



Leckhamptonbulletin

C of E Primary School



Dear Parents

As we reach the mid-point in the academic year, I thought it might be useful to update families on some of the projects we have been working on in school and developments so far.

For those who attended the launch of our new Leckhampton Curriculum in October 2018, you will know how excited the senior team were to get started on the new programmes of study for each Year group. Whilst getting to grips with the changes has required considerable work, we are delighted with the feedback from the children and staff on how much they are enjoying the things they are studying in lessons. As part of our curriculum review, we are looking closely at our curriculum in Maths and English. Whilst the statutory National Curriculum sets out clearly what children should learn, we want to be able to deliver the content in an exciting, relevant and inspiring way, which allows all children to reach their potential. This is not to say that this doesn't already happen here at Leckhampton, we just want it to be even better. We are currently developing a new English curriculum and a Maths curriculum which is based on the Mastery approach. In the Summer term, there will be an opportunity for you to hear more about these curriculum areas, the developments and what this means for your child.

As part of our curriculum review, we are also developing a bespoke Personal, Social, Health and Economic programme of study which is designed to provide children with the skills and knowledge needed for them to live a healthy and hopefully very happy life. The units of work will also develop the children's understanding of equality and diversity and the difference they can make to the world in which they live.

The school is currently a member of the Challenge Partners Network of Excellence. Participation in this group supports the continued professional development for the Leadership Team through working collaboratively with other schools nationally. All members of the senior leadership team and one of our middle leaders have had the opportunity to review a school in another part of the country which involves a thorough evaluation of another's school performance by identifying what is working well and where aspects of the school could be even better. In response Leckhampton will have its own review during this term and we look forward to sharing the outcomes with parents in due course. As part of the project, we will be welcoming children and staff from Bengeworth Primary Academy School this week who will be undertaking learning walks with members of our Curriculum and Learning Ministry to gain an understanding of "what works well" in our school and "even better ifs". The children will then feedback their finding to the Leadership Team here at Leckhampton. We look forward to hearing what they think!

The school is currently finalising its Feedback Policy which we hope to share with you soon. As you know we have been trialling different ways of working recently which has supported us in developing a feedback policy which clearly evaluates pupils' work whilst giving them clear direction on what they need to do to improve or by addressing misconceptions as quickly as possible. This policy has been in draft for some time and we are continually tweaking it to make sure it's absolutely right for the children and their learning. Again, we look forward to sharing this with you soon.

The Senior Leadership Team spent the penultimate two weeks of term observing in lessons and evaluating the quality of teaching, learning and assessment in our school. We also looked at pupil's books to ensure that work is of the highest standard. This is something which is routinely done in our school to ensure that the children receive the very best we can offer.

Mrs Ross and the team in Reception are also reviewing their curriculum and the way in which children have access to activities which enhance and deepen learning. It was lovely to hear comments from parents when they walked into Oak Class and saw the astronaut during Open Morning; this is exactly the reaction we want!

As you can see, a huge amount is happening and this is just a snapshot. As always, we want the very best for our amazing children and I hope the above goes some way to demonstrating our continued commitment to this aim.

Expansion Update

One of the main concerns which was highlighted by parents during the last drop in session was the smell which lingers by the Key Stage 1 toilets and whether something could be done about this as part of the project. Although not initially part of the project, the team have made a commitment to resolving this issue once and for all! Despite ongoing investigations into where the smell comes from and subsequent works to address this, we feel that more intrusive work needs to be undertaken to address the problem associated with the system in this part of the school.

We have also addressed the leaks in the Key Stage 1 girls' toilets by replacing cisterns and valves. In the short term are also looking to add additional lighting as the cubicles at the end are much darker. We are aiming to fully refurbish both toilet blocks as soon as possible in order to provide more modern and comfortable facilities for the children. As part of the feedback, staff also highlighted the need for an increased number of toilets and better distribution for year groups which has been addressed.

The Travel Plan is in its final stages of development and will be shared with representatives from all stakeholder groups soon. This plan outlines the school's commitment to making it safe for everyone to travel to and from school and incorporates ideas and feedback from parents, staff and children. As expected, the primary concern from parents was the issue around drivers mounting kerbs and sadly the verbal abuse some parents have faced when challenging inconsiderate parking. As a result, I have contacted our PCSO team who will be undertaking routine patrols here at Leckhampton as part of a wider strategy to tackle this problem.

Please do continue to keep an eye on Twitter and the website for updates on wider school life.

Best Wishes
Sam Porter



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