St. Lawrence C.E. (Controlled) Primary School

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6th September 2024

Dear Parents,

Welcome back

We hope you have had a lovely summer holiday and are ready for an exciting Autumn term. It has been such a joy to see all the children and staff back together this week. The children look so smart and have come back excited and happy which is wonderful to see.

Welcome to our new families

We are thrilled that we have a number of new families joining classes across the school. You are very welcome and we hope you feel settled and part of our school family very soon. We also welcome our brand new Willow Class and their families. They have been amazing this week and we look forward to them being full time from Monday.

Communication

We know that communication is absolutely key for maintaining successful relationships across our school community and are very keen to ensure that we continue this. These are the ways in which we communicate:

- **Text messages on School App** – please make sure that you have downloaded the app in order to be able to receive all messages. Please make sure you have set your phone to receive notifications of new messages. It was very unfortunate that there have been technological issues this week, but hopefully this will not happen again.
- **Emails** – teachers and the school office can reply to messages easily using this method. Please send to adminoffice@st-lawrence.hants.sch.uk
- **Newsletters** - will be sent out fortnightly and will be emailed and printed out for those that wish to receive the newsletter as a hard copy.
- **Website** – newsletters are uploaded as well as dates on the calendar
- **Separate letters** – if there is a letter that requires a response, these will be sent out rather than just emailed. These will include letters about school trips. We must have your written permission for your child to attend a trip.
- **Notice board** – copies of dates, newsletters and PTA events will be put up on our outside noticeboard.

If you wish to have the newsletters emailed to you and not printed out, please can you email or ring the school office to notify them of this. In order to save paper, we will be printing out one copy for families.

Alongside our newsletter that we send out fortnightly, we will continue to provide a list of important dates for the academic year. If new dates arise or are altered in some way, they will be marked in red so that they are clear.

Please can you make sure that we have your most up to date mobile phone number so that you receive all messages sent. We hope that you understand that if we have missed something or you have not received a text, this is not deliberate and we will endeavour to put things right as soon as possible.

Please do continue to email or ring the school office about any queries, to share information with the class teacher or for any other important issues rather than coming into school first thing in the morning. In addition to this, we have found that messages can be passed on easily to one of our TAs who supervise the children coming into school in the morning. This makes for a much more settled start to the school day and we have found the children to be much more independent coming in from the school gate.

Attendance and punctuality

Attendance is becoming much more of a focus during this academic year with the government producing updated guidance for schools to follow. We are currently waiting for a new attendance policy to be sent from Hampshire County Council which will take into account this new guidance but we are going to need to be looking at issuing Notice to improve or Penalty notices for cases where the government threshold is met. This not only includes holidays in term time but also includes children being late to school (after registers close at 9.15am).

Every day counts….

100% attendance	0 days missed	No learning missed!
97% attendance	5 days missed	A week of learning missed
94% attendance	12 days missed	2 weeks and 2 days learning missed
90% attendance	19 days missed	3 weeks and 4 days learning missed
85 % attendance	30 days missed	6 weeks of learning missed
80% attendance	40 days missed	8 weeks of learning missed

Every minute counts…

Always on time!	No hours missed!	No learning missed!
5 minutes late each day	15 hours missed	3 days learning missed
10 minutes late every day	32 hours missed	6.5 days learning missed
20 minutes late each day	65 hours missed	13 days learning missed
30 minutes late each day	95 hours missed	19 days learning missed

We want to work with you and so when we have discussed the policy and guidance, we will share this with you. If there are any worries or concerns you have about your child's attendance, please do come and have a chat with me. We will continue to send out Arbor attendance records termly and contact you if your child's attendance dips below 96%.

This is also a useful link from the NHS: https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/

Year 6 pupils – applications to secondary school

Applications for Year 7 will open on 9th September 2024. The deadline for applications is **31st October 2024.** Please see this link for extra information:
School admissions | Education and learning | Hampshire County Council (hants.gov.uk)

Volunteers

Thank you to those of you who over the years have volunteered on school trips, heard readers and helped us in a voluntary capacity. If you would like to come in and help at school or are able to volunteer for different trips we have planned throughout the year, please can you contact Mrs Lintott in the school office. She will send you a DBS form for you to complete and then as soon as we have the form checked, we can add you to our list. We would love to see you.

Family Time

You will see from the list of dates that we have organised Family Time to be on different days throughout the year. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to come into school and spend some time with your children.

PE for Autumn 1 term (up to October half term)

PE is taught every week and will start on Monday 9th. Please can children come to school in their PE kit on their PE day. Below is a reminder of your child's PE day for this first half term. We may have to change your child's PE day after a half term to accommodate a coach who will be supporting with specified PE lessons. However, we will make sure you are informed each half term of any changes. An additional letter about swimming for Year 5 has been sent out.

CLASS	DAY
Year R – Willow	Tuesday (starting from 1st October)
Year 1 – Oak	Wednesday
Year 2 – Larch	Monday
Year 3 – Beech	Thursday
Year 4 – Maple	Monday
Year 5 – Sycamore	Friday (swimming)
Year 6 - Hawthorn	Tuesday

Thursday Collective Worships

Every Thursday, all our children walk across to St Lawrence Church for a Collective Worship 9.00-9.30am. We have a growing number of parents joining us which is really lovely. If you are free and want to pop along, you would be very welcome.

School uniform

Just to remind you of the uniform requirements:

- grey trousers, skirt or pinafore dress
- white shirt or polo shirt
- white, grey or black socks
- black shoes, not trainers
- grey or black tights
- maroon sweatshirt or cardigan with the school logo
- **PE kit**: school house colour polo shirt or t shirt, plain black tracksuit bottoms/leggings (black shorts for summer), plimsolls or trainers and a plain black hoodie or school jumper.
- No jewellery (only stud earrings and taped over for PE lessons for safety)
- Long hair tied back at all times

Mobile phones

Please can any child that brings a mobile phone to school for walking home, leave it in the school office and collect it on the way to the gate each day. Thank you.

Seesaw

We will continue to use Seesaw as our hub for home learning. In the next few weeks, we will be uploading knowledge organisers for topics, spelling lists, times tables and reminding you of passwords for Numbots (KS1), Times Tables Rock Stars (KS2) and Read Theory. We want you to focus on the basics at home (reading every day, number bonds to 10 and 20, times tables) so that the foundations are in place for what the children learn in class.

Library Summer Reading Challenge

A message from Alton Library: 7th September is the last day to complete the reading challenge.

Alton Arts Festival Street Stories Art Trail

Congratulations to Aidan Quinnell (one of our Year 4 pupils) who won the People's Choice 1st Prize (for under 16s). He was given a certificate and a very generous prize of £30 in art supply vouchers, which he spent on a junior block printing kit. Aidan's sister Aisling, who is in year 1, created a 'Peter Rabbit' themed window and also received a certificate for participation. Well done both of you! 😊 We are really proud to hear of the achievements of our children.

Parent/school links group

We are going to pause our parent support group which used to meet on a Wednesday 2-3pm at St Lawrence Church with Mrs Kellie and Mrs Graham. We will be relaunching our group and will share more details with you in the near future. In the meantime, if there is any support you would like, please do contact the school office and they will be able to put you in touch with a member of staff who will be happy to help.

Relationships

I firmly believe that relationships and communication are the key to a happy school and so I want to reiterate that I am really happy to talk things through or answer any questions you may have at any time. No issue is too small and I will continue to be on the gate as much as I can to chat to you and answer any questions you may have.

To finish with, I hope you like our own little bit of joy at school seeing our wonderful sunflowers grow! Can you spot the bee?!







Yours sincerely,

Mrs Fiona Micklefield
Headteacher