LEIGH NEWS

News No 26 www.leighprimaryschool.com 01732 832660 Friday 15th November 2013

PESE 2014

If your child is currently in Year 5 then please be advised that there are plans to change the 11+ tests next year. The following information is available on the Kent Website and I have posted a link for you to follow should you wish to find out more. Please note that we have not been given any more information from KCC at the moment. Teachers at Parents' Evening will have no more information than is on the website or what is posted below!

http://www.kent.gov.uk/news_and_events/news.aspx

The contract for the county's Kent Test (11+) for September 2014 has been awarded to GL Assessment. GL Assessment has provided the county's Kent Test papers for many years, but the new contract will introduce some changes intended to deliver a more sophisticated assessment process while reducing the burden of testing for primary schools and children. Discussions with the test providers will begin shortly to determine the finer details of the new process, however the main elements are:

1. *Children will not be expected to take separate practice papers – instead, practice exercises will be incorporated into the main papers.*
2. *There will be two main tests, one assessing reasoning ability and one assessing pupils' attainment in literacy and numeracy. There will be scope to vary the exercises within the tests to keep the format fresh.*
3. *All tests will be in multiple-choice format and will be standardised against the performance of a national sample.*
4. *All candidates will complete a writing task under test conditions, which happens currently. This will not be marked, but will be available to local Headteacher panels that can look at borderline cases at the request of the primary school. The new writing task will be shorter than at present, so that all the assignments can be completed on one day.*

Parents whose children expect to take the tests in September 2014 will find out more information about the next Kent Test during May 2014. Information will be posted on our website in time to allow parents to consider whether or not to register their children for the tests by the June deadline.

SHOE BOX COLLECTION

Please be advised that David Bennie will collect these from Reception on Tuesday morning. Thank you.

Christmas Lunch

This year's Christmas Lunch will be on Thursday 12th December. More information will be sent out nearer the time if you wish your child to have a Christmas Lunch.

Next Week's Theme – 'Anti Bullying Week'

Severe Weather Closure

We are getting to that time of year when there could potentially be issues with severe weather conditions affecting the school's ability to open. The school will only be closed in the most exceptional circumstances but, if there is a need to close, the first place to check will be the School Website under Announcements. If there is a need to close the school then I will post a message on this section of the website by 6am of that day. In addition a message via email will be sent out to all parents, BBC Radio Kent will be informed and a message will also appear on the Kent County Council Website (www.kent.gov.uk). Thank you.

Carol Singing

The school choir will be singing a selection of carols at the Christmas Fair on the 30th November. If there are any children who would like to join us for this event then we are rehearsing at 8am on Wednesday mornings in Jessica's Hall – all are welcome. Also, if any parents would like to join us and add a little bit of harmony then feel free to turn up on the 30th, it should be great fun!

PTA NEWS

The Christmas Fair will soon be upon us so please keep Saturday 30th November free in your diary for this really important event.

A new date of Friday 31st January 2014 has been set for the Phil the Bag day. This will hopefully give us all the chance to have a clear out over Christmas! More details can be found on: www.philthebag.co.uk

There will be a Dad's Meeting on 20th November at 8pm.

The Children's Film Night will take place in Jessica's Hall on Wednesday 4th December.

Lost Goalkeeper Gloves

Has anyone picked up a pair of yellow goalie gloves? They were used at Football club last Friday and haven't been seen since. In the madness of the wet weather and very wet children they may have got muddled up in someone else's kit. If found, pleased return to Mrs Pearson or her son Leo in Owl Class. Thank you.

REMEMBRANCE DAY

On Monday the whole school gathered by the War Memorial to join with some local residents to remember those who lost their lives during both World Wars. The children behaved beautifully throughout and a poppy wreath was placed on the memorial on behalf of all the children of Leigh.

LOST PROPERTY

Year 6 have been working hard to try and reduce the amount in the Lost Property bin. Please could you check the Lost Property bin over the next few days as there is still an awful lot of clothing in it and it would be good to get this reduced.

CONCERT

There will be a concert at St Mary's Church tomorrow evening at 7.30pm. The programme will feature a wide variety of music in many styles, including arrangements of popular songs and melodies for guitar ensembles and close harmony singing from the excellent Sevenoaks ensemble, *Ottovoci*.

Tickets are available from Leigh Village Stores and Ray Love (01732 832459), price £10 to include interval refreshments.

All proceeds will go towards the improvements to the Royal British Legion club room and to the Cricket Net Project, which is raising money to build permanent practice nets for our school on the playing field.

Parent Consultations

Unfortunately it has been necessary to change one of the dates for the Parent Consultation Evenings. We are having to move the Consultations from the 26th November to the 3rd December (3.30pm-5.30pm) but the Consultations on the 28th November will remain the same. We apologise for any inconvenience that this might cause and we wouldn't have moved the date unless it was absolutely necessary. Sheets will be going out next week so that you can sign up for a time. I would also like to mention that we operate an 'Open Door' policy here and I would encourage you to speak with the teachers at all times if there are any areas of concern.

Descriptosaurus Writing Challenge

Many thanks to all who entered the Descriptosaurus Writing Challenge. In all we had over 30 entries across Key Stage 2 and it was an incredibly difficult competition to judge. We have sent a selection of entries to the national competition and if we hear anything from them, then we will of course let you know. However, I'm delighted to announce that the winners in the Leigh competition are: Ben Higgins (winner, upper key stage 2), Grace Haselden (winner, lower key stage 2), Ellie Grant (runner-up, upper key stage 2) and Michael Lake (runner-up, lower key stage 2). The winners receive a £10 Book Token and the runners-up receive a £5 Book Token and all those who entered will receive 10 House Points for their House. We will post some of the entries on the website next week so that you can read some of the fantastic entries we received.

Book Club

There are still a limited number of places available for our new Book Club. This promises to be a fantastic new club and I would encourage as many of you who might be interested to contact the office to book a place. During the first meeting (19th November) the children are simply asked to bring their favourite book along. At the second meeting (17th December) the children will be discussing the book 'Forever X' by Geraldine McCaughrean and the school will provide the books for the children to read. Please do encourage your child to participate in this great new club.

Wildlife Area

You will be receiving additional information next week about the use of our Wildlife Area and how we plan to use it more effectively. I would, however, like to say a huge thank you to those who helped put up the canopy in the Wildlife Area this week so that our 'Acorns Group' could be dry when they went up there on Tuesday. A big thank you to Rachel Murray, Kate Dorward, Chris Burns, Lyndsey O'Neill and Nicci Snuggs for making this happen.

Further dates will be published on the website under School Calendar