



# Lewknor C of E Primary School Newsletter



Monday 8th November, 2021

## WANTED - PARENT GOVERNOR



Our wonderful parent governor Dawn Seston, pictured above with son Elliot, is stepping down next month now that Elliot has moved on to secondary school.

Dawn has been a parent governor for 8 years and was the governor responsible for child protection and safeguarding. She was also a member of the teaching and learning committee.

Apart from being an active governor, Dawn supported the school in many different ways. Every year she would help the children make the bouquets for our Mother's Day assembly and she organised the floral arrangements for May Day—for the Maypole and the May King and Queen chairs, as well as garlands for the girls' hair.

The staff at Lewknor will miss Dawn hugely and her cheery laugh and smile.

Now that Dawn will be moving on, we have a vacancy for a new parent governor. See page 6 of this newsletter for more information.

## Headteacher's Welcome

### AUTUMN LEAVES FUN AT AFTER-SCHOOL CLUB



Welcome back to the second half of the autumn term.

The playground resurfacing was completed over the half-term holidays and we have noticed that there is not so much slipping and sliding now, which is a good thing!

I love these photographs though of the children playing in the autumn leaves. Charlie, Cally, Amelie, Sonny and Freddie were having a whale of a time at the after-school club.

It's good to see the children having fun in the outdoors. They do not seem to feel the cold like I do!



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## SPOOKTACULAR SPIDER HALLOWEEN TREATS



And here are more examples of after-school club fun. Basia organised a baking day just before half-term so that the children could make these Halloween cupcakes and then decorate them with spooky spiders.

Pictured here are: Stanley, Florence, Amy, Raffi and Cally.

What a terrific treat!







# Lewknor C of E Primary School



## DIWALI DELIGHTS



Here are the children in Lower Juniors hard at work in an RE/art lesson.

The children have been studying Diwali, the Festival of Lights, which is celebrated by Hindus and Sikhs all over the world.

As part of the five-day celebrations, people decorate their houses with oil lamps and create colourful art patterns from a variety of materials.

These children in Years 3 and 4 made candle holders and a handprint out of clay. They then decorated their artwork with mehndi (henna) patterns.

They also used a coloured ink and salt mixture to paint mehndi designs on paper.

***Pictured left are: Patience, Emrys, Elexia-Rose and Jake***



***Above: Lexi (left) and Jack work on their clay handprints.***



***Left: Rubie, Lilly, Matilda, Ollie and Devon create coloured mehndi designs on paper.***





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*Left: Georgie, Jack, Tilly and Archie (Devon and Ollie are in the foreground)*

*Below left: Stanley with his handprint*

*Below: Izzy with her clay handprint and candle holder.*



## CHINNOR WAR HORSE TROTS BACK TO LEWKNOR FOR REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

Blye, the 16-year-old Chinnor War Horse, is due to return to Lewknor Primary for our Remembrance Service on Thursday (11th November). Husband and wife team Maurice and Lucinda Britnell, who own Blye, will come dressed as World War One cavalry soldiers to talk to the children about the harsh conditions soldiers and horses faced during the war.

One of Mr Britnell's ancestors, Albert Britnell who died in the First World War, came from the Lewknor area. Albert served with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Berkshire. He died on the first day of the Battle of Loos on the Western Front on 25<sup>th</sup> September 1915. He was only 24 years old.



*War horse Blye with owners Maurice and Lucinda Britnell*

# Lewknor C of E Primary School

## BE THE CHANGE



Pictured left is Lily making a donation to a food bank at her local supermarket. I want to thank all the children who have gone to the trouble of making such donations recently — you will all be getting headteacher awards for your thoughtfulness and kindness.

The children have been learning about the vulnerable in the wider world and how important it is to support such people.

It's all part of our school's Be The Change campaign. We are teaching the children that small acts can make a big difference and help make the world a better place.

Last month the children learned how to tackle racism during lessons to celebrate Black History Month. And, of course, the Upper Juniors are well on the way to raising the funds they need to enable them to adopt a panda organised through the World Wide Fund For Nature (WWF).

We will be featuring more news stories about our children being 'agents of change' throughout the year in our newsletter.

In the meantime keep sending in your photos of your food bank donations.

Thank you.

## HOT DINNERS ARE BACK ON THE MENU

There has been a good take-up on hot dinners at school. We are now offering the children pasta bake and jacket potatoes, with cheese, tuna or beans filling.

If you would like your child to have hot dinners at school rather than the packed lunch option, contact Gemma via email at the school office.





# Lewknor C of E Primary School

## WANTED...NEW PARENT GOVERNOR!



We currently have a vacancy for a parent governor on the Governing Body, which is open to all parents of children at Lewknor Church of England Primary School. Being a governor will afford you the opportunity to help shape and guide the ethos and development of Lewknor Primary.

For the last seven years, Oxfordshire County Council has said we are an outstanding school. The Oxford Diocesan Board for Education also agreed that we are an outstanding school following an inspection in June 2017. This could not be achieved without the on-going active engagement of parents and governors.

Below you will find some useful information about being a governor. We are especially looking for people with any of the following skills: financial, analytical and or strategic, as well as an interest in special educational needs.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact us via the school email. Mrs Seston will be stepping down as a governor in November – her son has now moved on to secondary school. Mr Hall and Mrs Reid, our current parent governors, would be more than happy to talk to you about the role of parent governor.

If you would like to stand as a candidate, please complete and return the nomination form in a sealed envelope to the school office (marked Parent Governor Nomination Form) to arrive no later than 3.15pm on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November. The nomination form is available on our school website under the vacancies tab and with this newsletter. Please also include a short statement about yourself including reasons why you wish to become a school governor and how you can contribute to the work of the governing body.

If more than one parent applies then we would hold an election and all parents would be invited to vote for a candidate.

All new governors are required by law to undergo a check on their suitability to serve. This will be a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check.

### **Eligibility to stand**

All parents at the school are eligible to stand as candidates except:

If s/he is an elected member of the local education authority (county councillor);

If s/he is paid to work at the school for more than 500 hours in any 12-month period beginning on 1<sup>st</sup> August and finishing on 31<sup>st</sup> July (during one academic year);

### **What is the composition of the Governing Body?**

The governing body consists of parent governors, staff governor, the head teacher, foundation governors, co-opted governors, a local authority governor and an associate governor. Our school currently has three parent governors (one vacancy). Parent governors have all the same powers and duties as other governors. Governor information, which includes a list of governors and their roles, is available on our school website. The Clerk to the Governors is Emma Palmer.



## **How much time will it take up?**

The full governing body meets five times a year. Most meetings run from 7pm to 9pm except for the July meeting, which is held straight after school. If possible, every governor joins at least one of our committees, for example, resources or teaching and learning. The resources committee meets five times a year, while the teaching and learning committee meets three times a year. We also invite governors to come into school occasionally during the school day so they can see how the school operates. Governors also help out at school events such as parent evenings.

## **What do governors actually do?**

Governors are responsible for the strategic direction of the school: they make long-term decisions about the progress and the development of the school. Governors may help to appoint senior staff, they make decisions about the school's budget, they decide on policies for every aspect of the school, and they set targets for pupil attainment, progress and attendance. Governors ensure that the school provides the highest standard of education for every child.

## **Can I get help to understand what happens at meetings?**

Yes. The Chair will meet new governors before their first meeting to talk through the agenda. New governors would be expected to attend the induction course provided by Oxfordshire's Governor Services so that you are fully aware of your role.

## **Can I talk to parents or other people about what goes on in meetings?**

You can talk about matters in a very general way, but you must not identify any individual member of staff or any child. As the governing body acts as a 'corporate body' you cannot talk about any differences of opinion during the meeting, you can only report the final decision of the governing body. Part of the agenda is strictly confidential (it might cover special educational needs or exclusions) and you must not talk about anything discussed during these sessions. Governors are asked to agree to a Code of Conduct that will be explained at your first meeting.

## **What are the benefits of becoming a governor?**

You will learn how the school manages its budget, personnel and buildings, and how school policies are developed.

## **What are the restrictions on becoming a governor?**

Governors must be over 18 years of age; not be bankrupt, nor have served a long prison sentence, nor have been disqualified from working with children.





# Lewknor C of E Primary School



## **NOMINATION FORM FOR PARENT GOVERNOR**

**Name:**

**Address:**

**Children in Year(s)**

**I am willing and eligible to stand for election as a parent governor at Lewknor Church of England Primary School. I confirm that I am able to fulfil the role including attending meetings as required, and by contributing to governance work outside formal meetings.**

**Signed:**

**Date:**

***Nomination forms are available on our school website under the vacancies tab.***

**Mrs Cole**





Every week in our school newsletter, we will include a prayer and a Bible reading. These are taken from our new Jigsaw scheme of work for PSHE (Personal, Social, Health Education) and RE (Religious Education) and are shared with the children in class and at whole school assemblies.

## PRAYER OF THE WEEK

### Celebrating Difference

Dear Lord

Thank you that we are all equal in your eyes and that you love us all. Please help us remember this example if we are tempted to exclude others. Give us the words to encourage each other to be the best community we can be.

Amen



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## WORD OF THE WEEK

**Eager**

**Adjective**

If you are eager, you very much want to do or have something.

## THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

James 2: 1-4 and 8

Believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favouritism. Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in filthy old clothes also comes in. If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, 'Here's a good seat for you,' but say to the poor man, 'You stand there' or 'Sit on the floor by my feet,' have you not discriminated among yourselves?

Love your neighbour as yourself.

**Mrs Cole**