



LITTLEGARTH

A truly independent school & nursery

12th January 2018

Dear Parents

NEWSLETTER 2017/18 – 6

Welcome back following what we hope was a happy and a festive family break. The children seem ready to work and tackle an exciting term ahead. A very Happy New Year to you all.

We offer a warm welcome to our new pupils and their families and feel sure that they will soon feel at home.

I am very grateful to the entire staff team who worked really hard over Christmas. Mr Bowman and his team refurbished three classrooms and the teaching staff were busy moving their classroom furniture and resources. The Library and Computer Room have already been in almost constant use and I am sure that this and all the new facilities will enhance the learning opportunities for the children across the school. I could not have anticipated how excited the children have been but it has been an absolute joy watching them make full use of the space and facilities.

If you have not had a chance to visit the new build, do please contact the School Office so that they can make arrangements for you to visit.

Nursery

The Nursery children were amongst the first to enjoy the new building when they visited the Library on Tuesday. They thoroughly enjoyed a story read by our Librarian, Mrs Jasinski, and then they had the opportunity to select their own books.

Year 6 Entrance Exams

Many of our Year 6 children will be sitting entrance exams for Senior Schools over the coming weeks. Staff are proud of the children's hard work in preparation for these exams and we wish them all the success they deserve. Some exams have been completed already and we will share the accomplishments of the children when all the results are in. Please could I remind Year 6 parents to let me know of your child's achievements as we do not automatically receive notification from the schools.

Our New Building

A reminder for parents of the changes that have taken place as a consequence of our new building. The following classes are now situated in different areas of the school:

Year 6 and Year 5 are in the new building
Year 4 are in the Log Cabin

Year 3 are in the old Year 1 classrooms (main building, ground floor)
 Year 2 remain on the first floor of the Main Building
 Year 1 have moved into the old Reception classrooms (Allsopp Building) and
 Reception have moved into the new building beside the Nursery.

Safe access into the Library Building

Although we have a number of entrances to the new building, the only ones that children, parents and staff are to use are those facing the lawn and playground areas. All other doors are fire exits and must only be used in the event of an emergency or by prior arrangement for adults. This is to ensure the safety of your children so please may I ask you to adhere to this.

Returning the children to parents at the end of the day

Nursery, Reception and Year 1 classes will be collected by parents from their classes at the appropriate time. Years 2-6 will be brought to the area outside the Dining Room and Sports Hall as they were last year. They will wait with their Form Teacher until they are collected by their parent and if no parent arrives they will be escorted by their teacher to After School Care. Please ensure your child has been signed out by their form teacher.

Early Birds, Homework Club and After School Care

Early Birds remains in the Dining Room from 8.00am Homework Club is now in our new Library while After School Care has moved into the new Reception classrooms in the new building.

Where are the After School Clubs situated?

Thank you so much for your patience this week as you have been searching for your children at the end of the day. The clubs this term are situated in the following rooms/areas:

MONDAY	Gardening & Craft	1W (Allsopp Building)
	Soccer	Sports Hall
	ICT	ICT Room (Main Building)
	Hockey	AWP
	Table Tennis	Dining Room
	Verbal Reasoning	Year 5 Form Rooms (New Building)
	Ballet	Dining Room
TUESDAY	Minecraft	ICT Room (Main Building)
	Netball	AWP
	Rugby	Field
	Soccer	Field
	Multi Games	Sports Hall
	Art	Art Room (New Building)
	Ballet	Dining Room
	Ballet	Dining Room
Ballet	Dining Room	
WEDNESDAY	Yoga and Mindfulness	Drama Studio (New Building)
	Italian Language and Culture	1S Classroom (Allsopp Building)
	Board Games	1W (Allsopp Building)

THURSDAY	Badminton	Sports Hall
	Chocolate Club	Kitchen
	Musical Theatre	Drama Studio (New Building)
	Ballet	Dining Room
	Ballet	Dining Room
	Ballet	Dining Room
FRIDAY	Quiz Club	ICT Room (Main Building)
	Chess	Science Lab
	Latin	1S Classroom (Allsopp Building)
	Ballet	Dining Room

Car Park

Unfortunately it has been too wet to detail the lines in the car park and there are certain areas that have required significant repair now that the building has been completed. As soon as the weather permits, we shall be marking out areas for parking and walking. In the meantime, please could I remind parents that there is a 5mph speed limit in the car park and for the safety of our whole school community, could all drivers keep to that speed limit and drive as safely as possible.

I have also reminded the children that they are not allowed onto the car park without an adult however old the children might be. Thank you for your support regarding this matter.

School Calendar

You will have received our Calendar detailing events for the coming term. Please check through the Calendar for any dates that are relevant to your family and contact the School Office should you have any queries. Please note that the October half term dates have changed and we will be reverting back to the week and two days for next academic year.

Reception Fairy Tales Day

A fairy tale History off the Page Day was a fantastic start to the Reception classes topic. Sleeping Beauty was just waking up and the children helped to prepare the banquet in the fairy tale castle. They were able to take part in a range of activities to make different things that would have been made for a similar celebration in Medieval times. The activities included; making potions, lavender bags and leather pouches, making bracelets and decorating cakes.

In the afternoon they practised different kinds of castle entertainment and how to be a servant. The King, Queen, Prince and Princess sat at the high table and everyone enjoyed the dance of the Sugar Plum fairy, singing, acting, juggling and joke telling. It was a very enjoyable day and the children loved immersing themselves in Fairy Tale Land!

Internet Safety Afternoon for Parents

We will be holding an Internet Safety Information Workshop for parents at 2.00 pm on Thursday 8th February. The talk will focus on various aspects of internet use including the dangers posed to children, adult stalking, chat lines and cyber bullying. Owing to the nature of the information being discussed, I'm afraid that children will not be allowed to attend this session with their parents. This is an annual event and we strongly suggest that parents attend if they are able.

Year 5 O2 Young Voices Visit - Friday 2nd February

Year 5 parents have already received details of this but we wish Year 5 and Mrs Pashby and her staff team an enjoyable time as the children join a choir of over 7,000 for this wonderful event. I'm sure that the parents are looking forward to seeing their children perform in the concert that evening!

ISA Swimmers

We wish all our ISA swimmers 'Good Luck' as they head to the Olympic Pool at Stratford on Sunday 21st January for the National Swimming Championships.

What a wonderful achievement to have reached these finals and what a superb venue to visit.

Parents' Evenings

Appointments can be made for the Parents' Evenings through the School Office. Nursery will take place on Wednesday 28th February and Thursday 1st March, Pre-Prep and Year 3 on Wednesday 21st February, Year 4 on Tuesday 27th February and Year 5 on Thursday 22nd February.

There is no Parents' Evening for Year 6 this term.

Uniform and Equipment

This term we are encouraging the children to take more pride in their appearance and to make sure that they dress as smartly as possible and that their hair is combed/brushed throughout the day. Consequently, could I ask that the children have a comb or a brush in school that can be used when they are washing their hands in preparation for lunch and after PE lessons. We have also noticed some children have brought items of equipment and uniform to school which are not named. Form Teachers have been asked to check equipment and uniform but would parents please ensure that they have checked and named all items before the children return to school with them, including shoes and watches. Thank you.

Payment Diversion Fraud

We have been advised by the Charity Commission to share the following information to prevent parents falling victim to payment diversion fraud. This fraud involves falsely creating or diverting payments.

What to look out for:

Fraudsters are placing themselves in the middle of transactions between parents and schools. The fraudster contacts the parents outlining details and payment instructions for the latest school fees. Initial contact appears to primarily be made via email and often from the school's own compromised email system.

The victim then makes the required payment into the bank account, which is in the control of the fraudster. By the time the fraud has been identified, the funds have already disappeared.

Action for Parents:

- always verify an email payment change request directly with the school, via the official, established contact details you have on file. Be alert to unexpected or notably increased fee requests
- be vigilant and always scrutinise requests to amend payment procedures. Check for inconsistencies and grammatical errors in external emails, such as a misspelt school name or a slightly different email address; these can be warning signs of fraud
- don't be afraid to question and to verify details if being asked to make fee payments into a new bank account

Easter Cricket Course

Mr Fidler will be running a Cricket course this Easter for children in Years 2 to 6. This will take place from Monday 26th - Thursday 29th March between 9.00 am and 3.00 pm. Applications for this course will be sent home with your children shortly.

I hope that the first few days back have gone well and we look forward to a busy and varied Spring Term with the children.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Peter H Jones". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Peter H Jones