

Leigh on Mendip School

Newsletter 24 - 1st April 2021



Although it still seems a long way away, we are busy planning for the next academic year and wanted to keep you informed of everything that is happening. It continues to be very exciting times for the school as we complete our journey to being a complete primary school.

The planning documents have now been approved to extend the main building. This means three major changes: extending and converting the current Swallows classroom into two separate classrooms; putting new offices in front of where the staff room is currently and knocking down the current offices and photocopier area so that we have a much larger school hall. These are very significant developments to improve the current situation. Having a much larger hall will be essential not only for increased numbers at lunchtime, but also for children in older classes taking part in indoor PE sessions.

We have also been looking at staffing for September and on Thursday last week, held interviews for a teacher to teach at the top end of Key Stage 2. We were lucky to receive many applications and had three very good candidates with us on the day, all of whom had much to offer the school. We made the decision to appoint Miss Christie Foote, a teacher with considerable experience of small schools and mixed-age teaching and of the role of Special Educational Needs co-ordinator. She is also a maths specialist and enthused the children in Swallows Class with a fantastic writing lesson based on the rainforest. We will of course introduce her to you all at some point in the summer term and invite her in for transition sessions. We know that both the children in Swallow class and the school council really enjoyed meeting her.

The Governors and Senior Leadership Team have looked at the structure of classes for next year and also completed a staffing review. As a result, we will be expecting 15 children into a Reception class; they will be taught by Mrs Paula Layland, who many of you know very well! Mrs Layland qualified as a teacher several years ago and this is the ideal time for her to move up into the Reception class for the year with many of the pupils very familiar to her from Robins preschool. Ms Stafford will be keeping her current class of 20 pupils as they move up to Year 1. This seemed like the best solution, especially given that for many of them a couple of months of school time were lost during lockdown. Ms Stafford has built up excellent relationships with these pupils and their parents which will continue to develop next year. Mrs Smith and Mrs Phillips will be teaching our class of 23 Year 2 and 3 children (the current Starling class) who will be based in the main building of the school in one of the new classroom areas. Mrs Smith will continue to teach three days a week, with Mrs Phillips in class on Monday and Tuesday. Miss Foote will therefore be teaching our 25 Pupils in Years 4, 5 and 6.

All of this means we will sadly be saying farewell to Mrs Bache. After working with us as a PGCE student last year, she will have completed her NQT (newly-qualified teacher) year and have the opportunity to look for other teaching jobs. We will obviously be working with her for several more months until the end of the summer term, but would like at this point to express our gratitude for all her hard work in what has undoubtedly been one of the hardest years of teaching. I know the children, staff and parents will miss her considerably when she leaves.

As Mrs Paula Layland will be teaching the reception year we will be recruiting a new member of staff to oversee the Robins preschool alongside Chris Macey and Sarah Middle. We will be looking at making this appointment later on in the summer term.

Leigh on Mendip School

Newsletter 24 - 1st April 2021



Clubs

Many of you will have been emailed about proposed clubs in the summer term. We can confirm clubs will start on the week beginning 26th April and will include the following

- Monday - Sports club (Kingfishers and Starlings) 3.15 - 4.15pm
- Tuesday - Sunflower (Kingfishers and Starlings) 3.15 - 4.15pm
- Wednesday - ElliArt Art Club (Swallows) 3.15 - 4.30pm
- Thursday - ElliArt Art Club (Kingfishers and Starlings) 3.15 - 4.30pm (FULL)
- Friday - Yoga (Starlings) 3.15 - 4.15pm

Please note that all clubs cost £4 apart from ElliArt which is £5 and finishes at the later time of 4.30pm.

Lastly, I would just like to wish you a safe and happy Easter holiday. I look forward to seeing you all at the start of the summer term, on Monday 19th April.

Mrs Phillips

Mr Turull

Diary Dates

April

Mon 19th

Start of term 5 (all classes need to wear PE kit.)

Easter Egg Hunt

Thank you to FOLS who organised an Easter Egg Hunt today. All children had fun this afternoon searching the school grounds and we're thrilled to receive a chocolate egg at the end!



Sunflower competition



Would you like to take part in our Sunflower growing competition?
£1 for a pack of seeds.

Prizes for the tallest plant, widest flower
and most unusual!

More details to follow...

