Leigh on Mendip School Nurturing Curious Minds

Newsletter 8 - 3rd November 2023



Thank you to all parents who attended the Parents Consultations this week. It was lovely to see so many of you and we were pleased to see that our trial of Robins' Parents sessions was also a success with many parents coming to see Mrs Layland and their child's key worker. If you were unable to attend please contact your child's teacher to arrange an alternative time.

We are thrilled to announce that we are planning on taking the whole school to the Pantomime 'Peter Pan' at the Bristol Hippodrome on the 15th December. As last year FOLS have kindly agreed to subsidise this event. Further details will be in a letter next week.

We are experiencing low take up on some clubs run by IG sports and this has unfortunately meant that Mr Groves has had to cancel the club on Mondays. Please can we remind you to book after school clubs for your child via www.iqsportscoaching.co.uk if you would like them to stay for Arts and Crafts Club on a Tuesday, Christmas Club on a Wednesday and Lego, Knex and Board Games Club on a Thursday. The numbers for Tuesdays and Thursdays are also very low and are in danger of being cancelled from the 10th November. Wednesday's Christmas Club will definitely be running until the end of the term. We know that after school clubs are important to parents, but we really do need them to be supported as we cannot afford to run clubs for just a few children.

There have been an increasing number of holiday requests so we would like to clarify the Government guidelines on holidays in term time. Please see the extracts from the Department for Education below:

Where parents decide to have their child registered at school, they have an additional legal duty to ensure their child attends that school regularly. This means their child must attend every day that the school is open, except in a small number of allowable circumstances such as being too ill to attend or being given permission for an absence in advance from the school.

As head teachers should only grant leaves of absence in exceptional circumstances it is unlikely a leave of absence will be granted for the purposes of a family holiday.

These rules apply to all children at school regardless of age, although obviously not to the children in our preschool. Please do not expect any holiday request to be granted unless there are very exceptional circumstances, and we are now obliged to report unauthorised holiday absences to Somerset County Council, who may issue parents with a penalty notice.

Finally, it is our annual school Open Day for prospective parents next Wednesday afternoon from 1:30pm. If you know of anyone who has preschool children ready to start school, please signpost them to our event.

Mrs Phillips Mr Turull

Some photos of Halloween dress up day organised by FOLS







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News from the Classrooms



We've been enjoying Halloween and fireworks this week, we carved a pumpkin and made some lovely pictures of fireworks.





This week children in Kingfishers learned about Traditional British Celebrations and how to be safe during Bonfire night. In phonics we have reviewed all the sounds learned so far and continued to practise blending.





Today it has been so lovely to welcome so many different characters into the Starling classroom!! For a little treat instead of PE we followed some Halloween dances, it was very spooky!!





In History this week, Goldfinch Class have been learning about the Iron Age and how the settlements evolved from the Bronze Age. They drew pictures of an Iron Age Hillfort and then labelled this carefully. They were very interested to find out how the Celts defended themselves in these forts!





Swallows have had a great week working on persuasive letters and considering prejudice. We have also been investigating space, starting with exploring the distance between and the sizes of each planet.



Diary Dates

November

Wednesday 8th Open Day 1.30pm - 3pm

Thursday 16th Rags 2 Riches collection organised by FOLS

Friday 17th Children in Need

Wednesday 22nd Goldfinches trip to Liberty Gymnastics

<u>December</u>

Friday 1st Cake sale

Friday 8th Christmas Tree Sale 3pm - 4.30pm

Saturday 9th Christmas Tree Sale and Fayre 10am - 2pm

Monday 11th Violin performance to parents of children in Goldfinches 2.45pm TBC

Friday 15th Whole School pantomime trip to Bristol Hippodrome Monday 18th Kingfisher/Starlings Nativity performance to parents

Tuesday 19th End of Term 2