

Lingfield Primary School

Newsletter

September 2017

Welcome Back

On behalf of staff and Governors, I would like to welcome all of our families back to school. The new school year has got off to a really good start. Our Reception pupils are settling in well and the older pupils are adjusting to their new year groups. I would also like to warmly welcome Mr Carter and Miss Stone who have joined our teaching team and Mrs Lochrie who will be supporting in Early Years.

School Meals

Children in Reception, Y1 and Y2 are entitled to free school meals as per the Government scheme. For children in Year 3 to 6 School meals are £1.90 a day, £9.50 a week. School meals should be paid on a Monday for the coming week alternatively you can pay in advance monthly, half termly or termly. Meals can be paid online on the school gateway using a bank transfer, debit or credit card (details attached) or cash or cheque in a dinner envelope. All cheques need to be payable to Middlesbrough Council or MBC.

We have checked with all children this week to see if they are having a packed lunch or a school meal. If your child wishes to change their meal arrangements they can do so half termly. This allows the kitchen time to make changes to the amount of food they order. A change of meal form must be completed and handed into Mrs Reed or Mrs Laverick in the school office. **If your child is on school meals and changes to packed lunch and school is not informed you will still be responsible to pay for school meals until the time school is informed.**

Your child might be entitled to free school meals if you are in receipt of any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit

If you think you may be entitled to claim free school meals, please contact Mrs Reed or Mrs Laverick. Your enquiry will be treated with the strictest confidence. **As a school we receive extra funding for every pupil registered for free school meals.** This extra money is known as Pupil Premium funding. Lingfield does not receive much Pupil Premium funding compared to other schools, however, as they say at Tesco, every little helps.

Lingfield Primary School, Buxton Avenue, Marton, Middlesbrough, TS7 8LP

Tel: 01642 319918

www.lingfieldprimary.org.uk/

Start of Term

As we begin the new term, teachers will be sending out curriculum newsletters informing you of what areas will be taught this term and provide you with suggestions for ways in which you can support at home. Your support is always very much appreciated.

Can parents please make sure that each child has a coat with them every day. Yesterday we had a rain shower at lunchtime, we do try to keep children out as much as possible, even if it is drizzling. However, this causes a problem for those children without coats. Last year we were providing pupils with 'spare' coats from school unfortunately out of all the coats handed out, we have only had one returned. If you do have one of our spare coats at home, please can we ask that it is returned.

We have noticed that some pupils are starting to appear on the playground as early as 8:20am. This means they are waiting for a good half hour before school starts. Staff are not on duty at this time, they are getting organised for the day, preparing resources, having meetings and carrying out the duties they have when not directly teaching. From a safeguarding point of view, please can parents ensure that children do not start to arrive before 8:40am. If any parent needs to drop off their child earlier, we do have the before and after school club available. Thank you for your support in this matter.

It has been noticed that some parents are using the staff car park when dropping off and collecting children. I fully appreciate that parking around school is difficult, however, the staff car park must remain available for staff and official visitors to the school. We do have arrangements in place for certain families to use the disabled bays to help with access issues. The arrangement with the Southern Cross still stands where we can use their car park at the start and at the end of the school day if this helps.

Reading Books

Over the summer holidays Mrs Jones has been very busy reorganising our reading books for Year 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 pupils to make it easier for the children to take control of their choice of books. This should help to encourage their love of reading.

By colour banding our books we have been able to put a variety of different books into one level, providing children with greater choice of text and genre. As reading books from across several schemes have been placed together there will of course be some variation in style and challenge within the same band.

Your child will have been given a new reading book on a colour band based upon their assessment from the summer term. When they need to change their reading book they will then be allowed to choose another book themselves from the appropriate coloured band. This way they are given control of their own reading within a specific range. It is important to point out that it is not a race for pupils to work through the different bands. We want our pupils to develop a love for reading and to access reading material that is appropriate to their individual needs.

Once your child is assessed to be confident in this coloured band they will be moved onto the next colour.

We will be purchasing books in future from suppliers who use the above banding system. Book banding is a national approach to structuring reading material and is widely used in many schools across the country.

Your child reads at school on a regular basis. This might be individually, in a guided reading session within a group, as part of a lesson where they are reading off the white board or by one of our many reading volunteers.

Teachers will not be recording in the reading diary when they have listened to a child read. This is because they are already completing assessment notes which we use to track progress. The reading diary is a mechanism for parents to record at home when they have listened to their child read. Please be assured that a blank reading diary does not mean your child is not listened to at school, on the contrary, teachers are making notes to record where children are and to inform next steps.

Coloured Bands in order

Orange
Turquoise
Purple
Gold
White
Lime
Brown
Grey
Dark Blue
Dark Pink

We do value the role parents play in helping children to read. We would recommend spending 10 to 20 minutes reading everyday with your child and talking to them about what they have read. The talking around the book is just as important as reading the book. Please record every time you have read with your child in their reading record books.

If you would like any further advice or support with helping your child read at home, please do not hesitate to see your class teacher.

On Monday 18th September we will be holding our annual Phonics meeting for our Reception parents and any parents in Y1 and Y2 who may find this useful. More details about this meeting will be sent out next week.

PD Days

Monday 16th October is a PD Day, school will be closed. This is the last Monday before we break up for half term on Friday 20th October.

In the summer school is meant to break up on Monday 23rd July. We will be taking this day as a PD Day, meaning school will break up on Friday 20th July.

Also, just to confirm, school does break up for Christmas on Friday 22nd December. Yes, it is the first week back and I have mentioned Christmas already!

And finally, we very much value the partnership we have with our families in making sure our pupils succeed. If throughout the term or the school year you have any issues or concerns, please do not hesitate to speak to either the class teacher or myself. Just like you, we want the very best for the pupils of Lingfield.

Have a good weekend
Phil Thackstone
Head Teacher