

Leeming RAF Primary School Newsletter



September 2018

Dear All,

Firstly, let me say a very warm welcome to all our new parents and a welcome back to Leeming after the summer for all our returning friends. My apologies that this newsletter is slightly late coming to you – I normally try to get one out in the first week of term, but there has been so much going on that I've only just been able to get it written!

I think I have managed to meet most of our new parents and families on the gate or on visits, but, if not, please do feel free to pop into school any morning and say hello. I hope that the first few weeks at Leeming have been positive for you and your children. Some of the information below is aimed particular at new parents – although I hope it will be a helpful reminder to everyone!

Before I dive into some of the practical things, I thought it would be great to share some of what's already been going on in school! Perhaps most excitingly, last week, a group of our Year 5 and Year 6 pupils spent a wonderful few days on residential at Low Mill Outdoor Centre in the Dales. This saw them face their fears and push themselves to the limit with a whole range of activities – caving, gorge walking, zip lining, abseiling, orienteering, hiking, and, perhaps most challenging of all, making their beds...! The children behaved really well throughout and have already had the chance to develop some close bonds and friendships, as well as learning a lot about how to tackle challenges – which will set them in good stead for the year ahead. Thank you to all the parents who packed and sorted suitcases and dealt with the piles of laundry (!) – the children had a great time and are still buzzing about it now. My particular thanks also to Mrs. Halliwell who co-ordinated the visit, and to Mrs. Davies and Miss Dixon who stayed for the whole residential; having spent one day with the group, I can assure you that it's tremendous fun – but very tiring!



We've also seen the start of our after school clubs, along with individual photos, a reception parents' lunch, and swimming lessons – never mind all the learning that's already going on! A great start to the year!

Welcome! – September always sees the arrival of a lot of new children, in all year groups, but particularly we see a new intake of pupils in Reception. I'm pleased to say that all the children have made a great start to their time at Leeming – whenever I visit the Early Years classrooms, I come away with a sense of tremendous 'activity' (and at least a few paint stains...)! The children are launching themselves into all that the school has to offer, and seem to be settling in really well. A very warm welcome also to our new teacher, Miss Mather, who is doing a great job in Hawks class.

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. Please could all parents note that there is no supervision for children on site before this time. 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.
- When dropping off / collecting your children, please keep an eye on toddlers and siblings and keep them close by you – we have had occasions where little ones have ended up stranded in cloak rooms or the playground looking rather lost!
- Please do not let your children run through the Early Years area and into the playground and do *not* let them climb on the equipment. Unfortunately, the EYFS outdoor equipment has been condemned as the wood has decayed, and it is therefore unsafe. Children are not accessing the 'big area' at present in lessons, and it is important that no-one tries to use the area during the start and end of day either.
- The car park is for staff, visitors, and disabled persons only. It is not for drop off / pick up. If you need to drive, please park on one of the estate roads and do not bring the car into the school. Please try to avoid walking through the car park to the top gate, and do not ask your children to do so, as there is no safe pedestrian access through this area.

Office Hours – please note that the school office is manned from 08:30 to 15:45. Out of these hours, the answerphone is available to leave messages, and you can always email admin@leeming-raf.n-yorks.sch.uk. Please do not try to reach the office with requests at other times, thank you.

Homework – hopefully all parents will have had a letter about homework and the removal of the 'task' in lieu of extra reading, spellings and maths practise. Already a parent has spoken to me about their child being keen to 'go beyond' what has been set (reading etc.) which is great – please do feel absolutely free to encourage them to do so! If a child wishes to do a project, write a story, create some artwork, learn new words or engage with any other educational activity please do share these with us. We want learning (both within and beyond school) to be as enjoyable as possible and therefore haven't mandated these this year – but we will, of course, celebrate anyone who goes the extra mile to challenge themselves at home!

Deployments and Blueys – the first thing to say on this issue is a plea to all parents to notify your child's teacher, or the office, of any deployments or extended courses etc. which will bring a change to the family situation at home for any length of time. Children are often unpredictable in the way they will react when a parent goes away, and we want to be able to support our pupils during what can be 'tough times'. We can only do this when we are informed.

In the past, Mrs. Lewis has run an 'e-bluey' club for pupils with deployed parents to keep in touch during tours. This system was replaced by the MoD by 'Intouch' – which we trialled last term. Unfortunately, the Intouch system seems to have a number of flaws making the process rather cumbersome and causing delays in personnel receiving their messages. To address this problem, we've gone 'old school' and Mrs. Lewis will be running a lunchtime club on a Thursday in which we will help the children to write (or draw) 'Blueys'. Pupils will then take this home so that the appropriate details can be added, and the letter can be posted.

Pastoral Care - we have a range of support options, funded through the service pupil premium, to help any children who may be struggling – whether with transition, a parent's deployment, friendships or any other issue causing them anxiety. Mrs. Clarke, our Pastoral Mentor, is always happy to meet children and support them and has many years of experience and huge expertise in this area. We also run 'the Zone' lunchtime club on Tuesdays and Thursdays as a space for pupils who might be feeling a little 'wobbly'. Please just have a word with us if you would like your child to access any additional support in this area.

Tapestry, See-Saw and Contact – thanks to so many of you who have already been so active on Tapestry and See-Saw. It's great to see these platforms put to such good use already – children love sharing their work and experiences with you via this media. One request - please can we ask that comments to the teachers via See-Saw and Tapestry are made only regarding the work that has been shared or to post things that children have been up to at home, rather than for extended 'conversations' with class teachers or raising questions / concerns.

We do really want to engage with these questions however, - if you have any worries or would like to talk to your class teacher, then please always feel free to catch them before / after school to arrange a meeting, make an appointment through the office, or send them an email to arrange this. This is a better form of communication for specific issues than the learning journals. Thank you.

Contact details for this are:

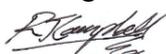
Staff Member	Class / Role	Email
Mrs. Whitworth	Bumblebees	awhitworth@leeming-raf.n-yorks.sch.uk
Miss Baddon	Ladybirds	hbaddon@leeming-raf.n-yorks.sch.uk
Mrs. Lewis	Skylarks	clewis@leeming-raf.n-yorks.sch.uk
Mrs. Ramsden	Nightingales	sramsden@leeming-raf.n-yorks.sch.uk
Mrs. Roberts	Nightingales	hroberts@leeming-raf.n-yorks.sch.uk
Mrs. Holland	Woodpeckers	lholland@leeming-raf.n-yorks.sch.uk
Miss Johnson	Kingfishers	sjohnson@leeming-raf.n-yorks.sch.uk
Mr. Fenn	Owls	dfenn@leeming-raf.n-yorks.sch.uk
Miss Mather	Hawks	kmather@leeming-raf.n-yorks.sch.uk
Mrs. Halliwell	Eagles	hhalliwell@leeming-raf.n-yorks.sch.uk
Mrs. Nuttall	Assistant Headteacher Key Stage 2 Leader	cnuttall@leeming-raf.n-yorks.sch.uk
Mrs. Wiltshire	Deputy Headteacher SENCO	nwiltshire@leeming-raf.n-yorks.sch.uk
Mr. Campbell	Headteacher DSL (Safeguarding lead)	headteacher@leeming-raf.n-yorks.sch.uk

We really do operate an 'open door policy' when it comes to any questions or comments you have – please talk to us about the little things early on – this almost always stops them from becoming big things later.

And Finally...

A special mention to Lucy Boot who entered the children's 'Great North Run' the other week and came in an amazing third place, beating off national competition from runners older than her from up and down the country! A sporting star in the making!

Best regards,



Rob Campbell
Headteacher