



## e-news @ Leigh & Bransford

Friday 31st January 2020

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**Get comfy it's a bumper edition this week!**

**Children's Mental Health Week (3<sup>rd</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> February), Mrs Sage (DSL & Mental Health 1<sup>st</sup> Aider)** – We are very pleased to be embracing Children's Mental Health Week at Leigh & Bransford and raising awareness of the importance of children and young people's mental health.

This year the national theme is '**Find Your Brave**'. This is to support children by realising that bravery could be about sharing worries and asking for help for yourself or others when needed, sitting by someone and just being there, trying something new, making the right choices and taking small brave steps every day.

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February is our 'Wellbeing' day.** Throughout this creative and enjoyable day we will be guiding the children towards going 'off piste' and taking time to just be in the moment and enjoy the activities on offer. The wide variety of workshops will hopefully give them some useful tools to support their current and future wellbeing - linking with our wider PSHE curriculum. **Please send your children in joggers/comfortable clothes, sensible shoes and a waterproof coat.**

Throughout the week, we will be learning more about the importance of having a balance of good physical and mental health in order to stay healthy and what things we can do to promote good physical and mental health.

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February, it is 'Time to Talk' day. (School uniform)** We will be having a range of activities in our classroom to encourage open discussions and understand the value of talking and being a good listener. In order to support children's wellbeing in school, we would ask if you would kindly let us know of any change of circumstances that may affect your children's wellbeing in school. We have a wellbeing support programme in school, where we can offer additional support to children who need it to process any difficult changes that they may be going through. If you need to discuss anything further please do not hesitate to contact me.

**Timetable Rockstars, Miss Hutchinson** – This date has changed, it will now be Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February when we invite the children to come into school dressed as rockstars to support our new times table initiative.

**Drop off car park, Mr Bill** - It has come to my attention that some of you are not aware we operate a staggered pick up to enable the car park to be used to its greatest capacity. This means that if your child is in classes 3 to 6 or if you car share, you can pick up between 3.15 and 3.30pm. Please refer to the table below for ease of reference.

2.45pm	Gates to main road opened.
3.10pm	Inner gates to school opened.
3.15pm to 3.30pm	Pick up in progress. Parents go to get their children from the relevant class door and then must go straight back to their car in order to free up a parking space for another user. Bus children escorted on to the bus.
3.40pm	Main road and inner gates locked.
Note	After 3.40pm all traffic to access school via Hoopers Close.

Additionally, a message about our new play facilities. Please feel free to use the play equipment as per the original instructions (see: <https://www.leighbransford.worcs.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Trim-trail-2019.pdf>), but if you would like to stay longer, then please move your car from the drop off car park by 3.40pm.

**Eastnor Castle Trip** – Anyone on this trip that has a Black Pepper lunch please remember to cancel it for the 4<sup>th</sup> February, Lunch will be from home that day.

**Dress up Day Class 1 & Class 2** – This is Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February and is for our term topic **‘Let’s Conquer Castles’** We would love the children to come dressed as knights, princes or princesses. More info to follow.

**World Book Day (5<sup>th</sup> March) , Mrs Tedds** – This year World Book Day is a ‘Bedtime Story’ day proving you are never too old for a bedtime story! The children and staff can dress in pyjamas, onesies, dressing gowns and slippers but please remember appropriate footwear for playtimes. They can also bring in one chosen soft toy and a favourite book (these need to be clearly named). We will have what we call ‘book friends’ where the older children read a story to a younger child. We will gather in the hall with all the mats, cushions and beanbags. Please can we borrow some large cushions or beanbags to make sure we can all ‘cosy up with a good book’. Let the office know if you are happy to let us borrow one for the day, thank you.

**The Big Book Swap (5<sup>th</sup> March), George Perry** – How it works! Children can bring to school a book they have enjoyed but are happy to swap. All books will be collected on the morning of World Book Day and displayed in the school hall. Any child donating a book will be given a ticket that can be redeemed later that day. Every child with a ticket will be invited to the hall by class to exchange their ticket for a donated book of their choice. Happy Reading!

**Musical Theatre 2020** – Clear your calendar! This year our Musical Theatre performance is on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June. The dress rehearsal will be 4pm-6pm on Wednesday the 10<sup>th</sup>. More information nearer the time.

**Bus List** – Thank you for all parents who have sent in the relevant information we need. Much appreciated, please keep it up week by week. Nothing fancy, just informative.

**Parents Evening** – Don’t delay, get the spot that suits you best. Dates are 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> March. The 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> are 10 minute slots from 3.30pm to 5pm and on the 4<sup>th</sup> Book via Dojo please.

**Questionnaire results, Mr Bill** - Many thanks for your completed questionnaires, the results of which can be seen at the bottom. Whilst there are a lot of positives to be found, it is clear that there are a few areas which require some attention. Some of these can be dealt with fairly quickly, in terms of documentation for our complaints procedure and our anti-bullying policy these can be found on the website [here](#).

We are told that for questions such as Q6 people find it hard to respond if they have no direct experience of the issue and so you will see a greater proportion of don’t knows/no response given.

Regarding information about what your child learns, it is apparent that the half termly class newsletters are not enough so going forward we will upload our L&B curriculum progression documents to the website so that you can see the whole picture.

Reading the comments that you all wrote was informative. There was some misunderstanding about how we cover regular release time for our newly qualified teachers. I would just like to reassure everyone that regular release time is covered by a member of school staff and not supply teachers. As a general rule supply teachers are used to cover illness or training if this cannot be covered within the school.

Most other written comments can be broken down into a few themes as follows.

**Communication** – Many of you commented positively about the improvements that have been made here but some of you felt that you would like more notice for school trips. We will work on providing additional notice for you.

**Parking** – Many of you highlighted this as a problem area. This is under review by the governors and myself. We have explored using the playground for regular parking but have been advised by Worcestershire County Council that it is not safe to do so without fencing, marked bays and a proper circulation plan. In addition to this we often have clubs that use the playground after school and there is the problem of cars leaking fuel and oil on to a surface where our children play. As a school it is very unusual for us to be able to offer any parental parking facility but even this is creaking under the number of users for pick up. We will continue to think creatively about how we can help you with the daily school run.

**Breadth of curriculum** – Some of you wanted a curriculum less focussed on reading, writing and maths which gave greater attention to the development of life skills. This is something that we wholeheartedly agree with and that we are actively working towards. Hopefully by the time of our next questionnaire you will see the changes that are being made embedded as a regular feature of school life. Thank you for the many positive comments which we were pleased to read and which are useful to ensure we keep doing the things you value. We will go on to use all of this feedback to improve what we do here.

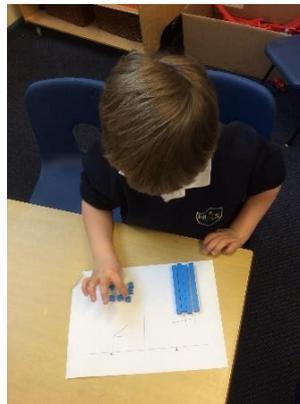


**Reception Class, Mr Powney**

- This week we have been learning about Chinese New Year and thinking about New Year's Resolutions. We thought about what we are good at and what we could be even better at

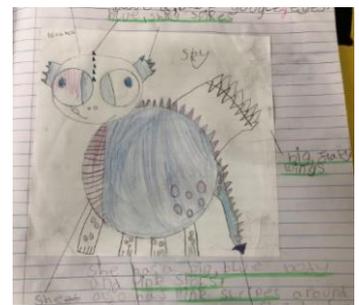
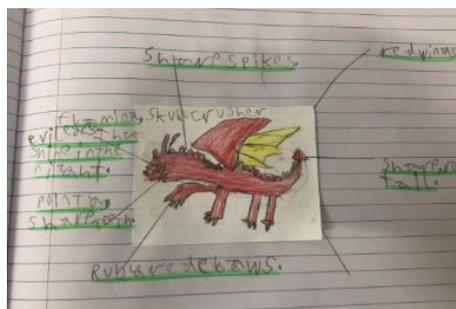
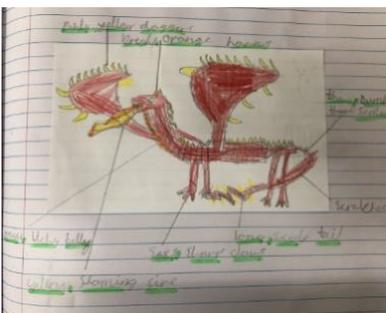
by practising and being determined. In maths we have investigated doubling in the outdoor area, learning that it means adding the same again. We have continued our work on the Gruffalo story creating our own 'wanted' posters to try and help catch the Gruffalo!

**Class 1, Miss Knight** -This week we have been learning all about numbers to 50. We have been learning to represent place value using the dienes equipment and then have moved onto drawing pictorial representations of them. We have also been imagining what is at the top of our own beanstalks and will be writing a story about it. There were some really lovely ideas such as a candy castle, cheese land and a shiny skyscraper.



**Class 2, Mrs Tedds** - This week we have been working on the links between multiplication and division. It has been quite tricky, especially division. We have been working with cubes and drawing things out to help us remember how to divide into groups of 2, 5 and 10 and to help us solve problems using division. The children are getting very excited about our trip to Eastnor Castle and our Banquet. We have been painting out shield designs and making bunting to decorate the hall. We have also been learning about the first castles 'Motte and Bailey' castles and all of the parts. Why not ask your child to tell you about them?

**Class 3, Miss Radford** - This week in Class 3 we have been creating our own dragons. With our excellent sketching skills and amazing vocabulary we have produced all sorts of dragons, ranging from cute and cuddly to fierce and dangerous.



In Science this week we have been experimenting with magnetic and non-magnetic materials, which involved looking at a variety of magnets and testing their strength.

Class 3 have also been busy at work with their iPads, merging their computing skills with history to create videos about the Viking tax known as 'Danegeld'. Although lots of them were very shy in sharing their wonderful work!

**Class 4, Miss Albutt** - Over the last few weeks class four have been developing their dance skills. They have been choreographing and performing their own dances, which have included a variety of interesting and creative moves. This week we were lucky enough to perform our whole class dance in assembly as part of Talent Tuesday. Their dance was enjoyed by all as all of the children in Class 4 performed extremely well, showing off their moves confidently.



**Class 5, Mrs Sage** - This week in Class 5 we have been having a lot of fun in our history lessons! We had to re-enact two invasions. The Norman invasion of England and the Spanish invasion of the Americas. Each group had to sequence the key events chronologically and write a play script which led to a performance.

Over the last couple of weeks in R.E, to coincide with Martin Luther King Day (20.1.20), we have been learning about what he stood for and why he is still an inspirational to others today. In doing so, we used our creativity to write a historic report (presented in a style of our choosing).

We have also been developing efficient mental maths methods in order to solve calculations and deepen our knowledge of multiplicative reasoning. This week, we have applied our knowledge of multiplying and dividing by 10, 100 and 100 in order to solve other maths problems.

Class 5 were very happy to welcome our student teacher Miss Jenkins. She will be with us for 7 weeks and we hope she has an enjoyable time with us at Leigh & Bransford.



**Class 6, Miss Hutchinson** - This week in class six we had lots of fun practising our gymnastic skills using the apparatus. We explored a range of balances and experimented to create our own, focusing on: shape, position and precision.

In literacy we have been exploring audience specific language, this has helped us to understand how our persuasive writing can be more effective and specific to purpose.

In maths, we have continued our learning around long division, deepening our reasoning skills within this area and applying this to a range of problem solving activities.

## School dates for your diary

Spring Half Term – School closes Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February & reopens Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2020

Easter – School closes Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April & reopens Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2020.

Summer Half Term – School closes Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May & reopens Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020. (Inc. Whitsun Bank Holiday – Mon 25<sup>th</sup> May)

End of Summer Term – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2020

May Day Bank Holiday – Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2020 (Anniversary of VE Day)

TED Days

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2020 –Police Commissioner Elections – school used for polling, TBC by MHDC

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2020

### Our reasons to feel proud this week .....

Martha – Working hard on letter formation.

Lainey, Sophie & Eva – Effort in retelling the Gruffalo story in assembly.

Joshua – Being kind & helpful.

Elsie – Persevering with her writing.

George & Alanna – Extra effort in literacy.

Amelia-May – For being such a considerate member of class 3.

Max W – For working independently & taking on lots of new challenges.

Rory – Effort in maths.

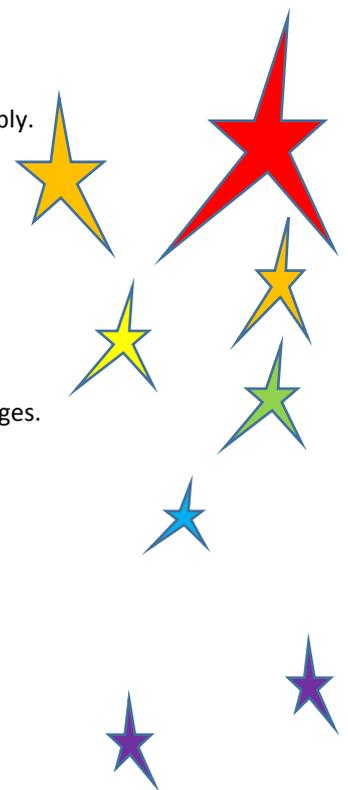
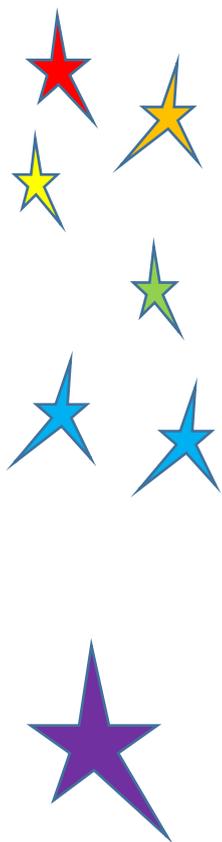
Issy S – Improved confidence in all subject areas.

Will & George – Excellent teamwork in history.

Joshua – Excellent effort in maths lessons.

Lauren – Working hard to complete tasks accurately & at speed.

Fleur – Bravery when attempting challenging balances.



**Questionnaire results, Mr Bill** - Each child took a form home and we had 27 forms returned, meaning each form returned is worth 3.7%. In questions such as Q6 we are told that people find it hard to respond if they have no direct experience of the issue and so you will see a greater proportion of don't knows/no response given.

		Strongly Agree/Agree	Strongly Disagree/Disagree	Don't Know/Did not answer
1	My child is happy at this school.	96%	0%	4%
2	My child feels safe at this school.	96%	4%	0%
3	My child is well looked after at the school.	93%	0%	7%
4	The school makes sure children are well behaved.	81%	11%	8%
5	I am aware that the school has an anti-bullying policy.	74%	15%	11%
6	The school deals with bullying effectively. *Please see 'How bullying is defined' on page 2.	56%	11%	33%
7	When I have raised concerns with the school, they have been dealt with properly.	74%	11%	15%
8	I am aware of the school complaints procedure.	59%	22%	19%
9	If I had to, I would feel confident that a complaint would be dealt with properly.	74%	11%	15%
10	The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year.	63%	37%	0%
11	I receive valuable information from the school about my child's progression.	81%	19%	0%
12	My child makes good progress at this school.	100%	0%	0%
13	My child is taught well at this school and is given appropriate challenge and support.	85%	4%	11%
14	My child receives the appropriate homework for their age.	81%	15%	4%
15	My child can take part in clubs and activities at the school.	85%	15%	0%
16	The school promotes and encourages strong values in my child.	96%	0%	4%
17	The school supports my child's wider personal development	78%	15%	7%
18	I would recommend this school to another parent.	78%	7%	15%