



Lydbrook Primary School

School Road, Lydbrook, Gloucestershire, GL17 9PX

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



ROBINS NURSERY

13/1/2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to Term 3 and wishing you all a very Happy New Year. I hope you and your families were able to enjoy the Christmas festivities. The children have settled really well to the new term and it was so pleasing to see 100% attendance on the first day back last week! Considering all the horrible bugs that were around at the end of last term and during the holiday, the attendance has been amazing!

Class Assemblies/Nativity

I would like to thank everyone who was able to come and support their child by watching them in either one of the class assemblies or at the Nativity performed by Owls and Robins. It makes such a difference to the children if they know their parent or carer is in the audience. I know it is not always easy for everyone to attend due to other commitments. I thought the performances this week on Wednesday, both by Hawks (celebrating their learning about Macbeth) and the nativity were so good and I was very proud of them. Well done to you all!

Meeting an Explorer!

Linked to the learning themes of "It's So Cold" and "Discovering Distant Lands" this term, Owls and Magpies worked with Explorer Dominic Renshaw who is training to cross Antarctica over the next year. It was lovely to hear all of the children's questions and to see the classes follow it up in the afternoon by working together on four Antarctic challenges. A great immersion opportunity to start off the learning for these new themes.

Maternity cover

I am pleased to inform you that Mr. David Paterson has been appointed to cover the maternity period for Mrs. Hughes who is the class teacher of Hawks. Mr. Paterson will be joining us towards the start of February to link in with Mrs. Hughes to ensure a smooth transition.

Cars!

Sadly, there are an increased number of cars coming up School Road from the main road. This is causing a lot of difficulties for families that are walking. Even the Red Path (designated for walkers) is not seen as a safe place at the moment as cars are driving on it to make room for other cars passing. Cars have also been seen to be reversing/turning around whilst families are walking close to the car and there has been a few near misses recently. This is becoming a serious safety concern and I really would like drivers of cars to think about the safety of others. I have also had communication from neighbours of the school who are reporting cars parking on driveways/blocking driveways and occasionally damaging their gates/walls.

Parking/dropping off/picking up has been a problem for many years as we have little parking available and the following guidance has been followed in the past to try and keep everyone safe:

- To park away from school and walk the final steps up to school. Walking is good exercise and is a healthy alternative to trying to park near the school. It also develops road awareness and independence.
- If you need to drive up to and near the school, please can you NOT drive up School Road from the main road but to drive down from Worrall Hill. This allows you to "stop & drop" outside the side gates instead of trying to find somewhere to park. This also prevents cars trying to pass each other on the narrow School Road and having to drive onto the Red Path.

- By not driving up School Road, there will not be the need to reverse the car to turn around

The situation will be monitored over the coming week and if the situation does not improve I will ask a PCSO to come and support us. Thank you in anticipation of your help in this matter.

Class Dojo

As you may be aware, we introduced a reward system a few years ago to link in with our Learning & Teaching and Behaviour policies. Dojos were awarded to a pupil for demonstrating and achieving one of our Secrets of Success which are linked to learning and learning attitudes. We have not used the Dojo system since September because I wanted the school community to discuss the positives and negatives regarding them being used as a reward. Through these discussions involving staff, pupils and myself a decision has been made on how best to use them in the future.

The children were excellent in their discussions outlining the negatives as well as the positives. The older children, in particular, know the importance of praise and rewards but felt the system of Dojos was unfair and could be de-motivating. They also said the pressure of getting 10 each week, to get a text home, caused anxiety.

So from last week, Dojos have been re-introduced into Owls and Magpies classes where we will use the reward of a Dojo to teach the children the importance of the Secrets of Success and for them to understand the key skills needed to learn. They are now not being used in Jays and Hawks as we believe that children should be more self-evaluative and able to link with them to support their own learning without the need of a reward.

PE Kits

Since the pandemic and the lock-down, we have asked parents to send their children to school already in their PE kits if they have PE that day. This happens in all classes apart from Owls where dressing and undressing are key skills for children to develop. By being ready for PE and not having to change in school, we have seen so many benefits especially linked with time wasting and not having suitable areas to get changed in. However, now that we are beginning to run sports clubs more often after school, we ask that the children in Magpies, Jays and Hawks bring in a suitable kit for the club and get changed out of their school uniform towards the end of the school day.

Please can you also ensure that your child has the right PE kits on PE days. They should wear their coloured team top and a blue fleece/hoodie or the grey hoodie if in Year 6. The children should not wear any fashionable sports shirts with logos on for PE lessons and they need to either remove their earrings or tape is provided for them to be covered.

Homework Policy/Home School Agreement

A very important part of children being able to do their best and be happy in their learning is for school and home to work together in partnership as closely as possible. We are currently reviewing our Home School Agreement and Homework Policy and these will be taken to a Governors meeting next week for approval.

Following the approval, I will be sending out hard paper copies for you as parents to read and be fully informed of the expectations.

New learning themes

We have some very exciting new learning themes planned for each class this term. Parent information regarding the new themes for Term 3 will be on the school website under the class tab.

Best wishes and the very best for 2023!

S. T. Lusted
Head