



Enjoy – Learn - Succeed

# Autumn 1 News

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023

## Diary Dates:

### SEPT:

12<sup>th</sup> Meet the teacher Y3&4 6pm  
13<sup>th</sup> Meet the teacher Y1&2 6pm  
14<sup>th</sup> FOL meeting 4:30pm  
14<sup>th</sup> Meet the teacher Y5&6 6pm  
15<sup>th</sup> Swimming starts - class 6D  
20<sup>th</sup> School Council Election day  
27<sup>th</sup> Flu vaccinations

### OCT:

2<sup>nd</sup>- 4<sup>th</sup> Y6 Robinwood residential  
4<sup>th</sup> Governors AGM  
12<sup>th</sup> Parents evening  
18<sup>th</sup> Parents evening  
20<sup>th</sup> Awards assembly  
23<sup>rd</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> HALF TERM BREAK  
30<sup>th</sup> Children back in school

Dear parents / carers,

## Welcome / welcome back

I am delighted to welcome you all to a new school year. Whether your children are returning after the holidays or starting school for the first time, we are excited to see them [really] and to help them on the next stage of their school journey. I am very pleased with how our new children are settling in after only their second day!



It is always particularly nice to be back just as the weather has now decided it is summer...

## New teacher:

As many of you will know, Mrs Hope is shortly due to go on maternity leave. I am delighted to welcome Miss Johnson to the Larkfield team, who will be providing cover in Mrs Hope's absence. I am particularly pleased that she was able to join us at the start of term so that the children have continuity. In order to make things straightforward, we are naming the class 1J, rather than 1H. Mrs Hope will be with us for a couple of weeks yet, helping the children and Miss Johnson to settle in.

## Meet the teacher:

Our meet the teacher events for Y1-6 parents are an opportunity to put a face to a name, learn about year group and class routines and ask any burning general questions. The dates are shown above and all meetings will take place in Key Stage 2 hall.

## School Governor vacancy:

We have a vacancy for a parent governor on our governing body. The governing body shapes the direction of the school, supports and challenges the leadership and performs various statutory duties to ensure our children receive an effective education and are kept safe. The time commitment is a minimum of two meetings each term [one committee and one full board meeting] each of approx. 2 hours. Some roles involve some additional time in school. If you feel you might be interested, please contact the office to arrange an informal chat with me in the first instance. Dependent upon the amount of interest an election may be required.



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### **Attendance & Punctuality:**

Although I mentioned this in the summer newsletter, I think some points are worth reiterating.

At the start of last academic year, the local authority issued updated attendance guidance and a revised policy, which can be found on our website. There are a few key points to draw your attention to, and an additional point [4] which is added in response to National guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023' which came into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> September:

1. No term time holidays

2. Parents of pupils with attendance below 90% [the government's threshold for 'persistent absence'] will be asked to attend an attendance panel in school to explore the reasons and ways in which attendance can be improved, including what support school can provide. If this is unsuccessful it will be referred to the local authority attendance panel.

3. Punctuality was an issue for a small number of pupils last year. Arriving late can be a huge source of anxiety for children and really impact their whole day, plus they miss out on key lesson input and interventions.

4. Non-attendance at school is a safeguarding matter and will be treated accordingly

After half-term, I will be writing to invite parents of those children most impacted by attendance / punctuality to meet.

### **Uniform:**

All children should be wearing a Larkfield sweatshirt or cardigan with the school logo. Everything else may be unbranded to keep cost down. Trainers are not part of our uniform, other than on PE day. Please ensure all uniform items are named.

### **Friends of Larkfield [FOL]:**

The friends work tirelessly to raise money for 'extras' for our children. They are a small, friendly and committed team but they need help – as much or as little as you can offer. If you want to attend meetings and become involved in planning events that would be great but equally if you can offer to just help out for one hour at one event in the year that would also make a big difference. If you can help, please leave your details at the office or email: [friendsoflarkfield@gmail.com](mailto:friendsoflarkfield@gmail.com) you are also welcome to attend the AGM at school on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September at 4:30pm.

### **Home learning passwords:**

Some of the home learning platforms the children use [such as accelerated reader] have had updates over the summer, requiring us to renew passwords etc. Please bear with us while we carry out this work. We will confirm when it is completed – please note there is no need to tell us your password isn't working!



**Traffic on site:**

Our site has a policy of **no parents cars on site** unless the parent or child has a registered disability. Please help us keep our children safe by parking away from site and walking in.

**Advance notice – clothing collection:**

We will be holding another clothing collection after half term [7<sup>th</sup> November] if you are planning a clear-out over the holiday please bear us in mind and any donations can be brought in AFTER the half-term break. More details to follow.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. J.D. Ward  
**Headteacher**

