responsbilities towards the children’s safety and our expectations of adults within the school. Talks are organised on a regular basis, in fact the first one this year has already been organised (see below).

**When can I start?**

The two requrements above can be done in any order but will both have to be completed prior to starting. After that you will liaise with the class teacher and find a mutually benefical start date.

**What if I can’t help out reguarly due to other commitments?**

We are always looking for volunteers for one off activites such as trips, Forest Schools, swimming and activity days. If this is better for you we will put you down on a list and either text or email when we need help.

**Safeguarding talk**

We have many volunteer helpers in our school and we are always happy for more. There will be a safeguarding talk for anybody who would like to come and into school and help with the children, on Thursday 17th January at 2.30pm. Please let the school office kow if you would like to attend.

**Hamper Raffle**

Thank you to everyone who supported the hamper raffle just before Christmas. The hamper was very kindly donated by Frank Knight and helped us raise £91.00 for our school.

Kind regards,

Ms Kitson



Did you know……………..

There are a number of website to inspire you and your child when it comes to choosing a new book to read. This can be really challenging, why not try

[www.lovereading4kids.co.uk](http://www.lovereading4kids.co.uk)

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/find-a-book/>

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/>

These websites have information about how to support your child with their reading and offers book suggestions according to reading age.

If you are unsure of your child’s reading age ask your child’s teacher!





**Congratulations to the children who received a celebration certificate.**

Young Explorers: Elsie for Creativity and Confidence and Elle for Determination

Oak Class: Abbie for Dedication, Harrison for Aspiration and Freya for Perseverance

Willow Class: Bella for Understanding and Arthur for Positivity

Rowan Class: Nathan for Enthusiasm, Roxy for Independence and Isis for Conscientiousness

Sycamore Class: Sarah for Aspiration and Ryan for Achievement

Mulberry Class: Florrie for Perseverance and Freya for Dedication

Chestnut Class: Dexter for Collaboration and Sam for Confidence

 **The winning house this week is:**

 **Brewhurst**



**General dates**

**Zoolab - 15th January, Infants only**

**Safeguarding Talk - 17th January 2.30pm (Prospective parent helpers)**

**Mini Medics Year 6 -12th February**

**Mini Medics Year 5 - 14th February**

**‘Friday’ Assembly - 14th February 2.45pm, Parents welcome**

**Bikeability - Week beginning 4th March -Year 6**

**Pancake Races - 5th March 2.30pm Parents welcome**

**Athlete Visit - 6th March – Juniors only**

**Parent Consultations - 12th March 3.30pm**

**Parent Consultations -13th March 5.00pm**

**Hampton Court Palace trip - 19th March – Years 5 & 6**

**Class Photos - 20th March**

**Come and See - 2nd April 3.30pm Parents welcome**

**End of Term Assembly - 5th April 2.30pm Parents welcome**

**INSET days for this Academic Year**

**Friday 15th February 2019**

**Monday 22nd July 2019**

**Tuesday 23rd July 2019**

**Half Term / End of Term Holidays 2018/19**

**Monday 18th February - Friday 22nd February 2019**

**Monday 8th April - Monday 22nd April 2019**

**Monday 27th May - Friday 31st May 2019**

**Last day of term - Friday 19th July 2019**



**Forest School Dates**

**On your child’s Forest School day they can come to school in their Forest School clothing for the whole day, please ensure they are wearing long sleeved tops and trousers – even if the weather is warmer. They will also need suitable footwear, e.g. wellies and a rain coat. If you are able to help on Forest School dates, please see the school office.**

**Wednesday 16th January Year 1**

**Wednesday 23rd January Year 2**

**Wednesday 30th January Year 3**

**Wednesday 6th February Year 5**

**Wednesday 13th February Year 6**

**Year 4 date to be confirmed**