



NEWSLETTER: March 2017

From your head teacher

Many thanks to all staff and parents that were able to attend the coffee/tea afternoons planned for each class. Parents gained valuable information about the school. If, for any reason, you were unable to attend and feel that you would like more information about your child, please contact your class teacher to arrange an appointment.

Staff News

Welcome to Mrs Islam

We are extremely fortunate to have Mrs Islam join our school after Easter in Wren Class. She is a very experienced teacher and will be an asset to our school.

New Teaching Assistants

Four new Teaching Assistants have been appointed and will be joining the school after Easter term. I would like to welcome Mr Vass, Miss Prince, Mr Khan and Miss Begum.

Staff Departures

Miss Varnals will be leaving us at the end of term and we would like to thank her for all her hard work. She has been instrumental in the success and implementation of Read Write Inc at River Bank. Miss Gray will be taking over the reading leader role.

Attendance

This year the school aims to achieve at least 96 per cent attendance over the year. 96 per cent is the national average for primary aged children. Each week, individual pupils who achieve 100 per cent receive a free swimming voucher which can be used at any Active Luton swimming pool (Inspire: Luton Sports Village, Lewsey Swimming Pool and

Lea Manor Recreation Centre Pool). In addition, each class with 97 per cent or above will receive a certificate to display on their door. See below class attendance rates from September:

Ladybird	93.5%	Robin	94.2%	Dove	93.9%	Lea	96.1%
Butterfly	92.6%	Wren	94.4%	Woodpecker	93.9%	Ver	96.1%
Dragonfly	91.9%	Kingfisher	94.1%	Starling	95.2%		
Firefly	92.9%	Lark	93%				

The majority of absence at River Bank comes from frequent illnesses. We have attached guidance based on advice from the NHS. We hope this will be helpful for parents to make an informed decision about whether or not a child is well enough to be in school.

Reports for Children

Each child will be sent home with a report during the last week of term. We hope you find the information useful, but if you would like an opportunity to discuss this in more detail, please make an appointment directly with your child's class teacher.

Uniform

Please see the school website for information regarding school uniform. The general guideline is that children dress in practical uniform clothes and shoes that are comfortable and easy for them to manage. On the grounds of health and safety, we would like parents and carers to limit jewellery worn in school to stud earrings.

The school has clear views on suitable haircuts and hair colours. Pupils should not have bleached streaks in hair, tram lines or other patterns cut into hair. Girls should not have extravagant decorations in their hair and hair bands should be plain and in a simple colour. Long hair should be tied up.

Trainers are NOT permitted as part of the school uniform and should only be brought to school for use in PE and after school activities. Boots may be worn to and from school in bad weather but must be changed before the start of the school day. Children should wear socks with shoes.

World book day – 2nd March

For World Book Day the children and staff dressed as characters for their favourite books. We had a number of Goldilocks a lot of super heroes and some excellent princesses. We clearly have some very talented and creative parents. To mark the day we had a special assembly lead by Mary Poppins, with Burglar Bill, scare crows and the three blind mice accompanying the children. We hope that you have been able to spend your book vouchers.



Sleep

There are some very tired children in school at the moment. Please make sure that your children are getting the recommended amount of sleep each night and are catching up where necessary at the weekends. The NHS recommends that children between the ages of 5 and 8 years old have a minimum of between 10 and 12 hours' sleep.

The key to knowing if your child needs more sleep is how easily they wake up in the morning.

Young children who are not getting enough sleep behave differently to adults. Tired children can be overactive, seek constant stimulation and don't concentrate well. This has an impact on their ability to learn. In fact, such symptoms can be mistaken for mild [ADHD \(attention deficit hyperactivity disorder\)](#).

If your child has trouble sleeping and you would like advice please contact our family workers.

For more information go to 'The Sleep Foundation' <https://sleepfoundation.org/>

Exciting News....

School Library Support

Our school is very fortunate to be working with a Linda Hayes (a specialist librarian) who is part of The National Literacy Trust who will be developing our school's library. We will also be working with a local author soon and there will be opportunities for our children to take part in a range of workshops. .

EYFS Outdoor Learning Space

During the February school holiday, we had our own school pond built along with lots of other outdoor furniture to support the learning environment.



Online School Meal Ordering system

Parents and guardians of children in EYFS and Year 1 will shortly be contacted about registering for our online meal ordering system. This system improves the efficiency of ordering school meals and is already used in Year 2.