

Leeming RAF Primary School Newsletter



March 2017

Dear All,

March has been a month of extremes in the weather... we've had snow, sunshine, torrential rain and gales! Still, I suppose this is life in Yorkshire... Fortunately, in the dry and warmth of Leeming, life has continued to be full of learning and exciting activities. There's lots of 'practical' updates to share with you later so I'll keep first section short. The children have enjoyed some really exciting trips and events since the last newsletter. Key Stage 2 just had two great visits to Sutton Bank, sketching, learning about the local geography and geology, and getting somewhat blown about on the top! We've also had a brilliant Science Week and World Book Week – and, of course, our Radical Readers competition (more on this below).



We've also had some great successes at sports events – including in Y3/4 hockey, and being finalists in Netball and Tag Rugby, as well as having lots of our pupils excel in the area cross country. A special mention here to Lucy Boot who qualified for the county trials, coming third in her race, out of over 250 pupils across the local schools.



Music Lessons – something that has historically been offered by the school is provision for learning an instrument through the County Music Service. This involves parents paying for their child to attend a block of lessons, as part of a small group of pupils all at a similar musical stage on a particular instrument (including guitar, violin, clarinet, flute, piano etc.). Currently, we don't have any lessons running in school; however, if you are interested, please contact the office who can provide more details. There is a minimum number of people required for lessons, but we can investigate this if parents are interested.

Lunches – a few points on the issue of lunches. Firstly, for those who have a packed lunch, please can parents ensure that these are nutritious and healthy. Please avoid lots of sweets, chocolates, crisps, processed foods (e.g. fruit winders) etc. Alternatives such as healthy sandwiches, pasta, fruit, salads etc. are all recommended. If you do want to include a small 'sweet treat', then this is ok, but please keep these to a minimum. *Please also note no nuts in packed lunches, since a number of our pupils have severe allergies.*

Secondly, for those who take school dinners – a couple of bits from Mrs. Taylor our cook.

Jacket Potatoes - Wherever possible, please stick to the menu; although Mrs. Taylor does offer jacket potatoes if children don't like a particular meal, the numbers of these have been going up recently; this is tricky to manage, and seems to have less to do with children not liking a meal, and more to do with "what my friend is having..."!

Sandwiches – as another alternative, if you child would prefer not to have the menu set choice or a jacket potato, Mrs. Taylor will also prepare a 'packed lunch' style meal – including sandwiches, fruit etc. We need to know two days in advance for this so that Mrs. Taylor can purchase the necessary

ingredients. Please could parents look at the menu with their children, and notify the office in advance if they would like an alternative.

Parentpay – those of you who have come from other schools or have older children in Bedale High may well be familiar with the online payment system 'Parentpay'. This system is used in thousands of schools to move away from cash payments for trips, dinners etc., and should make things much easier for parents. We will be moving over to Parentpay in the coming months. We will provide more information nearer the time, but we wanted to let you know this is planned for the future – in fact, as I write, our system is being set up and the office staff are undergoing their initial training!

NSPCC Guidelines – the NSPCC have produced some very helpful guidance for parents to help keep children safe. One key document is about children playing out alone / walking home alone. This is available on our website, along with a link to the NSPCC, in the 'Keeping Children Safe' section.

E-safety – on a similar note, a number of you will have received an information leaflet at our Parent Teacher Consultations regarding E-Safety. We have become aware of a few instances recently relating to children's use of social media and games etc. at home which are not appropriate to their age and stage. Please could parents ensure that your children do not have unsupervised internet access and that you help them to understand the risks online. There shouldn't be any reason for primary school aged pupils to access social media, but, if they are doing, please ensure that you are monitoring their accounts / usage. We continue to teach this in school, but would value your support at home too. Further information is on our website in the 'E Safety' section.

Parking – another reminder to please avoid bringing vehicles into the staff car park, unless you are disabled. If you need to bring your car, please park outside the grounds.

Parent Questionnaires – many thanks to all who returned the parent questionnaires. A full analysis by governors is pending, but an initial evaluation suggests these are very positive indeed; this is encouraging, and we really value your feedback. As always, if you do have concerns or questions (arising from these or any other area), please do raise them with us, we appreciate feedback and always want to find ways to improve our school.

Service Pupil Premium – a question raised in one of the returned questionnaires referred to being unsure about how the school spends 'Service Pupil Premium' – so we wanted to share this again with parents. Many of you will have seen the recent article about our school which circulated on the RAF and MOD's webpages. This was highlighting our school as an example of 'best practice' in how we use the Service Pupil Premium. There is a full breakdown of this on our website, (School Information > Pupil Premium), including a 'Stakeholders Guide' and the strategy spending statements for this year. The link to the article is also available – I hope this is helpful to all.

School Uniform – a new way of purchasing uniform is now up and running. This is more cost effective for parents (items are cheaper), and it is easily accessible 24 / 7. The link is on our website under Parents > Uniform Orders. Our thanks to the office team for setting this up.

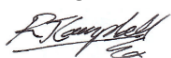
Radical Readers Video – many thanks for the brilliant entries for our 'Radical Readers' – there's a great video on the website showing all your entries! Well done to everyone.

Book Fair – our book fair will be taking place 2nd-5th May; all books half price! Timings are as follows: 2nd May: 8:20-8:50 & 3:15-3:45 / 3rd May: 3:15-3:45 / 4th May: 3:15-3:45

E-Bluey – a quick reminder to sign the petition at <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/190041> to request that e-bluey (or similar) is retained by the MOD to allow communications with deployed parents. It takes a few seconds to complete, and will hopefully serve to protect this vital line of communication.

And Finally... a huge thank you to everyone who brightened up the school for Comic Relief! The school council presented a great assembly about this, and raised £202 to help those less fortunate than ourselves. There were some amazing outfits, including Miss Baddon's red tutu!

Best regards,



Rob Campbell, Headteacher