



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER 14th June 2024

Headteacher Update

Dear Parents,

It's been a rollercoaster of a start to our last half term before the summer holidays with a full schedule of activities for all year groups in the diaries.

Firstly, thank you to those parents who give their time to complete the Parent Survey. As always, we are working hard to constantly improve the school so your feedback helps. Once we collate the data, we'll confirm the findings in a newsletter. Also, thank you to those parents who are sending some lovely messages to our staff via the school office; whether it's about trips or general feedback. It really does make a difference to our staff when they receive these as they then know their hard work hasn't gone unnoticed. We really appreciate the time you take to write this!

Next year there will be a few staff changes which I know some parents are already aware of, but I thought I should confirm it in this newsletter. We have a few members of staff retiring this year: Mrs Grant, after over 30 years at Little Bowden, will be leaving to spend more time with her family, but she will come back to help out with trips and events; Mr and Mrs Smithies have made the whole staff team jealous as they will be spending their retirement in Cornwall, soaking up the sun and sandy beaches; and Mrs Boa will be leaving to spend more time with her family, however she will be closely supporting the school to ensure its pastoral offer remains high quality. Mr Mooney will also be leaving us as he was successful in taking on a Deputy Headteacher position, starting in September, at a school closer to home - we wish him all the best. We are incredibly thankful to all the staff who have made Little Bowden the unique and wonderful school it is today. I know some children will be

feeling a whole host of emotions about the change, but I know the members of staff have said they will be popping their heads into school, which they're always welcome to do! We have interviewed and recruited some brilliant staff to fill the positions and I'll announce who they are once we're able to go complete the recruitment process.

Finally, I want to thank the parents who completed a dummy run of our Wraparound care booking system. We now aim to send this out next week to the next group of parents of children currently attending a breakfast and after-school club through Progress House before we release it to the rest of the school. This has been a long process and a lot of hard work has gone on behind the scenes, so we appreciate your patience.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend!

Mr Brannigan

Dates for your Diaries



- **Tuesday 18th June** - Yr 5 Twinlakes visit
- **Thursday 20th June** - Sports Day
- **Friday 21st June** - Yr 5 at Welland Park Academy
- **Wednesday 26th June** - Sports Day (Back up)
- **Saturday 22nd June** - Summer Fete
- **Monday 24th June** - Area Sports for those involved
- **Tuesday 25th June** - Yr 6 Performance to Parents
- **Wednesday 26th June** - Yr 6 Performance to Parents
- **Thursday 27th June** - Mini Olympics at RSA - for those involved

- **Friday 28th June - Whole School Photo with Stu Williamson Photographers**
- **Friday 28th June - Reports and new classes expected to be handed out**
- **Saturday 29th June - Parent/Teacher Football Match**
- **Monday 1st July - Welland Park Academy Transition Day for Yr 6**
- **Tuesday 2nd July - Welland Park Academy and Robert Smyth Transition Day for Yr 6**
- **Wednesday 3rd July - First Aid Training for Yr 6**
- **Thursday 4th July - Yr 4 Twinlakes visit**
- **Thursday 4th July - Yr 5 PGL Parents after school meeting for September trip**
- **Tuesday 9th July - Yr 6 Leavers Assembly**
- **TUESDAY 9th JULY - END OF SUMMER TERM**

Weekly Attendance



Remember: We do not authorise any holidays during term time. Exceptional circumstances can be granted by the Headteacher

This week's attendance is : 96.5%

Our Target is 97%



Our Two star classes for this week are: 1 NG : 100% WELL DONE

2JE: 100% WELL DONE

Class Updates

EYFS

Over the last 2 weeks, EYFS have been very busy, finishing their work around the story of Jack and the Beanstalk. They have really enjoyed acting out the story, writing about it and we have planted beans and been watering them carefully. We have moved around our outside area and now have a larger outdoor art area, which was ideal for our work for the carnival float. Den building, the mud kitchen and our new water tray and resources have also been very popular! We are now working on the story of The Very Hungry Caterpillar and are excitedly observing our caterpillars daily, so we can learn about the lifecycle of a butterfly. In Maths, we have revised work on number bonds to 5 and 10, as well as our understanding of numbers to 10, including odd and even numbers and double facts. A real highlight was when the new intake came for their 'Stay and Play' sessions, we got to work in the Year One classrooms as they were out on a trip. We are feeling very 'grown up' and ready for our transition to Year One!

Year 1

This week the year ones have completed their national phonics screening assessment; the year 1 team are very proud of all their hard work and trying their very best during the test. Next week we will be continuing to learn about homes – past and present. In maths, we will be starting a new topic on “time”.

Year 2

Year 2 had a wonderful time at East Carlton Park where we enjoyed learning about habitats and survival techniques in the wild. We have all furthered our understanding of left and right when

learning about position in maths and also mapping our routes in geography. Next week we are looking forward to Sports Day!

Year 3

Next week in year 3, we will be having our end of the year English and Maths assessments. Along with this we will be having our single word spelling and reading tests. In science we are going to be learning about what the functions of the different parts of a flowering plant.

Year 4

Year 4 have completed the Times Tables check on line. Phew! We have also been busy learning about how Alfred the Great saved England from a Viking invasion. We have also started a new Geography topic called the shape of the land. We are learning about mountains. In particular we are focussing in on Mount Everest. We are also getting ready for Sports Day next Thursday. See you there.

Year 5

The Year 5's have been busy getting ready for their transition into Year 6. As a consequence, we have been re-visiting as well as practising some of our character champions skills such as teamwork, resilience and self-efficacy. In P.E. we have done yoga balance poses in small groups, so that we can all learn to be calm and composed. In science we have talked as a whole year group about puberty in a respectful and sensitive way. Finally, in geography we have considered the deforestation of rainforests and the need to speak out in order to preserve our vital biodiverse environments.

Year 6

This week has been our second week at forest school where the children have loved exploring the outside area, using their imaginations and teamwork skills to make lasting memories of their time together. In the classroom, we have been focussing on our last writing unit at Little Bowden, using our narrative writing skills to entertain our readers. In Maths, we have been learning about how maths can help us in our futures, investigating salaries, making links with how as adults we will budget to pay for important items such as mortgages and bills, not forgetting the fun things that we enjoy too (yes, we made sure there was a monthly budget for ice-cream!). In PE we have been practising for sports day next week, and we have also been practising for our end of year production. Next week we will be focussing on practising our performance, including using the props and our costumes.

Whole School Photograph - Friday June 28th



As we have not had the opportunity to take a whole school photograph for a while, we have arranged for Stu Williamson Photographers to come to school on Friday June 28th to take a photograph of all children and staff.

Whilst we will adhere to the rules of photo permissions on Arbor, if you would like your child to be in the photograph but your Arbor permission say otherwise, please contact us by mail to admin@littlebowden.leics.sch.uk and we will arrange for your child to be in the photo.

This image will not be used on any form of social media.

Job Vacancy

Wrap Around Care (Before / After School) Manager Position available

Please see www.eteach.com to view the Job specification and to apply.

Please contact the office if you require any further information.

Year 6 Trip to National Justice Museum in Nottingham

Year 6 have been enriching our learning to support our Crime & Punishment unit in History. We have had a visitor into school to discuss the modern-day prison system and we also headed to the National Justice Museum in Nottingham.

The children visited the Dark Cells, met with a Georgian Jailer and Victorian Matron, hearing more about life in prison in these times. Our standout part of the day was Court in Session. Children were able to recreate a real-life court case and immerse themselves in their roles. In the words of a pupil... it was EPIC! Thank you again to the PTA for supporting this.



Forest School News



Year 6 have had lots of fun and learning at Forest School this summer term. They have enjoyed fishing in the river, den building challenges, mud kitchen cook offs and making art from natural materials.

Well done everyone!









