



Welcome Back

We all hope you had an enjoyable and restful Christmas break. The children have returned to school with enthusiasm and have settled really well back into their learning. They have also got to grips with the new lunch system and hopefully the move from ParentPay to SchoolGrid and Arbor has gone smoothly for all of you as well.

School Uniform

While the majority of our pupils are coming to school every day in the correct school uniform, a reminder that this also applies to PE days. Children should be wearing a white t-shirt, black or navy joggers or shorts and trainers on these days, as well as a school jumper or cardigan. Thank you for your support with this.

Doodle English

Previously we reminded you that we now have access to DoodleEnglish alongside our DoodleMaths and DoodleTables accounts. The icons (add, times, speech bubble and pencil) allow you to switch between the programmes. This week, the class teachers have reset the children's baselines to ensure that their algorithms are at the correct level for them. Please ensure that if you are working with your children whilst they are doodling at home that you do not answer questions for them as this has an effect on their algorithm. Of course you can support the children through explaining how to work the question out but it is then a good idea to add it to their 'tricky question' so that it gets revisited again in the near future. Keep doodling at home as *'Earning just 7 stars a day results in an average increase of a 1.3 in DoodleAge a year.'* Remember the aim is that each child is in their green zone each week!

Tree Removal

It was only a few weeks ago that some of the staff were discussing the pros and cons of the huge lime tree on our field. As it happened, we then had a tree survey on the Monday after we broke up for Christmas, where they identified a huge split down the middle of the trunk. This meant that the tree needed to be removed urgently and over the last two days a team has come in to cut it down. Many of the children in Kingfisher and Starling classes have been watching this process with much interest out of their classroom window! While this means there will be less shade on the field, it will hopefully allow for better growth for the grass as we enter spring and summer.

Mr Turull

INTERNET SAFETY TALK FOR PARENTS- WEDNESDAY 14th JANUARY 6.30PM - 7.30PM

We'd like to invite you to a parents' evening *"It is never going to happen to my child... ?"* which aims to raise awareness of Child Exploitation, use of social media apps and gaming. The session will be run by Andri Nicolaou from Avon and Somerset Constabulary.

Content:

- Overview of online risks (gaming and social media).
- Exploitation of children online / offline.
- Top tips on starting a conversation with your child about exploitation/grooming and how to work together to use the internet safely.

[click here for microsoft teams link](#)

Useful Contacts

Office - office@leighonmendip.mnsp.org.uk

SENCO - Gemma Smith - senco@leighonmendip.mnsp.org.uk

Leadership - mball@leighonmendip.mnsp.org.uk or gsmith@leighonmendip.mnsp.org.uk



Notices

School Grid - Our new lunch system is now up and running well. Please can we remind parents that dinner orders for the next week should be placed as normal by midnight on a Thursday through your School Grid account. We have been made aware of a number of parents who have still ordered through Parent Pay. Please be reminded that ParentPay should no longer be used.

PGL Residential Trip - Payments towards your PGL residential can now be made via your Arbor account. You can choose to pay in instalments or in full. Full payment is required by 1st July 2026.

Clubs - Unfortunately we have not had enough children sign up to our after school Dance Umbrella Club, this will be changed to Games Club. Please let me know if your child no longer wishes to be a part of this club.

Our new Dance Umbrella Club will be held on Tuesday lunchtime. This is open to children in key stage two as they prepare for the dance performance at The Forum, Bath. Please sign up through Arbor or let the office know.

Illness - As we head into colder months, It can be tricky deciding whether or not to keep your child off school or preschool. This NHS guide helps with several common illnesses:
www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school

Diary Dates

January

Monday 12th	Violin Lessons to Begin
Thursday 15th	Application Deadline for Reception 2026 Intake.
Friday 16th	Music 4 Schools Lessons to Begin

February

Friday 13th	End of Term 3
Monday 23rd	Start of Term 4

March

Thursday 6th	World Book Day
Monday 23rd	Dance Umbrella Performance - Bath Forum

April

Thursday 2nd	Goldfinch Class Final Swimming Lesson
Thursday 2nd	End of Term 4
Monday 20th	Start of Term 5
Wednesday 22nd	Field to Food Trip - Bath and West Showground
Thursday 23rd	Starling Class to Begin Weekly Swimming Lessons
Thursday 30th	Kingfisher and Starling Class Trip TBC

Top Doodlers

Doodle Maths

Kingfishers - Oliver & Oriana
Starlings - Dylan & Nancy
Goldfinches - Kian & Amelia
Swallows - Caitlin & Sophia

Top Doodlers - Goldfinches

Doodle Tables

Swallows - Flo

Stars of the Week

Kingfishers - Oscar
Starlings - Violet
Goldfinches - Kian
Swallows - Flo L

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News from the Classrooms



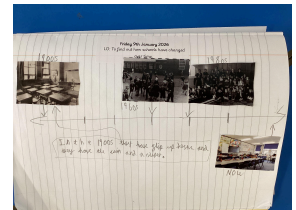
In Robins this week we are talking about Winter. The children have enjoyed playing in the airport role play area and flying the plane to go on their winter holidays to ski in the snow.



It has been a wonderful start to the term for the Kingfishers! We've hit the ground running with our daily phonics, and it is lovely to see the children's progress. In Maths, Reception have become "mini-experts" in mass and capacity, learning all the right words to describe their discoveries. Year one are working hard on calculating up to 20. We've also dived into the wonders of the human body and are having a great time finding our rhythm with a new body percussion dance!



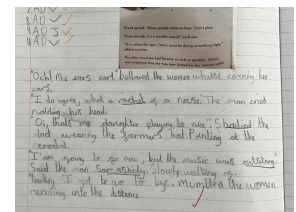
In Starlings, as we begin our history unit, we have been looking at school photographs from the past. The children will be looking at how times and education has changed over the years, if there are any similarities to today and whether there are any elements of past schooling that the children would prefer. It would be great if your child could talk to you and maybe grandparents about their school experiences.



Goldfinch Class had a great time this week during their first swimming lesson. The class began building water confidence and getting used to the pool environment. The children all listened to their instructors and gave it their best effort. It was a fantastic start to our swimming journey and we are already looking forward to seeing their skills progress in the coming weeks.



In Swallows this week, we have been working on a new book in English, called Ossiri and the Bala Mengro. It's a great book and we are using it to help us write dialogue and speech. We have been looking at writing both formal and informal speech and focusing on the difference between the two - some of the children's writing has been hilarious!



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