



NEWSLETTER

Summer Half Term 1

OUR SCHOOL VISION

Just as God has created every individual with unique talents and skills, our school community provides a nurturing and inclusive environment, where everyone is encouraged to explore their individual creativity and to confidently use their talents in order to achieve their God given potential and to make the world a better place.



HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

We are approaching the final half term of the year and it is amazing how quickly the year is going. The summer term is always a busy one, with end of year shows, Sports Day and all of the transfer arrangements for the new classes. The weather is suddenly beautiful and before we know it, the summer holidays will be upon us.

The photos on this newsletter show how much we have done this half-term. There are pictures of the PGL residential trip, the Sealife Centre trip and the recent library opening, as well as many others.

I hope that you all have a wonderful half-term holiday and come back feeling rested.

PEDESTRIAN TRAINING

All of the children took part in Pedestrian Training this half term. They learnt how to cross the road safely. The older children completed an assessed walk in which they had to go for a walk around the village, showing that they could cross the roads safely in various places. This is a key life skill, particularly as some of our pupils may be walking to middle school in September.

OUR SCHOOL VALUES

Our school values are:

Caring

Honesty

Perseverance

Respect

Responsibility



NEWS



PGL TRIP

The Year 5 children went on a three-day residential trip at the PGL centre near Swindon. While they were there, they went on a zip-wire, tried fencing, rock-climbed, abseiled and canoed (amongst other things). Even the wet weather could not dampen their fun. It was an excellent trip which allowed the children to develop their independence. The children tried all of the activities with great enthusiasm and bravery.

SEALIFE CENTRE

The Giraffes and Kangaroos classes went on a trip to the Sealife Centre in Birmingham. This was part of their learning on 'under the sea'. They saw many exciting creatures, including sharks, jellyfish and Penguins.

POETRY RECITAL

Each of the classes learnt a poem by heart and performed it to the rest of the school. The event was fantastic. We were blown away with how well the children performed their poems, showing great confidence and enthusiasm.

ATTENDANCE AWARD

It is great to see that most classes have improved their attendance compared to last half term. Well done to all of you! A special mention to Kangaroos, who nearly hit 98%. There have been so much illness around all year, but hopefully that is changing now that the weather is improving. Our half-termly attendance award winners are:

Kangaroos with 97.8%

Caterpillars	94.5%
Giraffes	96.3%
Kangaroos	97.8%
Jellyfish	96.3%
Koalas	95.8%

LIBRARY OPENING

On Monday, we had the grand opening of the library. This was the culmination of many months of work, involving the whole school community. It has made me feel very proud to be part of The Littletons, with the generosity and kindness that people have shown. On the day, the children worked with Petr Horacek, an author and artist, to create a beautiful mural, which will go onto the library wall. The library was officially opened by Spencer Morris, the Deputy Director of Education for the Diocese of Worcester.

An enormous thank you to everyone who contributed to the library in any way. It is a wonderful space for the children, and they have been incredibly excited to start using it. The library has been a great example of our school vision, with so many people using their skills and talents to make our school a better place.



NEWS

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 5th June Staff Training Day (No children in school)

Friday 9th June Music Festival
Caterpillars

Thursday 15th June Sports Day All children

Tuesday 20th June Leavers Photographs Year 5

Wednesday 21st June The Big Sing
Jellyfish

Wednesday 28th June Transfer Day All children

Thursday 29th June New Parents'

Monday 3rd July Come Dine With Me

Tuesday 4th July Wimbledon Trip

Monday 10th July and Wednesday 12th July KS2 Performances to Parents Key Stage 2

Wednesday 19th July Leavers' Service

Thursday 20th July Eye Tests
Caterpillars

Tuesday 22nd July Last day of term—summer holidays begin tomorrow!

TEACHER APPOINTMENT

We are very pleased to announce that we have appointed a new teacher, Mr Jay Jennings, to our staff for next year. This is a new position because Mrs Guyatt and Mrs Dale will work together to job-share one of classes next year. We look forward to welcoming Mr Jennings to our teaching team. He will be in school towards the end of the year to meet the children and parents.

30-HOUR FUNDING

From September 2023, we will be trialling 30-hour funding in our Nursery class. This is something that a number of parents have requested and we feel will benefit the children, as many will be able to attend our setting more regularly.

30-hour funding is a government scheme that is available to families who meet certain criteria. 15-hour funding for all will remain unaffected.

We will send out a separate letter soon to explain how the 30-hour funding will work. You can check your eligibility for 30-hour Nursery funding at <https://www.gov.uk/apply-30-hours-free-tax-free-childcare>.

SPORTS DAY

Sports Day will be on Thursday 15th June this year. Families are invited to join us for a picnic at lunch time, then to stay for the afternoon to watch the Sports Day. It promises to be a lovely day and we hope you can join us. More details will follow.

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE MIXED AGE CLASSES

I have spoken to some parents about the new mixed age classes and a few common questions have arisen. I have attempted to answer them in more detail below.

How have the classes been split up?	The teachers have looked very carefully at which class they feel would provide the best educational experience for each individual child. We have considered many factors, including friendship groups and siblings.
Will my child be with their friends?	We have endeavoured to ensure that each child is with some of their friends. It is not possible to keep all friendship groups together in full, but mixing is also an opportunity for children to develop new friendships and work with different people. We are also building in opportunities to spend time together in year groups, such as at lunchtimes, so that the children get to mix with a greater range of people.
Why are the school doing this now?	Currently, Years 3-5 (Key Stage 2) are in two mixed classes of 30 children each. Next year, we will have too many children in Key Stage 2 to do this, so we would have had to mix all classes to some degree. By planning to do this longer term, in a more structured way, we can ensure that the mix is right in each class.
If my child is in a mixed Year 3 and 4 class, will they be doing Year 3 work or Year 4 work?	Just as with any class, teachers will meet the needs of all of their pupils. Sometimes this will mean working on different objectives depending on the year group of the children, sometimes all children will work on the same objectives but at different levels. At The Littletons, we have mixed age classes in some year groups every year and the teachers are very skilled at working in this way. By having all classes mixed, we can share and develop this way of working further, as a whole staff.
How many children from each year group will be in each class?	This will depend because different year groups are different sizes. We would expect the split of year groups in each class to range from around 50:50 to 70:30, so every child will be with a good number of children from their year group.

I understand that because this is a change to what some children are used to, parents and carers may be worried about how it will work. Some of you will already be familiar with mixed aged classes and will know that they work very well. The experience for the children is similar to a single age class.

As a school, we see this as a really exciting opportunity to enhance the way we work and create new opportunities for the children. It will also allow us to grow the school, as we will have spaces in every year group, which will benefit all children.



WHAT HAVE WE BEEN DOING?

Our New Library



WHAT HAVE WE BEEN DOING?



Pedestrian Training, including assessed walk



Petr Horacek mural





WHAT HAVE WE BEEN DOING?

Forest School with Caterpillars





WHAT HAVE WE BEEN DOING?

Jellyfish and Kangaroos at the Sealife Centre



Tri-Golf tournament

WHAT HAVE WE BEEN DOING?

Kangaroos Come Dine With Me



Having fun with maths and writing in Caterpillars

WHAT HAVE WE BEEN DOING?



Poetry Recital



WHAT HAVE WE BEEN DOING?

PGL Residential Trip

