



"Learning together, playing together, succeeding together"
...supported by Christian values... every child matters to God.



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Monday 27th March, 2017.

Term 4 – Issue 13

FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents and Carers,

As the clocks go forwards, Mother's Day happens and the sun shines more strongly, spring is surely beginning to poke its head over the horizon. As it does, I want to mention two important things.

Achievement for All: As part of our commitment to support all children in the very best way we can we have begun working with a charity called "Achievement for All (AfA)". A coach from AfA will work with staff over the next two years to help us reflect on what we do, think very carefully about barriers to children's learning and consider exactly what we can do to enable children to make maximum progress. AfA have worked with schools for many years and have vast experience of practical strategies. A major focus of this work is ensuring the way we work with parents to support children is most effective. One of the strategies we will begin to trial after Easter is using 'Extended Conversations' during which class teachers and parents have an opportunity to spend a longer time than the regular parent evenings to talk about a child and how we can work together to support them. To start with we will trial this with a few parents and then hopefully roll it out more widely.

School Funding: You may have seen and heard a lot about school funding in the press over the last month. Briefly, while the money we get to run the school has not been cut it has equally not been increased and there have been a massive increase in the bills we have to pay. Over the last year we have had large increases to staff pension contributions and National Insurance payments as well as a new charge called the Apprenticeship Levy. Our bills have gone up due to inflation and we have new costs for maintenance and repairs which were previously covered by Wiltshire Council.

I have to say a massive thank you to the FLS because the funds they raise have helped us continue to invest in technology and school trips and visits but as the funding situation continues to tighten we will find it more and more difficult to keep staffing levels where we want to and consider very, very carefully what resources we buy for the classrooms.

Across the country all schools are seeing their budgets shrink in real terms – the National Audit Office says schools face £3bn shortfall by 2019-20. Many schools are already taking serious actions such as cutting staff or cutting what they spend on equipment. We are not there yet but I think it is important parents are aware of the situation. We will keep you informed over the next few months as we learn the outcome of the consultation into the new National Funding Formula currently proposed by the Department for Education and how we will be affected here at Lacock.

Richard Hearn
Headteacher

NEWS



Choir for All

It is great to see so many parents/carers, pupils, siblings and staff singing along and having fun at Choir for All. This Thursday 30th March will be our last Choir for All this term. Come and join us if you can. All are welcome.



Red Nose Day

Thank you to everyone who supported our fund-raising on Friday in aid of Comic Relief. We raised nearly £200 through the cake sale and donations from the children and this money will go to support children and families in very difficult situations, both in the UK and other countries.

Governor of the Month – April

The governor of the month for April is Mr Simon Winfield. Simon is a Co-opted Governor and can be contacted at s.winfield@lacockprimary.org Simon would love to hear from parents about anything they'd like to share with the governors.



Easter Service and End of Term Arrangements for Pupils

We plan to finish school straight after the Easter Service which starts at 1.30pm on Friday 7th April at St Cyriac's Church. We warmly welcome all parents, grandparents and other family and friends to joins us.

Children will walk back to school with their class teacher and can be collected from their usual classroom door at approximately 2.30pm.

Easter Egg Hunt!

Mrs Naylor-Leyland would like to invite the children of Lacock School and their younger siblings to an Easter Egg Hunt followed by soft drinks and cakes in the garden of Red House after the Duck Race on Friday 7th April 2017.

We are very grateful to Mrs Naylor-Leyland for inviting Lacock School to her garden.



FLS Duck Race and Easter Egg Hunt

The annual FLS Duck Race will take place straight after school pick up at 2.30pm on Friday 7th April. Ducks will be on sale today for £1 and can be bought in the playground each morning and afternoon. The Duck Race will be followed by an Easter Egg Hunt at the invitation of Mrs Naylor-Leyland.





Beech Class Egyptian Day

To consolidate our Egyptian topic, we are holding an Egyptian day on Wednesday 5th April.

We would like the children to come to school dressed as someone from Ancient Egyptian times. This could include Pharaohs, Gods/Goddess, Slaves, Scribes, Mummies etc.

Throughout the day the children will take part in some baking activities to create a banquet for parents and carers to enjoy with us at the end of the day.

There will also be an opportunity for you to have a look at all the work the children have completed over this topic, including the home made projects. We look forward to seeing you at 2.40pm on Wednesday 5th April.

REMINDERS

School Blog

Did you know that we have a school blog? Parents/carers are encouraged to read and comment on the blog which is updated regularly by the children. Each class has a blog spot with photos and information about what they are doing in class. You can find it on our web site or go to <http://lacockprimaryschool.blogspot.co.uk>



Lacock Scarecrow Trail

The Lacock scarecrow trail by the FLS (Friends of Lacock School) will be held on the May bank holiday weekend of Saturday 27th May - Monday 29th May.

The theme this year is 'CLASSIC CHILDREN'S BOOKS INCLUDING THE WORKS OF ROALD DAHL'.

We are exceptionally lucky to be able to host this annual event which helps to raise thousands of pounds for the benefit of the school, and the children are all using new computers which were purchased with the money raised from last year's trail.

This event could not happen without volunteers, so if you would like to make a scarecrow or help out for a couple of hours over the trail weekend please let the school office know, and closer to the time there will be a rota available.

Pupil Safety

School begins at 8.45am and we would like to remind parents/carers that until this time, children remain the responsibility of parents. The road outside school is busy in the morning and the playground is not staffed until school begins. Thank you.

Sainsbury Active Kids Vouchers

The Sainsbury Active Kids vouchers are back starting 25th January. In the past we have collected more than 10,000 vouchers and were able to order a range of equipment for school including playground equipment and teacher resources along with science and maths resources.



Letters sent home in the last fortnight

Subject	Children/classes	Date Issued
Egyptian Day	Beech	16 th March
Easter Egg Hunt	All	17 th March

Please be aware that from time to time we are asked to publicise events from other groups / organisations. While we are happy to advertise events and distribute letters from third parties, we do not endorse them and it is for parents/carers to check the reliability and safety of these events/companies.

Dates for 2016- 2017

Some events (*in italics*) are run by Friends of Lacock School (FLS) and are not yet confirmed.
All dates are subject to change. We will give as much notice of any changes as possible.

April 2017	
Wednesday 5 th	Beech Class Egyptian Day (parents/carers welcome from 2.40pm)
Friday 7 th	Easter Service
Friday 7 th	End of term 4 (2.30pm)
Friday 7 th	<i>Duck Race / Easter Egg Hunt (FLS)</i>
Monday 24 th	Start of term 5
May 2017	
Monday 1 st	Bank holiday – school closed
Monday 8 th to Thursday 11 th	Year 6 SATs
Thursday 25 th	End of term 5
Friday 26 th	TD day - no school for pupils
Saturday 27 th to Monday 29 th	<i>Scarecrow trail (FLS)</i>
June 2017	
Monday 5 th	Start of term 6
Friday 24 th	Sports Day
July 2017	
Tuesday 11 th	Oak Production
Friday 14 th	Reports to parents
Thursday 20 th	Leavers' service / End of term 6 (2.30pm)
Friday 21 st	TD day - no school for pupils
September 2017	
Friday 1 st September	TD day – no school for pupils
Monday 4 th September	Term 1 starts for pupils in years 1 - 6

Many more events will be added during the year, including;

Book Week: Term 4

Maths Week: Term 5 or 6

Sports fixtures / tournaments

Secondary school visits

Class trips