

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are working hard to ensure that you are fully aware of events happening in the school in good time. Please can you check the diary section of the school website so that you are kept up to date. The school is always working hard to make the learning experiences better for our pupils. This year we have introduced a new approach to teaching topic based learning (Science, Computing, History, Geography, Art, Design Technology and Music) using Chris Quigley's Essentials Curriculum. It covers all National Curriculum requirements and more. It caters for all abilities and includes clear support and challenge. We will forward a curriculum overview so that you are aware of the topic theme and a brief overview of skills taught and the content. We want to ensure that as a school we develop learning progressively so that pupils acquire depth of learning and link skills, knowledge and understanding in order to develop proficiency. We encourage independence through exploration, creativity, enquiry, investigations and open ended tasks. We want to also ensure that Maths and Literacy skills are used across the curriculum. We teach these subjects discretely during focused lesson times, but we recognise that in order for our pupils to develop proficiency they must understand and use literacy and maths skills across the curriculum. We still teach RE using the Bedfordshire SACRE scheme and we teach PSHE using SEAL themes.

### Learning, Achievement, Success

Our aim is to keep you informed of our curriculum approaches to reinforce the skills and knowledge at home as well as in school. The tasks have been designed so that they are open-ended and each pupil can contribute in a variety of ways and be confident and interested. If you would like more support with the homework or further clarity, please speak directly to your child's class teacher.

## NEWS

### Harvest Festival

The EYFS children led the Harvest Festival showing pictures of various fruits and vegetables singing 'Dingle Dangle Scarecrow' and the whole school sang 'Paintbox'. We had plenty of donations of food which have been given to the Leighton Linlade Homeless Society. A representative from the charity spoke to the children about what happens to the food and what the charity does. Once again a big thank you for all your kind donations.



### Football Successes!

Last Thursday a number of pupils in Years 3 and 4 took part in a local schools' football tournament organised by the Sports Partnership at Cedars Upper School. We played six games, were unbeaten and did not concede a goal! Overall, we came into third position due to goal difference. This is a significant achievement and it was great that so many parents and carers came to spectate.

On Saturday, we also took part in another local schools' tournament organised by Future Games. We had a Year 2 team and two Year 3 teams playing. Once again, it was a great event enjoyed by all and well-attended. We have received so many positive comments about the improving quality of players within the school.



### Fire Practice

We had a fire practice last Friday. Children came out calmly and sensibly to the fire assembly points in good time.

### Macmillan Coffee Morning



We are delighted to inform you that the grand total of £278.88 was raised last Friday. It was wonderful to see so many parents and carers at the coffee morning including some local police officers. Thank you also for sending in a donation for the non-school uniform.

### Flu Immunisation Programme

The school nurses commented on how well behaved and polite the children were on Monday. Children should have come home with stickers to show how brave they were and an information leaflet was in their book bags. Any forms that missed the deadline have been given to the nurses and they will contact you in due course.

### Transfer to Middle School

A reminder for all Year 4 parents the open days at the middle schools are as follows:

**Brooklands School** – Wednesday 14 November  
6.30pm – 8.30pm. Open week 19-23 November  
9.30-11.30am and 1.30-2.30pm

**Gilbert Inglefield Academy** – Saturday 3  
November 9.30am – 11.30am. Open week 19-23  
November. Tours 9.00am – 10.45am

**Leighton Middle** – Open week Tuesday 20  
November – Friday 23 November. Tours at  
9.00am and 10.00am

**Linslade School** – Saturday 24 November  
9.30am – 12.00pm. Open week 19-23 November.  
Tours at 9.15am and 11.15am.

Please contact us to advise us if you are taking your child out of school to attend one of these sessions. We would advise that if you want to visit a middle school in action during the day we would prefer an afternoon as this has less impact on their education.

### OVERALL ATTENDANCE TO DATE

Statutory attendance figures for 2017/18 were 95% and this is now getting closer to our school target of 96%. We have been working with the Local Authority Educational Welfare Team and as a result we adopted a new policy. This is available on our school website. In the policy it details procedures. There are example letters in the appendix in the policy for your reference.

**Our overall attendance currently is: 96.12%**

The breakdown by class is:

Tadpoles:	93.22%
Seahorse:	99.49%
Starfish:	97.67%
Sea Otters:	97.45%
Seals:	94.12%
Jellyfish:	97.89%
Turtles:	98.14%
Whales:	94.89%
Dolphins:	93.06%
Octopus:	95.72%

As the weather moves into Autumn please remember to provide your child with a warm coat and when needed a hat, gloves and scarf. Please can you ensure that these are clearly labelled with your child's name and class.



**Polite reminder:** No jewellery should be worn on PE days unless your child can remove it themselves. The school strongly advise that pupils wear stud earrings only for health and safety.

Also please note that pupils must have an outdoor PE kit to wear during the colder weather to include black, grey or red joggers and sweatshirt. Please ensure these are not expensive (unbranded) and can be left at school for PE. Thank you.



### CELEBRATIONS



#### Special Chair

Every week we select a child from each class who deserve recognition for something they have done. These children are:

#### 10<sup>th</sup> September:

Mihai C  
Coco K  
Orla M  
Scarlett F  
Eden H  
Oliver A  
Mia B

#### 17 September:

Quinn C  
Noah C  
Ashleigh P  
Megan T  
Laura M  
Joshua J  
Jason S

#### 24th September:

Taylor F  
Bradley G  
Gabriel G  
Danielle P  
Jack A  
Logan K  
Emily B

#### 1<sup>st</sup> October:

Harvey G  
Mia D-R  
Noah H-S  
George D  
Aaron R  
Isabella D

#### Edward Early Bear

(Class with highest number of children arriving by 8.55am)

11<sup>th</sup> September: Octopus

18<sup>th</sup> September: Turtles

25<sup>th</sup> September: Jellyfish

#### Attendance Bear

(Class with the best weekly attendance)

11<sup>th</sup> September: Seahorse

18<sup>th</sup> September: Starfish

25<sup>th</sup> September: Turtles



### IMPORTANT DATES

Date	Time	
4 <sup>th</sup> October	Afternoon	KS2 Football Tournament - Linslade Middle (selected children only)
8 <sup>th</sup> October	3.30-5.30	Parent Consultations
9 <sup>th</sup> October	9.30-11.30	Triple P Parenting Course – CHUMS
9 <sup>th</sup> October	2.30-3.10	E-Safety Workshop for parents
10 <sup>th</sup> October	Afternoon	Run for Fun at Brooklands (selected children only)
11 <sup>th</sup> October	3.30-7.00	Parent Consultations
16 <sup>th</sup> October	9.30-11.30	Triple P Parenting Course – CHUMS
19 <sup>th</sup> October	3.15pm	Break up for Half Term
<b>HALF TERM : Mon 22 October – Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October</b>		
<b>Training Day: Monday 29<sup>th</sup> October</b>		
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> October		Children return to school
8 <sup>th</sup> November	Afternoon	KS2 Rugby Tournament (selected children only)
15 <sup>th</sup> November	Afternoon	KS2 Sports Hall Athletics – Cedars (selected children only)
16 <sup>th</sup> November		Children in Need Day Bring and Buy Sale Wear Spots for £1
11 <sup>th</sup> December	Afternoon	KS1 Christmas Production
12 <sup>th</sup> December	Afternoon	KS1 Christmas Production
13 <sup>th</sup> December	Afternoon	KS2 Christmas Carols
14 <sup>th</sup> December	Afternoon	Reception/Nursery Christmas Songs
17 <sup>th</sup> December	Afternoon	Pantomime Visit to Clipstone – children only
18 <sup>th</sup> December	Afternoon	Nursery/Reception Christmas Party
19 <sup>th</sup> December	Afternoon	KS1 Christmas Party
20 <sup>th</sup> December	Lunch	Whole School Christmas Dinner
20 <sup>th</sup> December	Afternoon	KS2 Christmas Party
21 <sup>st</sup> December		Break up for Christmas Holidays