



Welcome back to the new school year. We are really pleased to see everyone back in school and to welcome our Reception pupils, as well as some new members of staff. We have twelve new children in Kingfisher Class, as well as Tristan and Grace, who have started in Starlings class, and they have all settled in well this week. The pupils have told us all about their summer break and have settled back down to learning with great enthusiasm. I have walked around the school a few times and all children have been on task, learning and behaving with fantastic attitudes. We also have two new members of staff to the team, with Miss Vicky Isaac now teaching our Swallow Class and Mrs Ellis Ralph working as a teaching assistant, mainly in Starling Class.

We also have a new staffing structure for this year following the departure of several staff members at the end of last year. I will continue in my role as Executive Headteacher, in which I am responsible for leading three primary schools in the Trust. I am usually at Leigh two or three days a week and am planning to be here every Wednesday, as well as half days on Mondays and Fridays. Mrs Smith and Mrs Ball have taken on the role of co-school leaders this year and will be responsible for many of the day-to-day operational tasks of the school. Mrs Smith will be in the office on Mondays and Tuesday morning, with Mrs Ball in the office on Thursday afternoon and all day Friday. They will be the first point of contact for parents, should you have any issues that need resolving, or you can speak to our new office manager, Mrs Katie Payne, who has taken on the full time role. Of course, you can still contact me directly or ask for matters to be passed on to me. We will also have someone out on the gate every morning to welcome you. Our contact details are below:

Executive Headteacher: Mr Dan Turull - dturull@msnpartnership.com
Co-School Leaders: Mrs Gemma Smith - gsmith@leighonmendipschool.co.uk
Mrs Michelle Ball - mball@leighonmendipschool.co.uk
Office Manager: Mrs Katie Payne - office@leighonmendipschool.co.uk

We are aware that there may have been some issues with communication at the beginning of the week. All class teachers sent out information through Seesaw on Monday, with more information to come today by email (from our Teachers 2Parents system). However, there were some syncing issues on our system that may have meant the information was not received by all parents, so apologies if this happened to you. As a reminder you will receive specific information by email, regular updates on your child's learning (e.g. photos) on Seesaw and a weekly newsletter each Friday, with key information on. There were also some problems with dinner orders, for which we can only apologise on behalf of ParentPay; these should now all be sorted but please let us know if you are still having any issues.

The beginning of term is a good time to focus on school uniform and while the majority of our children have returned looking very smart in the correct uniform, there were a few children who were wearing alternative clothes, especially on a P.E. day. Please refer to the website link [here](#) for what your child should be wearing to school.

You may have read that there is a national and Trust drive to improve attendance in schools this year. Last year at Leigh on Mendip we averaged just over 95%, with time-term holidays adversely impacting this figure; this year the aim for all schools is to reach 97%. There are a few changes coming into place nationally including a rise in the fines for parents who take their children out of school, potentially leading to criminal prosecution over the course of three years. As a result, we are unable to authorise any holidays in term time and please ask that you avoid booking time away when your child should be in school. You will see more about this in the weeks to come from us and also the Trust.

We are all looking forward to working with you - and of course your children - this year and despite the wet start to the year, are full of optimism of what everyone can achieve in the year ahead.



Diary Dates

September

Tuesday 24th Flu immunisation for all years

October

Tuesday 8th Visual screening for year 1 children

Wednesday 9th Harvest Festival in St Giles' Church

Friday 18th Individual & sibling photographs

Friday 25th
INSET DAY
End of Term 1

November

Monday 4th **Start of Term 2**

Wednesday 6th Parents' Evening - more information to follow TBC

Wednesday 13th Open Morning - Time to be confirmed

Wednesday 27th **INSET DAY - NEW DATE**

December

Thursday 12th Christmas jumper day

Friday 13th Whole School pantomime trip

Friday 20th **End of Term 2**

Notices

• A reminder of our weekly club schedule to begin next week

- Monday PM Violin lesson for Goldfinch Class.
After school Sports Club, Construction Club
- Tuesday AM Breakfast Club

PE for all children with Mr Groves - PE kits to school (other PE times to follow)

- Wednesday After school Arts and Crafts Club
AM Breakfast Club
After school 'Sunflower Club' with Mr Groves
- Thursday AM Breakfast Club
Lunchtime KS1 Recorder Club
PM Goldfinch & Swallow Class swimming
After school Eco Club
- Friday Lunchtime KS2 Recorder Club

- **Data Collection and school permissions** - Next week, we will be sending data collection sheets home to ensure that we hold all correct contact details. We will also be sending a Google Form to digitally obtain up to date photograph, IT and external visit permissions for your child.
- **Flu Vaccinations** - Please check your emails and return the flu vaccination consent form.
- **Inset Day** - The Trust have issued an additional inset day. Please note that **Wednesday 27th November** will now be an inset day.
- **School Lunches** - As a reminder, school lunches are bookable via Parent Pay. These should be book by midnight every Thursday to secure school lunches for the following week.
- **Vision Testing** - All year 1 children will now have brought home a consent form for an upcoming vision test. Please return this to the office if consent is NOT given.



News from the Classrooms



We have had a fun week welcoming the children back into school. We have been learning the names of our new children and making new friends. The children have spoken about their summer break, planted flowers in the garden, and enjoyed a 'Colour Monster' painting activity to explore different emotions.



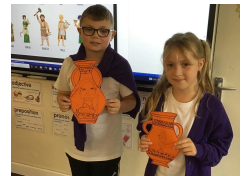
On the first week of term, we welcomed our new friends in the Reception year. We had fun with lots of team-building activities. We have also started our new History topic- Mary Anning and the dinosaur fossils.



In Starlings, this week in maths we have been revising the tricky concept of time! We have used the clock faces to make the o'clock, half past, quarter past and quarter to times. We have also looked at times earlier or later by an hour or half an hour, for example "My cake takes 1 hour to cook. I take it out of the oven at 6 o'clock, what time did I put it in?"



This week Goldfinch Class started their topic on Ancient Greece. We spent some time researching Greek pottery designs and then created our own Greek vase to display in the classroom.



Swallows have had a fantastic first week. We've started our science topic on the circulatory system learning all about arteries and veins and we've begun our computing topic looking at search engines and how to use them effectively.

