



NEWSLETTER: October 2016

Dear Parents/ Carers,

We have continued to have a very successful start to this academic year and I have been very impressed with the children's behaviour and their attitudes to learning.

'Meet the Teacher' were very well attended by parents and it was clear that you found these meetings helpful. Parent consultations are being held on 2nd and 3rd November. In addition, the school website is also a useful place to find information and I would therefore urge you all to look at:

www.riverbankprimary.org

We will be shortly launching our new school website next year, please give us feedback about what else we could put on the website to help you out.

Kind regards

Mrs Reay - Headteacher

Clubs

Club letters have been handed out at the start of this week so it essential that you return them in order to guarantee a place. You will receive confirmation if your child has successfully been allocated a place.

Attendance

Whilst there had been some small improvements in attendance last year, attendance continues to be a major concern for the school. Overall, the school achieved 93.4% for the academic year 2015-2016.

This year the school aims to achieve at least 96% attendance across the year. Each week, individual pupils who achieve 100% attendance receive a swimming voucher which can be used at any Active Luton swimming pool site. In addition, each class with 97% or above receive a certificate to proudly display on their door. The class with the best attendance get to keep the attendance bears, which the children enjoy having.

We have broken down (see information below) the attendance for each class over this half-term. As you will see some classes have achieved this, but others have not. Sometimes there are genuine reasons for absence, but it is noticeable that some pupils continue to take time off regularly; this is known as persistent absence. The Educational Welfare Officer from Luton Borough Council has or will be in contact with families where it is clear that attendance is poor. If you are experiencing difficulties and need help to improve your child's attendance, it is imperative to come and tell us so we can work together. Mrs Ahmed, the school's Family Worker, is very experienced and will work with you to improve your child's attendance.

Class Attendance to date:

Ladybird	96%	Robin	93.1%	Dove	95%	Lea	95.5%
Butterfly	96%	Wren	97%	Woodpecker	95.4%	Ver	97.5%
Dragonfly	96.4%	Kingfisher	91.2%	Starling	97%		
Firefly	91.25	Lark	95.5%				

Free School Meals Funding for individuals

If you think that you may be entitled to additional funding for your child in school, regardless of whether they are in receipt of the Universal Infant Free School Meals, please look on our school website or speak to the office or Family Worker, Mrs Ahmed, about how to apply. If you are entitled to free school meals there is a sum of money sent to schools to enhance your child's learning. Don't miss out – please investigate today!

EYFS

This half term pupils in EYFS have been focusing on 'Me, my school and all things cool', learning about feelings, being kind and the schools golden rules.

Parent Maths and Phonics workshops

To enable parents to support their child's learning we will be holding a Maths and a Phonics Workshop for EYFS parents. Details of dates and times will be sent out when we return from the half term holiday.

Year 1

During this half term Year 1 visited Wardown Park to observe seasonal changes.

We have been focusing on 'It's super to be me!' Getting to know each other and what every day super heroes look like.

Year 2

This half term the children in Year 2 have been learning about the Great Fire of London. They had a visit from Samuel Pepys at the beginning of the term (Perform for Schools) who described his own experience of the great fire.

Harvest Festival

On the 10th October the school was treated to a wondrous Harvest assembly by Reverend Thomas of St Michael's Church Luton. The assembly was all about the food we eat and where it all comes from. Our pupils learnt how to appreciate all the work that goes into ensuring that we have food on our plate. We then finished off the assembly with a lovely song in which we thanked everyone from the farmers to our parents and shopkeepers. In the build-up to the assembly the children had collected lots of lovely food which was then given to Luton Foodbank who distribute the goods to those less fortunate than ourselves. It feels so nice to help others. Thanks to all those that donated the lovely items. It was much appreciated.

Roald Dahl Day

To continue with our aspiration of having a school of enthusiastic readers, we all had a fantastic time celebrating Roald Dahl's 90th Birthday! Well done to all the parents who were creative with their child and made their own outfits. It was outstanding to see so many children dressed up for this momentous occasion. Thank you to all parents for your support. In addition children enjoyed learning about a Roald Dahl book and making a collaborative display to celebrate this day. The large display in the hall is rather breath taking and has been admired by many visitors. Why not delve into a Roald Dahl book this half term with your child!

Dates for the term:

Monday 31st October – Pupils return to school

Tuesday 25th – 27th October – Active Luton 3 Day Multi Sports £5 per day. call 01582 400272 or email info@activeluton.co.uk to book a place.

31st October – Parent Course every Monday – see our Family Worker for more details

2nd November – Parent Consultations

3rd November – Parent Consultations

4th November – EYFS trip to see The Very Hungry Caterpillar at Luton Library Theatre

8th November – Flying Start Coffee morning – further details to follow

14th -18th November – Anti Bullying Week – further details to follow from Mr Brennan

18th November – Children in Need - further details to follow.

17th November – Road Safety Assembly for pupils by Denbigh Primary School

23rd November – Online safety workshop for parents – further details to follow from Mr Brennan

December - School Christmas productions – dates to be confirmed.