



"Let your light shine." Matthew 5:16

Headteacher: Miss Jenny Birks

Email: office@las.dsat.education

Newsletter

Spring 1 2023

Dear Mothers, Fathers and Carers,

A very Happy New Year to you all! I hope you've had a wonderful festive break with your children and managed to find the time to rest and recuperate as a family. The children have returned refreshed and ready for learning. As we move through winter, we have plenty of exciting learning and experiences for your children planned. We have just introduced a new way of teaching English, based on high-quality picture books to engage and excite our children, we have story-telling week coming up and our Young Voices choir are going to Sheffield Arena in a few weeks to perform in front of thousands of children and adults, to name but a few!

As always, we are here for you and your children so please never hesitate to contact us.

Warmest wishes,
Miss Birks

Key Dates this half term:

2nd January	Bank Holiday
3rd January	INSET DAY 4
4th January	Children return to school
6th January	Parent's Newsletter out
18th January	Eucharist Service in Church - families welcome
19th January	Census Day
25th January	'Community Café' 2:30pm - all welcome
26th January	Family Lunch - parents invited to join their child at lunchtime
w/c 30th January	Storytelling Week
31st January	Parent's Evening 3:30 - 4:30pm
1st February	Parent's Evening 3:30 - 6:30pm
3rd February	Y4 'Learn to Ride' workshop
w/c 6th February	Children's Mental Health Week
9th February	Young Voices Concert @ Utilita Arena Sheffield (evening)
9th & 10th February	Y2 and Y3 'Learn to Ride' workshop
10th February	Last day of term

School Terms and Holidays for Academic Year 2022-23

Spring 1 Monday 3rd January - Friday 10th February 2023 Half-term holidays - Monday 13th February - Friday 17th February 2023
Spring 2 Monday 20th February - Friday 31st March 2023 Easter holidays - Monday 3rd April - Friday 14th April 2023 PLEASE NOTE - EASTER BANK HOLIDAY IS ON FRIDAY 7th AND MONDAY 10th APRIL
Summer 1 Monday 17th April - Friday 26th May 2023 PLEASE NOTE - MAY BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY 1st MAY Spring Bank holidays - Monday 29th May - Friday 2nd June 2023
Summer 2 Monday 5th June - Friday 21st July 2023 Summer Holidays - Monday 24th July - Friday 1st September 2023

Census Day

Census Day is on 19th January and is an important day as this is when school's funding is determined by how many children are in school, and how many take up school dinners. Please ensure your child is in school.

Our kitchen team will be offering a special Census lunch of a Breakfast Bap (sausage, bacon and hash brown) which is always very popular - this can be paid for through Arbor, unless your child is on Free School Meals!



Community Cafés

We love our monthly Community Cafés, where parents can get together over a cup of tea or coffee and a cake for a relaxed chat in a warm and friendly space. Please do come along if you can make it! We always appreciate donations of baking too.

Parental Survey

A big thank you to all parents who responded to our Parental Engagement Survey - we received 52 responses. We are now analysing the results and will share them, along with actions we are taking, in due course.

Parent Survey



Your Opinion Counts

Storytelling Week

Can you give 10 minutes of your time to read a story to our children? Do you know of any local authors who could share their writing with us? We would love lots of storytellers during this week so please get in touch!

Family Lunch

On 26th January, to bring our community together, we invite parents and grandparents in to eat lunch with your child between 12pm and 12:30pm.

We will send out a sign up link nearer the time but we look forward to seeing you there!



After School Clubs

There's still time for you to book your child on to one of our after school clubs - go to Arbor to book:
Monday - Book Club with Miss Donnelly and Board Games with Mrs Newman
Tuesday - Gymnastics with Mr Kay
Wednesday - Arts with Mrs Johnson and Lego Club with Mrs Bullett
Thursday - Hockey with Mr Robinson and Young Voices with Mrs Veitch
The cost for these clubs are £15 per half term and they run 3:20pm-4:20pm.

We also have our Extended After School club with Mrs Bridden, 3:20pm - 5:20pm and £7.50 per session.

Thank you!

We want to say a BIG thank you to **Mets Garage**, Dinnington, for their generous donation of £300 towards our Christmas festivities and selection boxes for all the children. Thank you also to Bella and Sofia's Mum for organising this donation. We are very grateful!

Learn to Ride workshops

Y2-Y4 pupils will all take part in Learn to Ride workshops, where they will be taught how to ride a bike, staying safe whilst riding and having fun whilst they cycle! All equipment will be provided for them and it will take place on school grounds.



Read, Read and Read again!

Please, please, please ensure you are reading as much as you can with your children, or encouraging them to read as often as possible. It is so important that they re-read books as well. We ask that they try to read at least 5 times per week at home, with as many of these as possible to an adult. Reading has the biggest impact on a child's abilities and we cannot stress how important it is for your child to read regularly. Please ensure you are proactive in filling out your child's reading diary whenever they read to recognise and celebrate their efforts! The more reads they do, the more certificates they'll earn!

A fact about reading that you may or may not know is:

"When children have a home library, as few as 20 books of their own at home, they achieve 3 more years of schooling than children who don't have any books at home."



Learning this term!

As a brief outline, these are some of the areas of learning that your children will be developing this half term:

Class 1 - It's a rumble in the jungle this Spring! Our topic is the Jungle, linked with our new book 'Let's all creep through the crocodile creek'. We will be drawing story maps and writing captions and labels. In Science, we will be naming jungle animals and their features, including about camouflage and what that means. We will be learning how to travel safely along big apparatus in PE and making box model crocodiles with collage decoration in Art! Our new outside area is also going to be explored lots too as we tackle the obstacle course and start using the water wall!

Class 2 - We have a very special visitor in our class at the moment - a real life dragon egg!! We will be learning all about it as we read our book 'The Dragon Machine' and we will be writing an adventure story. In Science, we will be asking the question 'What is light?', learning all about light sources and making comparisons. We will be building and burning houses in our History unit 'The Great Fire of London' whilst learning all about sculpture in Art. In RE, we will be exploring Jesus the good friend and exploring our own dreams and goals in PSHE. We will be practising our gymnastics skills and invasion games in PE.

Class 3 - Class 3's English is all about Pompeii and the disaster that the village experienced from an erupting volcano, linked to our book 'Escape from Pompeii' and we will write an historical narrative. We're exploring a country far away in Asia in our Geography lessons - India! We will learn its human and physical features, along with the big cities and landmarks. In Art, we are studying the famous artist Andy Warhol and replicating his style of art by printing our own flowers and patterns in relief, impressed and block printing. We are learning how we hear sound in Science whilst in PE we will develop our gymnastics and basketball skills. We will delve into and deepen our thinking in RE by exploring the question 'What kind of world did Jesus want?'

Class 4 - Class 4's book is 'The Selfish Giant' by the famous Oscar Wilde and we will be writing our own classic fiction and explanation piece linked to the text. In Maths, we will be learning about ratio and continuing to extend our multiplication and division abilities. We are developing our textiles skills in Art by stitching a story quilt based on the artist Faith Ringgold. In History, our unit is called 'They came to our shores' - all about refugees, the Slave Trade and Windrush. We will be creating our own electrical circuits and seeing if we can vary the effects of electricity during our experiments. We will develop our gymnastics and basketball skills in PE this half term and, in RE, answering the question 'Is God loving and holy?'. We have a special visitor too - Natwest MoneySense are coming in to meet with us and teach us all about looking after our money!

Children's Mental Health week

6th February starts the national Children's Mental Health week. We will be engaging in activities and learning with the children so that they have more of an understanding of good mental health, how to maintain a positive outlook and who they can talk to if they need help. Please speak to us if you have any questions at all.

Parking

Please ensure that you continue to park legally and safely around school. We appreciate the difficulties that are faced, but just a few more minutes or a slightly longer walk could save a serious accident or even a child's life.

Please also be mindful of our close neighbours and avoid parking over driveways.

We all want to keep our children and community as safe as we can, but we can only do this when we all work together.

Thank you for your cooperation.



Pathways to Write

We have introduced a new way of teaching our English lessons across school and are now using the 'Pathways to Write' programme, providing high-quality writing lessons based on engaging and inspiring texts. The core text changes each half term for every class, and teachers use the programme to plan great lessons based on the book.

The books that are being read in English lessons this half term are:

Class 1 - 'Let's all creep through Crocodile Creek' by Jonny Lambert

Class 2 - 'Dragon Machine' by Helen Ward

Class 3 - 'Escape from Pompeii' by Christina Balit

Class 4 - 'The Selfish Giant' by Oscar Wilde and Ritva Voutila

