

Lingfield Primary School

Newsletter

April 2016

Welcome Back

The new school term has started well. Pupils have returned to school keen and have settled in well.

School Funding

As has been mentioned in previous newsletters, as a school, Lingfield does not attract the same level of funding as other schools in the town. Our funding is determined by pupil numbers and various socio-economic factors. Without going into too much detail, this year, our funding has been cut by £41,000. This is due to the funding formula used for all schools in Middlesbrough. On top of funding received through the local authority, all schools receive a pupil premium grant for those children who qualify. To qualify for pupil premium a pupil has to meet one of the following criteria;

- be entitled to a free school meal or has been entitled in the last six years;
- be in or has been in local authority care;
- be the child of a member of the armed forces or is in receipt of a Ministry of Defence child pension.

Just to clarify, a few years ago the Government decided that all children in Key Stage 1 would receive a free school meal. This **does not mean** that these children automatically qualify for the pupil premium grant. The GOV.UK website explains that a child may be eligible for free school meals (FSM) if his/her parents are in receipt of any of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance (JSA)
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit, provided the parents are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190
- Working Tax Credit run-on, which is paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax credit
- Universal Credit

Last year we received £19,600 pupil premium grant. Just to put that into context, some schools in Middlesbrough are receiving well over £250,000 pupil premium on top of their actual school funding. Therefore, please can I make a plea. If you think that you may be able to access pupil premium funding for your child through any of the criteria above, please could you call into school. Any conversation would remain strictly confidential but could possibly result in school receiving an extra £1320 per year towards the education of your child. With Lingfield receiving minimal funding as it is, any extra we receive is very much appreciated. Again, can I stress, any conversations would remain strictly confidential but could benefit your child.

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P.D. Days

Monday 6th June will be a PD Day. That is the final one for this year.

Next year, the school term for children is due to begin on Friday 2nd September. Thursday 1st September is already allocated as P.D. by the council. I really do not see much point in the pupils returning to school on a Friday, therefore Friday 2nd September will be a P.D. Day also. For Lingfield pupils, the new school year will begin on Monday 5th September. That will leave three P.D. Days left for the school year. As soon as we have confirmed when they are, I will let you know.

Can I also take this opportunity to remind parents that we will be breaking up for the summer holidays on Wednesday 20th July.

School Website

We are changing the provider of our school website. Our new site will be live in the very near future. As part of this development we will be having our own Lingfield app which we will be able to use to send messages to you. I look forward to sharing more information about this with you shortly.

Lateness

I apologise if this sounds like a moan. In the spring term we noticed that more and more children were arriving after the school bell, in some instances, a good ten minutes after the children have gone in. This does actually cause a huge amount of disruption, not only for the child concerned but also for the rest of the class. We begin lessons immediately and late arrivals do miss out on important aspects of learning. Please can parents ensure that children arrive on time. Thank you for your anticipated support.

The Queen's Birthday

Next Thursday is the Queen's 90th birthday. By royal command we are having a non uniform, red white and blue day to mark the occasion.

Cake Sale

Next Friday the school council will be holding a cake sale at break time. All proceeds will be going towards our fundraising for school books. We would be very grateful for donations of cakes and biscuits on the day. If you are donating any home baking, please can we ask that the ingredients are written out to avoid any allergy issues. Thank you in advance.

Fundraising

So far through the fundraising activities we have been carrying out since September, we have raised a magnificent £4,105. This is through your very kind generosity. Every penny will go towards improving our reading book provision across school. I would just like to pass on a huge, huge, thank you!!

Have a good weekend,
Phil Thackstone