

Lewknor C of E Primary School

Newsletter

Friday 21st July, 2017

FANTASTIC FoLS FUND 15 NEW LAPTOPS!

I want to thank from the bottom of my heart FoLS, who have funded 15 new laptops for school at a whopping cost of £6,500. This is an incredibly generous (and unexpected) donation.

We do have a good supply of laptops already but many are old and so, so slow.

The new laptops will ensure that more children in the class can take part in an ICT lesson at the same time (rather than teachers having to work with small groups) and that more content will be covered in each lesson.

I cannot tell you how much this means to our teachers (and children), who have been left frustrated in the past because computers were not working properly. The children will give a demonstration of the ICT work covered in class next term.

I have just heard that FoLS raised a total of £14,863.75 this year—that surely must be a record?

THANK YOU!



SUMMER PRODUCTION—LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD—AWOOOOOOOO!

The Key Stage 2 children gave a rousing performance of Roald Dahl's Little Red Riding Hood last week.

The acting was sensational and the singing was spectacular. Every single child performed with confidence and to the best of their ability.

I want to thank Miss Lawes, who worked so hard to put this amazing show together. Miss Lawes was supported by Mrs Wakefield, Mr Weston and Mrs Hemmings.

But it is the children themselves, who deserve the biggest plaudits for putting on such an entertaining show.

The summer production was once again held in the church. The Rev. Peter Waterson and his wife June were our special guests.

I hope you enjoy our photographs.

Right: Flynn as the baddie wolf
Below left: Annie as Little Red Riding Hood and Joe as her playful pooch
Below right: Katie as the rabbit with her finger painted as a carrot!



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Left:
More baddies —
children in Lower
Juniors show their
claws!

Below left:
Florence and Amelie

Below middle:
Elodie and Ceira

Below right:
Dom, whose make-
up was applied by
his talented sister



Right: beautiful Emily

Far right: Best friends
Callum, Asa, Lucan and
Ralph



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The Three Little Pigs and friends: Jess, Amelia, Louis, Marie and Rosie (right)



Above: Meet the gang! Key Stage 2 get ready to wow their audience



Outstanding Results

Lewknor Church of England Primary School is celebrating outstanding results this year.

100% of the children in the reception class achieved a 'good level of development'. This compares to 69% nationally (based on 2016 national figures).

100% of the children in the Year 1 class passed the phonics test compared with 81% nationally (based on 2016 figures).

92% of children in the Year 2 class (end of Key Stage 1) reached at least the expected standard in reading, writing and maths. This compares to 71% nationally (based on 2016 figures).

90% of children in Year 6 (end of Key Stage 2) reached at least the expected standard in reading, writing and maths. This compares with 54% nationally (based on 2016 figures). More than half the Year 6 class (54%) are working at greater depth in maths, while 39% were working at greater depth in reading and 31% are working at greater depth in writing.

Well done to all of the children (and staff), who worked so hard all year. You are all superstars!



Outstanding SIAMS

As already reported in a previous newsletter, Lewknor Church of England Primary School was awarded an 'outstanding' grade following an inspection in June by the Oxford Diocesan Board of Education.

Last week at an awards ceremony, the Rt Reverend Colin Fletcher, Bishop of Dorchester, presented teacher Kirsty Wakefield and headteacher Deborah Cole with an outstanding plaque (see left).

School Supports Christian Aid

Mavis Shortman, who works for Christian Aid, visited the Upper Juniors' class to talk to the children (see right) about some of the projects carried out by her charity. This was part of Years 5 and 6 RE topic: What is best for our world? Does religion help people decide?

In this unit the children have been considering what they would like to change about the world and how development charities strive to make living standards more equal for everyone around the world.

Christian Aid's current focus is on raising awareness about the plight of refugees.





New classroom fundraising drive to be launched in September

Lewknor Church of England Primary School will be launching a fundraising drive for a new classroom in September. The school has received planning permission to build at the back of the current school house. I want to explain to you why I think it is so important that we build this new classroom.

The school has four classes – reception, Infants, Lower Juniors and Upper Juniors – but only has three good size classrooms. Though there are only nine children in the current reception class, the children are being taught in two small rooms, which is far from ideal. The youngest children are supposed to be able to move around freely exploring different ‘stations’ within their classroom. This allows them to develop their independence, make choices and initiate play. Due to the cramped conditions in which the children currently work and learn, this aspect of the curriculum has serious limitations. However, we are still able to achieve excellent results because we offer high quality teaching (our staff are outstanding) and we make use of our outside space as well as the church. Our children are happy and enjoy learning. Our most recent pupil questionnaire shows that 96% of all children at Lewknor Primary say they enjoy school and have lots of fun while they are here.

Oxfordshire County Council says Lewknor Primary has a capacity to take at least 15 children in the reception class. The council says school has the capacity for 90 children. Currently, we have 80 children at school but from September we will only have 76 as we are losing some children to the private sector and some families are relocating.

The catchment area for our school is very small and so we rely heavily on children from out-of-catchment to keep our numbers up (and our budget healthy!). Currently only 30 children (38%) live in our catchment, which consists of Lewknor village, Postcombe, Adwell and South Weston. The remaining 50 children come from out of catchment – Watlington, Chinnor, Kingston Blount, Sydenham, Tetsworth, Stokenchurch, Speen and Nettlebed. Our school would not be able to continue without these children.

The future is uncertain for small, village schools. All schools are facing pressure on budgets and this is why it is so important that our numbers on roll at Lewknor Primary should be as close to 90 as possible.

Lewknor Primary is an outstanding school. Our results in the past three years put us at the top of county and national league tables. It is essential that our small school remains in a strong position and a new classroom will improve our school environment greatly. It will make us more appealing to prospective parents, who want to find the very best school for their child or children. We know Lewknor Primary is a wonderful school, and it will be even better with a new classroom, but we need to get that message across to more people so that our school will continue long into the future.

Lewknor Primary Musicians Perform

Rosie, Harry and Meira recently performed at the Thame Music Centre Summer Concert. They played a number of pieces including Latin Riff, Rock Riff, Funk Riff, Achy Breaky Leg, Goldfish, Yummy Scrummy and Country Boy, and Rosie also played Pirates of the Caribbean and Low Rider. The children are pictured right with music teacher Mike Edwards, who visits school every week.

Rosie plays trombone while Harry and Meira play the cornet. All children at Lewknor Primary have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument in Years 3 and 4 and for the past two years the pupils have learned the cornet (Harry has continued playing in Year 5). Children at school are also invited to attend TMC on a Saturday morning. TMC hold a concert at the end of each term which friends and family are invited to attend.



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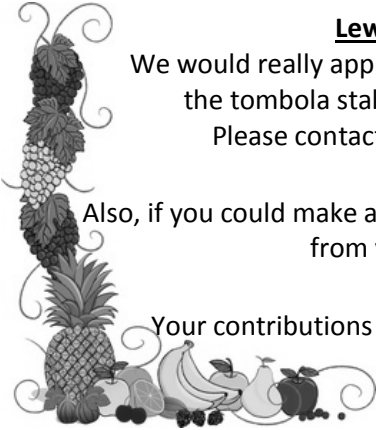


Lewknor Fete & Horticultural Show – 10th September 2017

We would really appreciate your donations of bottles of wine or spirits and unwanted gifts for the tombola stall, plants or cuttings, second-hand books, bric-a-brac and toys to sell. Please contact Caroline (352720) or Christine (353283) for collection or delivery.

Also, if you could make a cake or cakes for the tea stall, Rosemary would be delighted to hear from you (351470) or just bring them along on the day.

Your contributions really do help to make the day successful, so THANK YOU!



Junior Stars Make the Grade!

Some of our youngest judo stars were very proud to be presented with a new judo belt and certificate last week. The children were all successful after working very hard towards their grading and have now gone up a level. Well done to: Freddie, Callum, Kieran, Jess, James, Charlie and Saffy. Below are some pictures of the children in action.





Summer Fun—Water Fight!

Miss Lawes, very generously, allowed the children in the Upper Juniors to cool down this week by having a water fight! There were squeals of delight when the children turned on the hoses or poured jugs of water over each other.

Miss Lawes, who was also soaked at the end of the playtime, also provided snacks for the children including grapes, melon and sausage rolls. Lucky children!

THANK YOU

I would like to thank those parents who have come into school this year to help out in a variety of ways.

Sestons – Pauline and Dawn

Cecile Bolton – French lessons and reading

Catherine Gallacher – thank you for our new vegetable garden

Luarena – RE in Early Years and reading

Lynne Power – reading

Sarah Mitchell-Smith – for her work with the Year 5 and 6 children on emotional well-being

Claire Nicholson

Heather Weston

Fiona Kendall – the community concert

The Savilles for always volunteering at school events

Emma and Jim Hunt

I would also like to thank all those parents who assisted on school trips and swimming.

Mrs D Cole

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OTHER NEWS & EVENTS

Diary Dates

A list of diary dates for this academic year can also be found on the calendar when logging onto the Lewknor Primary School eSchools platform. **New diary dates** are shown below in green:-

6th September: Return to school!



Assemblies are held every Friday at 9.10am. Parents and members of the community are welcome to attend.




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PIANO LESSONS

Michael Davies works in many Oxfordshire schools and has worked at Lewknor for several years. Michael offers piano lessons and if your child is interested in learning to play, please contact him as follows:

07857 896600

MJmusicsservices@aol.com





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OTHER NEWS & EVENTS

FREE SCHOOL MEAL ENTITLEMENT

From April 2015, the threshold figure which forms part of the tax credit free school meal eligibility category is £16,190.

Pupils whose parents/carers receive the following support payments are entitled to free school meals (assuming the parent does not receive Working Tax Credit).

Under the current criteria, children who receive, or whose parents receive one or more of the following support payments are entitled to receive free school meals and eligible for two-year-old funding:-

- Income-based and contribution-based Jobseekers Allowance or ESA on an equal basis
- Income Support
- Income Based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related employment and support allowance
- Child Tax Credit, provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income, as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, that does not exceed £16,190
- Guaranteed Element of State Pension Credit
- Where a parent is entitled to Working Tax Credit run-on (the payment someone receives for a further four weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit).
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.
- Working Tax Credit, provided they have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190 per year (eligible for two Year Old Funding only)
- Universal Credit

If you believe your child may be eligible to receive free school meals, please complete an application form and return it to the school office as soon as possible. Application forms can be downloaded from the school website or found in paper form in the letter rack at school. There is a very simple, confidential, process we can run through Oxfordshire County Council to check eligibility.

GRAPEVINE MAGAZINE

The most recent publication of The Grapevine (Parish magazine for Lewknor) can be found by clicking on the link below:-

www.issue.com/grapevinezine/docs



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Friends of Lewknor School

Registered Charity No: 1045910

FoLS Diary Dates

Watch this space for future diary dates!



The 100 Club is an easy way for you to support the school (tickets are £1 each per month - so £12 for the year). We still have some numbers left so if you haven't already bought your tickets then there is still time! The more numbers you have, the more chances of winning. If you would like to buy more numbers or you have yet to buy some, please download a form from the school website.

easyfundraising
.org.uk

Don't forget that FOLS is registered with Easyfundraising. For more information, please click on this link:-

www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/friendsoflewnorschoolfols

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