



Lewknor C of E Primary School

Newsletter



Monday 24th September, 2018

PLAYGROUND REPAIRS

I have some good news to report about the children's climbing frames.

We have now gone with a different playground supplier after the company we had been working with made mistakes in two of their deliveries. Basically they delivered the wrong parts, eg, poles that were not the correct length / width.

We have now contacted a new supplier and the parts have been ordered.

Hopefully, the children will be able to enjoy playing on the climbing frames very soon.



Headteacher's Welcome

A WARM WELCOME TO ALL OUR NEW CHILDREN



A big welcome to all our new reception children and their families. The children have settled in very well and are getting used to all the routines of 'big school'. I spent a morning this week observing them in class and I was very impressed with their behaviour. They are also all very keen to learn and they work extremely well together as a group, showing kindness and consideration to each other.

A welcome also to all the new children who have joined us in other year groups. They too have settled really quickly and I am seeing lots of smiles in class.

If you have any worries, concerns or if you just forget to mention something when you drop off your child, then please do speak to the staff or phone or email the school office. However, teachers do need to be in the classroom to take the register in the morning so it is always better to catch them at the end of the school day.

Thank you.

Top: Our very happy reception class

LEWKNOR C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL HIGH STREET LEWKNOR OXFORDSHIRE OX49 5TH

Head Teacher: Mrs D Cole

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LUNCH TIME AT LEWKNOR



I thought parents would enjoy seeing these photos of the children eating lunch in the church. The new arrangements are working out nicely and we have discovered that the children are not taking so long to eat their lunch, which means they have more time to play in the playground.

The children also have more room to spread out and sit with their friends. It used to be quite cramped in the classroom.

I have been in contact with Peter, our vicar, and Jean Senior, who looks after the church, about installing tables (that can be folded away) and benches (that can be stacked), and we hope to order those soon. School furniture is extremely expensive and I want to thank those parents who have very kindly offered to make a donation to the costs of the new tables and benches. While the children are perfectly happy and the church pews, floors and tables are kept spotlessly clean (they are cleaned before and after every meal), I think most of us would prefer the children to be sitting at a table to eat their lunch.

Most of you will already know about the plans to re-order the church with underfloor heating, a small kitchen area and staging. We, as a school, support Peter's vision, which will help secure the future of this wonderful Grade 1 listed church.



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PARENT QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

Thank you to all who took the time to complete the parent questionnaire last term. We asked you to rate us by ticking boxes headed: strongly agree, agree, disagree and strongly disagree. There were 31 questions in all which covered the school's ethos and attitudes, our communications with parents, school leadership, school provision and Lewknor Primary in the Community. There was also a section entitled 'About Your Child'.

Of the 31 questions, 100% of parents answered 'strongly agree' or 'agree' to 25 of our questions, which was a fantastic result and shows us you are very happy with our school. Only one parent 'disagreed' on the six other questions some of which included, 'I am happy with the overall communications from school to home', and 'I am happy with the condition of the school's buildings / grounds'. However, overall we are delighted with the response. We really do take all your comments on board and we do change things when you come up with really good ideas .



Parents' comments on what we could improve

- **School lunches are a concern. When my daughter had them, the quality and rotation was not great. I suspect it is still the same and at great cost to the school budget.**
As you now know we have changed our school lunch provider and the children are now served healthy packed lunches. The children can choose from six sandwich fillings each day (I don't know many schools that can offer smoked salmon and cheese!). The lunches also come with fruit and salad, cheese or yoghurt. There is a sweet treat on Friday. We also now offer the lunch service to children in Key Stage 2.
- **I would like to see fewer emails from the school.**
- **Can be hard for parents to integrate if they join the school after EYFS.**
- **A welcome from parents for new parents. Perhaps a class rep. or coffee morning?**
This year we decided to hold two separate welcoming sessions at the start of the new year - one for parents of children in KS2 and one for parents of children in the Reception class and Infants class. I hope all the parents, who were able to come along, found the meetings informative and friendly. We are also holding our Macmillan coffee morning in Mrs Wakefield's class after the Harvest Festival on Friday 28th September. Everyone is welcome to come along to the service and coffee morning. Don't forget to check the diary dates at the back of the newsletter for other functions throughout the year. Also, Friends of Lewknor School (FoLS) would love to hear from any new parents. They are a friendly bunch, who do much to support the school. If you would like to make contact, then give Vicky in the office a call.
- **I don't think the children generally enjoy cornet lessons. Perhaps they could try something different.**
We always ask the children every year if they would like to continue playing the cornet and so far that is the instrument they choose. It is wonderful to hear their enthusiastic playing (and singing) every Tuesday afternoon.
- **Investment in the older buildings (new windows etc).**
School has a five-year development plan, which includes proposals to repair and improve the school premises. We are so fortunate to have two caretakers, Nikki Hemmings and Paul Weston, on site.

Parents' comments on what we do well at Lewknor Primary

- **Sport is much improved this year.**
- **Keep on running. It helps mental attitude and ability, plus it gets those who prefer the TV to sport out and about and getting healthy. Healthy body, healthy mind.**
- **Every child gets a chance to shine.**
- **Staff are good at praising progress and effort in all areas.**
- **I think the school reacts well to comments from such questionnaires, for example, the quality of homework is far better following changes implemented as a result of last year's survey.**
- **Sports Day was much more fun than in previous years.**
- **School trips – all great successes**
- **After school club has been fantastic.**



Parents' comments continued....

- I love that the parents can join in events, eg, Transformation Evening and Sports Day was brilliant.
- I am very grateful for all the help and support school has given my child this year. I can see how his confidence has grown massively.
- The children as a whole are so polite and welcoming.
- Staff treat the children as individuals and meet their individual needs.
- There is a nurturing environment where children are happy and learn well enabling them to achieve their best, whilst instilling empathy and good manners.
- Communication.
- Good prior notice of events – it's extremely helpful to have diary dates so far in advance to plan the year ahead.
- We love the weekly newsletters with the photographs of our children.
- Wrap around care has improved significantly with breakfast and after school care club.
- Parental involvement – the school encourages parents to get involved in school life (reading, assemblies, trips etc).
- We are pleased to see that the school meal provision is changing, which we feel is a huge improvement.
- Cornet lessons continue to be fantastic and a wonderful opportunity.
- Open door policy – it's comforting to know that if we ever have concerns we can speak to a member of staff quickly to sort out issues and settle any concerns we have.
- We are happy that concerns and issues are always dealt with promptly.
- Singing at Lewknor is brilliant. The Festival of Voices concert is a wonderful experience for the children participating and is much enjoyed by families in the audience.
- We have been a part of Lewknor for nine years and will be sad to move on. Both our children have thrived at this school and have moved on to secondary with higher than average SATs scores. Their educational foundation is strong and has set them for life. Thank you!

STAFF MEET PARENTS AT THE START OF THE NEW YEAR

Parents were invited to a 'start of the new school year' meeting with the Key Stage 2 teachers (Mrs Wakefield and Miss Lawes) and a separate meeting with the EYFS teacher (Miss Harjette) and Key Stage 1 teacher (Mrs Lomas).

The teachers talked about various expectations such as when homework is handed out and when it should be handed back in, how often children should read each week and the importance of learning the weekly spellings.

Mrs Harjette explained all about the home reading and book schemes, word passports and wow cards, while Mrs Lomas talked about the reward scheme she has in place for those children who read regularly at home. Mrs Lomas also pointed out that it is all right for children to read the same book more than once because the National Curriculum states that children should "re-read books to build up their fluency and confidence in word reading."

Parents also had the opportunity to ask questions and I hope they found the meetings interesting and informative. Miss Harjette is planning to hold a Stay and Learn session for parents to talk about the Early Years curriculum in more depth. We will let you know the date shortly.



Top: Miss Harjette talks to parents and children about the Early Years class

100 CLUB WINNERS

The winners for August are:

First: Elizabeth & Richard Jackson—£25

Second: Michelle Carpenter-Hanson—£15

Third: Vicky Ashby—£10

The winners for September are:

First: Michelle Carpenter-Hanson—£25

Second: Vicky Ashby—£15

Third: Soren Hjort—£10



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Diary Dates

Diary dates for this academic year can also be found on the Lewknor Primary School website.

2018-2019

TBC Sept/Oct	Phonics workshop for reception class parents
TBC Sept/October	Cycling Proficiency training and test for Year 5
25th September	LJ swimming lesson
27th September	LJ trip to Hill End
28th September	Harvest Festival Assembly
28th September	Macmillan coffee morning
3rd October	UJ class trip to Hampton Court Palace
2nd October	LJ swimming lesson
9th October	LJ swimming lesson
12th October	Individual and sibling school photographs
14th October	Young Puzzlers (Children's Church) 10am at St Margaret's Church, Lewknor
16th October	LJ swimming lesson
19th October	Big Me Day
19th October	Break up for half-term at 3.15pm
29th October	Return to school
31st October	UJ trip to Rutherford Appleton Laboratory
2nd November	School Open Day
2nd November	Flu vaccinations (Reception and years 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5)
8th November	Transformation Evening
9th November	Remembrance Day Assembly at 11.00am
11th November	Young Puzzlers (Children's Church) 10am at St Margaret's Church, Lewknor
13th November	Bag2School collection
14th November	Parent evening (3.30-4.30pm)
15th November	Parent evening (5.00-7.00pm)
16th November	Children in Need
29th November	Visiting Pantomime
30th November	Christingle service
30th November	Year 5 visit to ICC
TBC December	Science Club Assembly
7th December	Choir to visit Chiltern Grange
9th December	Young Puzzlers (Children's Church) 10am at St Margaret's Church, Lewknor
14th December	FoLS whole school Christmas lunch
14th December	FoLS Christmas disco



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



Lewknor C of E Primary School



Diary Dates

2018-2019 continued...



14th December	Choir to visit Hempton Field
19th December	Nativity dress rehearsal at 1.30pm (reception and infant classes)
20th December	Nativity at 6.00pm (reception and infant classes)
21st December	Non-uniform day in aid of FoLS (£1 donation per child)
21st December	End of term - school finishes at 1.30pm
TBC January	Whole school trip to the Primary Schools Concert at the Sheldonian Theatre
7th January	Return to school
5th February	Travelling Book Fayre (one week)
13th January	Young Puzzlers (Children's Church) 10am at St Margaret's Church, Lewknor
18th January	NCMP weights and measures (reception and year 6)
7th February	FoLS Community Concert fundraiser, St Margaret's Church at 6.30pm
10th February	Young Puzzlers (Children's Church) 10am at St Margaret's Church, Lewknor
15th February	Break up for half-term at 3.15pm
25th February	Return to school
TBC March	Year 6 Junior Citizens trip
5th March	School vision tests (Reception)
10th March	Young Puzzlers (Children's Church) 10am at St Margaret's Church, Lewknor
28th March	Mother's Day posy making (changed from previous newsletter)
TBC March	Year 6 induction evening at ICC
29th March	Mother's Day assembly (changed from previous newsletter)
18th March	Sport Relief Week
20th March	Parent evening (3.30-5.00pm)
21st March	Parent evening (5.00-7.00pm)
29th March	Choir to visit Chiltern Grange
TBC March/April	Cycling Proficiency training and test for Year 5
4th April	Choir visit to Hempton Court
5th April	Non-uniform day in aid of FoLS (£1 donation per child)
5th April	Easter egg hunt
5th April	End of term - school finishes at 1.30pm
14th April	Young Puzzlers (Children's Church) 10am at St Margaret's Church, Lewknor
23rd April	Return to school
26th April	School open day
29th April	Bag2School Collection
29th April	Croft Farm meeting for UJ class parents (3.30-4.00pm)
TBC April	LJ swimming lessons (weekly on a Tuesday)
1st May	May Day celebrations at 1.30pm
1st - 24th May	End of KS1 (Year 2) SATS
13th - 17th May	End of KS2 (Year 6) SATS week

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Lewknor C of E Primary School



Diary Dates

2018-2019 continued...

12th May	Young Puzzlers (Children's Church) 10am at St Margaret's Church, Lewknor
24th May	Break up for half term—school finishes at 1.30pm
TBC June	Year 6 trip to IMPS
TBC June	Puberty talks for years 5 and 6
1st June	Sydenham Fayre
3rd June	Return to school
3rd-7th June	UJ residential trip to Croft Farm
7th June	Class and whole school photographs
9th June	Young Puzzlers (Children's Church) 10am at St Margaret's Church, Lewknor
10th-14th June	Year 1 national phonics screening
12th June	ICC buddying session for Year 6 children moving up to ICC
14th June	Father's Day assembly
19th June	ICC budding session for Year 6 children moving up to ICC
22nd June	FoLS Fun Day
24th June	New reception children induction (9.30am-midday) and parent briefing (9.30-10.30am)
24th June	Practice Sports day
26th June	ICC buddying session for Year 6 children moving up to ICC
26th June	Year 6 outing (details TBC in due course)
28th June	Sports Day
TBC July	IMPS fundraiser run by Year 6 children
1st July	New reception children induction (9.15am-11.45am)
3rd, 4th & 5th July	Transition days for Year 6 moving up to ICC
5th July	New reception children taster day including lunch (8.50-1.15pm)
5th July	Whole school moving up day
10th July	Dress rehearsal for KS2 production (1.30pm)
11th July	KS2 production in the church (6.00pm)
12th July	Reserve sports day
14th July	Young Puzzlers (Children's Church) 10am at St Margaret's Church, Lewknor
19th July	Non-uniform day in aid of FoLS (£1 donation per child)
19th July	Year 6 leavers' assembly
19th July	End of term and school year—school finishes at 1.30pm



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



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.

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The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, Amazon will donate 0.5% of the net purchase price (excluding VAT, returns and shipping fees) from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to a charity of your choice.

If you would like help raise additional funds for our school via AmazonSmile, please visit <https://smile.amazon.co.uk> and search for Lewknor School Educational Fund. Thank you!

Lewknor C of E Primary School

SCHOOL INFORMATION

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



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Have Fun
learn to
& Drum

If you would like to sign your child up for drum lessons with Terry Lucas at Lewknor School,



LEWKNOR C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL HIGH STREET LEWKNOR OXFORDSHIRE OX49 5TH

Head Teacher: Mrs D Cole

Telephone: 01844 351542 E-mail: office.3184@lewknor.oxon.sch.uk Website: www.lewknor.eschools.co.uk



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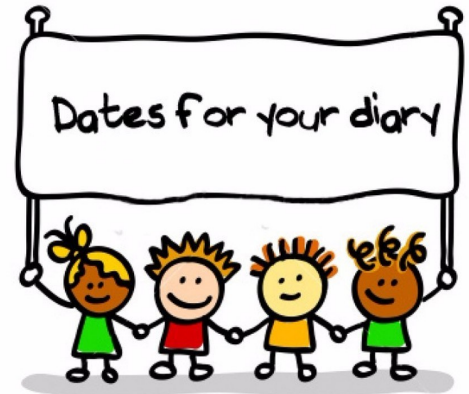
Friends of Lewknor School

Registered Charity No: 1045910



DIARY DATES

27th September 2018	FoLS committee meeting (8pm)
TBC October 2018	FoLS AGM
13th November 2018	Bag2School collection
14th December 2018	Whole school Christmas lunch provided by FoLS
14th December 2018	FoLS Christmas disco
21st December 2018	Non-uniform day in aid of FoLS (£1 voluntary donation per child)
7th February 2019	FoLS community concert (6.30pm)
5th April 2019	Non-uniform day in aid of FoLS (£1 voluntary donation per child)
29th April 2019	Bag2School collection
1st June 2019	Sydenham Fayre (FoLS run a stall)
22nd June 2019	FoLS fun day (12-4pm)
28th June 2019	Sports day supported by FoLS who provide refreshments
19th July 2019	Non-uniform day in aid of FoLS (£1 voluntary donation per child)



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



Lewknor C of E Primary School



COMMUNITY INFORMATION

GRAPEVINE MAGAZINE

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

www.issuu.com/grapevinezine/docs



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