

Leeming RAF Primary School

Newsletter



Autumn, 2019

Dear All,

A very warm welcome (or a welcome back!) to all – it has been great over the last few weeks to watch the school get back into action, and to meet all our new starters across the classes!

I wanted to send a short newsletter to share a few things that have been going on, especially some of the outcomes from the recent Parents' Forum, along with some reminders and guidance at the start of the year. Thanks to all parents who attended last week - we had some really useful discussions, and will be taking actions in the coming weeks and months to reflect on these.

A couple of things came up which I'd like to share with all parents now:

Volunteering - one item discussed was around volunteers in school; a number of parents very kindly support us on trips / in the classroom / listening to readers etc. This is always very much appreciated, and we wanted to let all parents know that these opportunities are available – apologies if we've not been great at advertising this! If you are interested in helping out in school, please contact Mrs. Nuttall via the office and we can move this forward.

Newsletters - with the establishment of School Ping, we have agreed that Newsletters (in their current format) will be much more infrequent, and that pings will be used for more frequent, short reminders about specific items. Hopefully this reduces the volume of reading and gets messages out more swiftly!

Calendar and Diary Dates - parents who have been with us previously know that we used to send lists of diary dates out; the issue with this system is that dates have a habit of changing as a result of external issues (e.g. another school changes the date they can host a cluster sports event etc.) and thus the list is often out of date within weeks of being collated. For this reason, we have opted to cease to share dates via sheets, and are using the school ping calendar embedded in the app. This is adaptive so hopefully remains current. We wanted to ensure all parents are aware of this feature of the app.

SeeSaw - a few parents commented there have been some issues with SeeSaw since returning from the holidays; apologies for this. We have our IT technician looking into this so hopefully things should get sorted soon. In the meantime, if you wish to email a class teacher about a question or issue, please feel free to use one of the following email addresses. Please note, teachers will endeavour to reply as quickly as possible (Monday to Friday 0830 -1700) but this may not be immediate, as many have additional after school commitments. Admin response will be during work hours Monday to Friday 0830-1530.

Staff Member	Class / Role	Email
Mrs. Whitworth	Bumblebees	awhitworth@leeming-raf.n-yorks.sch.uk
Miss Baddon	Ladybirds	hbaddon@leeming-raf.n-yorks.sch.uk
Mrs. Ramsden	Nightingales	sramsden@leeming-raf.n-yorks.sch.uk
Mrs. Roberts	Nightingales	hroberts@leeming-raf.n-yorks.sch.uk
Mrs. Lewis	Skylarks	clewis@leeming-raf.n-yorks.sch.uk
Mrs. Nuttall (currently)	Kingfishers	cnuttall@leeming-raf.n-yorks.sch.uk
Mrs. Holland	Owls	lholland@leeming-raf.n-yorks.sch.uk
Mr. Fenn	Hawks	dfenn@leeming-raf.n-yorks.sch.uk
Mrs. Halliwell	Eagles	hhalliwell@leeming-raf.n-yorks.sch.uk
Other enquiries	Administrative Team	admin@leeming-raf.n-yorks.sch.uk

Road Safety – this has been an understandable area of concern for some parents recently, especially around camp. We will be undertaking some work with the children in school regarding safe conduct and road awareness, hopefully working in partnership with personnel on station. We would also appreciate if parents send the same messages – only allowing children to cycle / scoot with helmets, and, with the dark nights coming, advocating the importance of bike lights and the wearing of high viz clothing.

A suggestion was made at the forum that we could support parents with this:

<https://www.ebay.co.uk/itm/2x-Childrens-high-vis-Reflective-Safety-belt-ideal-for-schools-Cyclist-Runners/273933409413?hash=item3fc7b41c85:g:31YAAOSw1vU~xj>

The link above is a possible item you may consider purchasing (£1.99) to keep your children visible when they are out and about. A recommendation from the forum was that if the cost of this is prohibitive, parents could confidentially contact the school to assist in the ability to purchase one for you.

Thanks again to all who contributed to the Forum. We also wanted to send a few reminders for all parents:

Uniform - we want to maintain a high standard of appearance in school - please note school uniform should be worn and this includes appropriate smart footwear. For safety and comfort, this shouldn't involve strappy sandals etc. in autumn / winter, and does not include trainers. Please also ensure all children bring a coat to school. It is hard to safely accommodate children indoors at playtimes if they don't have coats, but equally, we don't like seeing children out on cold, dank days without appropriate outerwear. Hair should not be dyed and long hair should be tied back. Please avoid outlandish hairbands and accessories too!

Start and End of Day – a few brief reminders about the 'start and end of day' procedures:

- In the morning, the gate will be opened at approximately 08:50 and will close again at 09:05. If you need to talk with the class teacher or are delayed at drop off beyond five past nine, please use the corridor and exit via the office. Similarly, at the end of the day, the gate is opened at 15:10 and closed again at 15:20 – if you need to exit at other times, please go via the office.
- Please note that officially our school day starts at 9am. Whilst we open the gates from 08:50 to help get children in and settled as smoothly as possible and eliminate loss of learning time, the start of the school day isn't until 9. Before this time, until a child is handed over to a class teacher, they remain parents' responsibility. If you choose to allow your child to come to school on their own, please ensure that they are of an age and stage where they are able to take responsibility for their own safety and behaviour as it is disruptive to all if there have been issues before the start of the school day.
- We have noticed a number of parents starting to use the school car park at the start and end of days. This is a staff car park only, and is not for drop off / collection (especially the disabled bay, which is used for certain specific individuals by prior arrangement). We wish to minimise the amount of traffic in this area and also need to ensure that staff and school contractors/ visitors can be appropriately accommodated in the car park. Thank you for your co-operation in this.

Leave of Absence in Exceptional Circumstances - parents sometimes come in asking for a 'holiday form' – there is no such thing. We are legally unable to grant 'holidays'; I am only able to authorise 'Leave of Absence in Exceptional Circumstances'. In our service community, I am able to authorise a short period of time away for children of personnel returning from active deployment but this remains an 'exceptional circumstance', rather than a default entitlement. We may also ask for proof (e.g. a letter from CO or line manager) to confirm that leave cannot be taken in normal school holiday periods in order to comply with our requirements. This is a national policy, not a school one – although, of course, we do support the importance of children being here as much as possible. Thank you for your understanding and support in this matter.

And Finally...

Congratulations to all our cross country stars who competed in the L2 event recently – especially Lucy Boot who won for the 3rd year running (pun intended...!).

Best regards,



Rob Campbell
Headteacher