



Lee Manor – in partnership with Brindishe Schools NEWSLETTER WEEK BEGINNING 21st September 2012

Associate Headteacher – Alex Bell Executive Headteacher - Vicki Paterson

Dear parents, carers and friends,

Welcome to all our new families

Welcome to all our new families as they join us here at Lee Manor.

We have slowly built up the numbers of nursery and reception children joining us each day in order to give the children the gentlest and most reassuring of starts in their class. I'm sure you will join me in welcoming them all to the school.

We are now in our third week back in the rest of the school and the children have had chance to settle into their new classes well. This is the point where we at school can clearly see how well the children are responding to the routines being established and the learning demands of their year group.

From where we see it, this is going very well indeed but do please ask your child's class teacher if there is anything new that you or your child is still a little unsure of.

Remember also that Ms Margetts our Deputy, Mrs Collins our learning mentor, or I will always be on the front gate at the beginning and end of the day to answer any quick queries.

Keeping in touch at school

Please try to avoid catching class teachers for anything more than a very quick question or to tell them something important while they welcome the class in at 9:00am. Their priority must always be settling the children for the day's learning. A better time to catch them is at the end of the day once they have handed all the children to their parents or carers.

If you would like a longer conversation with your child's teacher you are very welcome to arrange a meeting when you are both free. Teachers will always meet you at the school reception desk first and then take you to the classroom or other meeting room.

Other ways of keeping in touch

If you are not here at 9:00am or 3.15pm each day you are very welcome to phone the office with your enquiry or to request an appointment to see your child's teacher, Ms Margetts or I.

Alternatively, you may find it easier to email. Contact details for each teacher are on the school website. Staff will aim to respond within 24 hours wherever their class teaching commitments allow.

Meet the teacher invitation

You will shortly receive a letter inviting you to meet your child's teacher in the next few weeks. There will be a mixture of daytime and evening appointments and we hope the invitation will give you enough notice so you are able to attend.

Other dates for your calendar

Y6 Secondary transfer meeting – Tuesday 25th September 6:30pm

Y1 Height and weight screening

Y6 Height and weight screening

Outdoor Spaces

Thank you to all families for your co-operation in helping us establish the new routes to classrooms from the front gate. Just to remind you that if you have a child in Year 6, Year 3 or Year 2 or in Ms Edmund's Year 1 Onyx class then you turn **LEFT at the school gate**.

If you have a child in Year 5, 4, Reception, Nursery or Mrs Clapton's Y1 Jasper class then you turn **RIGHT at the school gate**.

If you are a family with children in both these groups and used to walk through what is now established as the Year 1 outdoor learning space then please let me know in an email or by contacting the school office. You will then go onto a 'special access' list which includes all nursery parents who will of course come through that area to drop off their child via the new nursery front door.

As we gather and establish more outdoor resources for the Year 1 space it will become even more apparent why we can't have the large groups of children, adults and buggies that we used to in that area. The new sheds and playhouse are already about to have their first coat of paint.

Thank you

A huge thank you to the PSFA and all Lee Manor families for the £4,111 donated to school funds this week.

You won't be surprised to learn that we have spent it already and so this week we have installed four touch screen desktop computers in the learning zone in Manor Hall, have ordered some beautiful new shelving units for the books and resources in that room and have even managed to purchase kilos of Lego to get the children's club off to a start soon. Thank you to all of you who made this possible.

Look out for this term's events and invitations from the PSFA. We would love to see as wide a mix as possible of parents, staff and friends this year.

Buggies and prams

Thank you to families with buggies and prams for their continued co-operation with keeping them out of the building. This allows us to ensure the health and safety of children and adults inside.

Please remember the green canopy outside the school office will be the most sheltered place to park buggies and prams if it is raining.

Cycles

We actively encourage families to cycle safely to school if they wish to and we have a cycle park at the far end the playground for all Lee Manor families to use. You will find if you turn right and follow the signs at the school gates.

Please could all cyclists please **label** any cycle locks left everyday on the racks with their initials. We have small white address labels in the school office if you need them. This is because we will be removing any 'abandoned' locks in a few weeks time to make space for regular users.

Skates

We have a number of children and their families who now skate to and from school. Please remember that skates are not allowed in school at all but there are benches just inside the gate where children can change into their regular shoes. If you skate with them please then take their skates home with you.

We would not encourage any family to allow their child to skate to school unsupervised.

School photographer

The school photographer 'Pret a Portrait' will be here next Thursday 27th September to take individual and family portraits (class photos happen later in the year). Please dress the children in the clothing you would be happy for them to be photographed in and also let the class teacher know if you do not want your child to have their photograph taken.

I have had feedback from one parent regarding the poses that their child was in for a previous set of photos and so have asked the photographers to avoid any poses that stereotype a child's gender or seem unnatural. However, getting through over 400 children in a day means that each child has a very short time to pose and the photographers do all they can to put children at their ease. You may wish to talk to your child or even 'rehearse' a pose you are both happy with before the day.

Clubs

We are currently reviewing our lunchtime and after school clubs and over the summer have been talking to a number of external providers as well as volunteer school staff.

Last year, apart from our own in-house childcare 'After School Club' which is run by Lee Manor staff we also used other agencies to provide sports and other activities.

In our review of current providers and in assessing new providers we looked at how well they could ensure the health and safety of the children in our care, how well run their sessions were and by regular staff known to the children and to us. Also what value for money they offered parents paying for this extra provision and how well they were able to fit in with the well established admin routines of the main school office.

We will be announcing the first of this year's new clubs offer shortly and in order to establish well-run sessions and good long term relationships with our providers, we will not be starting with all our clubs at once.

We aim to build up to a large number of clubs that promote learning and team-building at Lee Manor in the long run so please look out for new clubs as they come on stream over the year.

Please also be reassured that our ever popular 'After school club continues' – please contact the school office if you would like your child to go on the waiting list for this childcare provision.

Breakfast Club

If your child goes to breakfast club, please note that we will be changing the gate they come in from each morning.

All breakfast club families will receive a letter today asking them to use the main school gate on Leahurst Road from

8am on Monday 8th October. This will ensure that the main school reception is able to control access to the site rather than rely on breakfast club staff having to be responsible for security of the gate as well as looking after the children. Unfortunately the cost of a buzzer system was prohibitive for the amount of families using the Longhurst Road gate.

A parent asked...

Each week we answer a question asked by a parent or carer. This week a parent asked:

Can I bring my pre-school child when I volunteer as an extra adult on a school trip?

We are always very grateful to parents and carers who offer to help on our educational visits to museums and galleries. This is so we have the correct numbers of children so the teacher leading the visit can ensure the health, safety and enjoyment of the children on the day.

As a parent with a baby or toddler, it wouldn't be fair of us to ask you to be responsible for a group of Lee Manor children whilst also looking after your own child.

Healthy lunches

As you think about your shopping this weekend please remember that we do not like to see crisps, sweets or other 'treat food' in the children's packed lunches. I know there are a lot of very tempting foods and snacks marketed at children that make their way into everyone's shopping baskets but please remember that we do expect our children's regular lunchtime meal to be as healthy and nutritious as the school dinners we provide.

Nursery places

Please don't forget to remind friends and neighbours to get in touch with the school office very soon if they are interested in taking up the last few of our nursery places.

Please also join me in welcoming our new children and their families as they start to join our Reception and nursery classes next week.

Legos please

I have had a number of requests from a group of year 5 children requesting a lunchtime Lego club. In order to get this off the ground, I am putting a call out for any donations of clean Lego that you or friends and neighbours no longer need.

I have told the children that we need at least a dustbin full of Lego in order to ensure every child who would like to join the club is able to do so.

So please have a look in your cupboards and see if you are able to help us out. Donations to the main school office please.

Olympic and Paralympic memories

More and more Lee Manor families are telling us their Olympic or Paralympic memories.

Please remember we would still love to collect as many photos or written memories as possible to display in school over the next few weeks. Just drop them with your child's name on the back in the school office or pass on to the class teacher.

With best wishes to all Lee Manor families.

Alex Bell
Associate Headteacher

Vicki Paterson
Executive Headteacher

PSFA news

Wednesday 19th September: PSFA Annual General Meeting: 8pm in the Community Room: All welcome! The PSFA is a very friendly group of parents, staff and friends committed to supporting the children through fund-raising and social activities. As parents and carers you are all automatically members. At this AGM we will be voting in new trustees. It's also our first meeting this year, so it's a great time to come along and get involved. New faces are especially welcome! We already have candidates for the posts of Chair, Treasurer and Secretary. We still need nominations for a **Vice-Chair**. If you are interested in finding out more about this role, please do email us at leemanorpsfa@gmail.com

If you can't make the evening meetings, we also hold coffee mornings and other fund-raising and social events throughout the year so please get in touch to find out more or if you want to be added to our mailing list. As outgoing trustees, Maxine, Charlotte and Julia would like to thank all of you for a fantastic year of fun and fundraising, and we look forward to continuing our support...

