



Dear parents, carers and friends,

Congratulations Dame Vicki Paterson DBE

The vast majority of you have probably already heard that our Executive Headteacher Vicki Paterson was made a Dame of the British Empire in the 2013 New Year's Honours list.

I'm sure you will all want to join me in wishing her our most sincere congratulations in her award. This is not only very well deserved but also a true reflection of Vicki's contribution to Primary Education not only in our three school communities in Lee and Hither Green but also across the whole of London and beyond. In her capacity as a National Leader of Education she has helped many other primary schools move from Good to Outstanding.

Vicki has been a Headteacher in Lewisham since 1989 and as a result of all her endeavours she has made a difference to the life chances of over 10,000 primary school children. This is an amazing legacy which both she and the whole community is very proud of.

Once more very many congratulations Vicki . We now have our very own Dame!

Spyros Elia Chair of Governors

Happy New Year

Welcome back to the new term and the new calendar year at Lee Manor. I sincerely hope you all enjoyed the holiday season.

We are absolutely delighted to start the year with such great news about Vicki Paterson's damehood and I know that as we share this news with our children it sends them a great message about the power of education in creating success for all.

This week at Lee Manor

This week each teacher launched a new curriculum topic for this term with their class.

You can find out more about what your child is learning in the class newsletters that go home each Friday.

Thank you also to all children and families for such high quality and extremely creative home-learning projects that came back into school this week. Many of you were certainly very busy in the holidays.

Clubs and Choirs

This term we continue to build our club offer for different year groups. First violin club will start in Year 2, Ukulele Club will start in Year 3 and we will also relaunch our Year 1 and 2 choir. Watch this space for more clubs to be added through the year.

Reception admissions deadline – this Tuesday

Important notice for parents of children born between 1 September 2008 and 31 August 2009.

This is a last minute reminder that if your child is due to start primary school in September 2013 you must apply for a school place by this Tuesday 15th January.

If you live in Lewisham you must apply using Lewisham's common application form, if you do not live in the Lewisham borough, you need to apply on your home borough's common application form (you can apply for Lewisham schools on this form). Please call into the office if you would like a form or apply online at www.eadmissions.org.uk

A Parent Asked

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

I am just about to book a family holiday, can you remind me about unauthorised absence?

Lee Manor follows the guidance from Lewisham on unauthorised absences. It clearly directs us not to authorise any absences in term time except for valid medical reasons or in exceptional circumstances. Exceptional circumstances do not include taking family holidays or visiting relatives and therefore will not be authorised.

Flights and other arrangements should not be booked until authorization has been given by the school at least two weeks prior to the requested absence.

Free School Meals

If your child is eligible for free school meals but you chose to pay or give them a packed lunch instead, we need your help.

We receive *significant extra school funding* based on the numbers of children who are eligible for free school meals. Just by letting us know your national insurance number we will be able to claim this much needed extra funding for the school. Please let us have this number by Tuesday 15th January.

Healthy Lunches

As we start the new year, please ensure that if your child has packed lunch that it does not contain treat food such as crisps and sweets.

Cold Weather

As the temperature drops again considerably this weekend, please ensure your child is dressed for the cold weather forecast for next week. This includes suitable footwear and warm layers.

Mobile Phone Numbers

As some of you may have been lucky enough to have upgraded your mobile phones recently, please ensure that the school office have your most up to date mobile phone number.

Parent and Carer Survey

We would like to hear your views on school matters and have compiled a survey which will be put in book bags on Monday 21st January. We would like to hear from as many families as possible so please complete the survey for us by 29th January.

Dates for your diary

Parent teacher meetings (times and dates to be advised by class teachers) 6-17th February

Half term Monday 18th – Friday 22nd February

With best wishes to all Lee Manor Families

Alex Bell

Associate Headteacher