



# Lydbrook Primary School

School Road, Lydbrook, Gloucestershire, GL17 9PX

Head Teacher: Mr Simon T Lusted, M.Sc.



**ROBINS NURSERY**

13<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we come to the end of another strange year with further disruptions to the children's learning routines, I would like to thank you for all your support with the changes implemented due to the Covid restrictions. Although things are due to become more relaxed from Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July, we will not be making any changes to our current risk assessments before the end of term. As we move into the summer holidays then I think we all still need to be vigilant and careful with the Covid situation as we are all aware of the number of cases rising. I will monitor the situation with the Department of Education during the summer break and adjust our risk assessments accordingly in readiness for the return in September. I know the impact of the current "bubbles" has limited our whole school "togetherness" – something that has always been such a strength at Lydbrook and I really hope that we can return to some form of normality with this. We have all missed the rich opportunities that we build into our curriculum and the opportunities to present in an assembly to the whole school and parents. Fingers crossed for the autumn!

## **Staff leaving**

As I have reported in a previous newsletter, we have had to go through a staff restructuring process due to our change from a 5 class school to a 4 class school from September. This has resulted in some changes to our staffing and we are all very sad that Julie Farr and Carla Selwyn- Phillips will not be with us in September. Both Julie and Carla have been with us for many years supporting so many of the pupils in such a caring way. They have given time and endless patience to the pupils allowing them to feel more successful. We wish both Julie and Carla all the very best for the future and thank them for all they have contributed to Lydbrook School.

Mrs. Claire Townsend will also be leaving in her capacity as the teacher of Woodpeckers class. However, a new post has been created due to the impact of the Covid pandemic and Mrs. Townsend has been appointed to work with the staff to support those children who have been most affected. We are absolutely delighted that Mrs. Townsend has expressed an interest in this new post and initially will be working with the Magpies team (Mrs. Fellows, Miss Sprawson and Natalia Atanasova) to support the new set up for Magpies. This will also mean that we will be able to offer a transition programme to support those Y1 children currently in Owls class. A small meeting has been arranged for the children who will be in Magpies class in September, to meet with their teachers and assistants tomorrow morning.

## **Reports**

The end of year reports will be sent out on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> July. The report will provide a summary of the progress your child has made through the year. If there is a need to discuss any part of the report, the teachers will be available to talk to you over the phone next week before they finish for the holidays.

## **Dates**

The school will finish for the summer holidays on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> July at the usual time from 2.45 p.m. The staff have a training day on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July where we will be discussing transition and for staff to meet to pass over and talk through every child with their new teachers/assistants.

The children will return on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September. I have organised two training days for the start of the new academic year on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September and Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September. The staff will be looking at the following:

- The new Early Year's curriculum and expectations (Robins and Owls staff)
- The introduction of our new approaches to the development of speech and language pathways through a project called "Voice 21" (Magpies/Jays/Hawks)
- An introduction to our new tracking system (all staff)
- An overview of our action plan to support the further development of writing

### **Forester's Forest Lottery Project**

As the lead school for this amazing project we have been involved in evaluation of the impact of the project since it was introduced nearly 5 years ago. We have hosted 2 meetings to evaluate our role in the project and what we, as a school, have benefited from. It was so lovely to hear back from our current pupils who represented their fellow peers (Lola Davies and Morgan Smallpage) and from 2 recently left past pupils (Sophie Arnold and Anastasia Roberts). They all had so much to say about their involvement and what they have learnt. The meeting was also represented by staff, parents and Governors.

As part of the evaluation, the school was filmed "in action" on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> July. This gave current pupils the opportunity to reflect on the project and for the wonderful areas of the school ground to be used to support the learning. We very much look forward to receiving back the film and the report in the not too distant future.

We have also been involved in supporting a local author (Mr. Andy Seed) in the publication of a children's book to illustrate the amazing history that is found in the Forest of Dean. We are being presented with 10 free copies of this book ready for the start of the new term

### **Enrichment activities**

It has been lovely to see the children enjoying some of the more creative areas of the curriculum. Although it was disappointing that we could not run the traditional sports day again this year, Mr. Bowkett organised class sports events that were enjoyed by the individual class bubbles.

Jays class have enjoyed music sessions through the Voice Collective and through art by making a banner with Wyldwood Arts.

Mr. Bowkett took 2 cricket teams to a local tournament run by the Gloucestershire County Cricket Board

Woodpeckers visited the Dean Heritage museum as part of their learning on the Victorians.

Our Year 5 pupils have visited Five Acres for a secondary experience and our Year 6 pupils have either had taster sessions at their chosen secondary school or had an on-line meeting and virtual tour.

### **Summer Reading Challenge**

Gloucestershire Library Service are again running the Summer Reading Challenge during the school holidays. The children have received information today and will be bringing home all the details. I strongly encourage you as a family to take part as this not only keeps the key skill of reading ticking over during the holidays but also introduces children to the most amazing variety of books including fiction and non-fiction. It is important that we remember that reading is such a core life skill and links to so many areas of the curriculum.

Finally I would like to wish everyone a happy summer break with your children. You should be very proud of how well the children have coped with what has gone on over the past 18 months and by working together, we have supported the children through an unprecedented series of circumstances. I really hope for all the children that we can return to some form of school normality from September and to enjoy all the experiences that school has to offer.

Please look after yourselves and I look forward to seeing you all in September.

Best wishes

**S. T Lusted**  
**Headteacher**