

January 2024

BE KIND, *BE* DETERMINED, *BE* PROUD

Our mission: "To create an **inspired** community of learners who are equipped with the **skills**, **experience** and **confidence** they need for a happy and successful future".

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to your January newsletter. It has been a really wonderful start to 2024, especially with the official release of our Ofsted report at the beginning of the month. We are so proud that our school has been recognised as a **Good** school and we plan to continue on our journey of school improvement to make it even better for your children. I cannot thank you enough for your continued support. Later next month I will be hosting an open event to share some of the highlights of the year and plans for the future. There will be refreshments as well as performances from our school Choir and Ukulele Club so please use the Google Form to let us know if you would like to come. This month, the children have already had visits from 'Blast from the Past', to enhance their history learning, a faith visitor to support RE learning, a visit from Walkwise to teach Year 2 children road safety and Plymouth Argyle Project 35 workshops working with Year 5. As we move on through the year we have many more trips and visits planned to enrich the children's learning. I would also like to invite parents and carers into school more often so that you can see the wonderful learning that your children have been taking part in. You will see that further down in this newsletter, I have included advance notice for class assembly dates and 'Read with us week', so that you can make any necessary arrangements to take part.

It has been super to see that our whole school attendance has been on the up again this month. It is so important that children are in school as much as possible so that they do not fall behind- even missing one day can mean learning is lost, so once again, thank you for your continued support. As always, if you have any questions or need to speak to your child's class teacher, you can contact them through the office (or the inclusion email for Mrs Trembath or Ms Frost).

Yours sincerely

Mrs Jones

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Class updates…

As the weeks roll on, the learning in 4JL continues! This term, our new History theme of 'Anglo Saxons' has been captivating the minds of the children. The discovery of The Staffordshire Hoard has mesmerized the children and I am pretty sure that in years to come we will have some budding young metal detectorists out looking for similar finds! We have had a very hands-on approach to Science so far this term, we have been experimenting building bridges and looking at the forces in play to keep the structures strong, sturdy and stable. The children have loved looking at different bridges from around the world and they were in awe that there is a bridge spanning 165 KM in Asia! As a collective vote, our favourite lesson this term has been looking at the work of Michelangelo in Art. The children found it hilarious that we asked them to replicate how he would have painted the ceiling in The Sistine Chapel. We challenged them to get underneath their tables and draw upside down. As you can imagine, the Art created was a real mixed bag! Working hard as ever 4JL, let's keep going!

In English, the Year 6 children have been working hard revisiting our learning of verb tenses; the simple past; the past progressive; the past perfect and the past perfect progressive, looking in greater detail about where the various tenses should be used. In Maths, we have been learning about ratio and how this can be used in so many day to day situations.
Art has been a real favourite this term. We have learnt about several prominent South American artists and have been improving our skills in sculpting, painting and sketching. We will be making a class mural by the end of term entitled, 'Wall of Fame' which will be a collection of sketches of famous people.

The Reception children have had a great start to the year and have immersed themselves in their new topic 'Ahoy M, Hearties'! It has been wonderful to see the children display such great enthusiasm and focus in their learning. We have learnt about what things you need to become a pirate, followed instructions to create pirate flags, and created our very own treasure maps. We have also been designing and constructing pirate ships out of recycled materials, and then testing them out in water to see if they float or sink. During Phonics, the children are applying their Phonics knowledge excellently to spell and read words. Please keep recording your child's reading on the Boom Reader app too - thank you. In Maths, the children have shown a great understanding of how one number can be composed from two or more smaller numbers. Don't forget that on Tuesday 6th February we will be having our very own Pirate day, where the children in RSC are welcome to come to school dressed as a pirate! This will be to celebrate all of their amazing learning throughout the term!

5LG have had a great start to our learning in 2024! In English we have explored the different effects used in a short film to create emotional responses, and we have used a variety of different devices to replicate this in our writing. We have been thoroughly enjoying our History topic, Medieval Monarchs, and have used role play and inference to find out more about the significance of the Norman period. Our knowledge was further developed when we were visited by a Norman soldier, who taught us more about the kings of the era! During RE, we have been theological detectives, looking for clues in biblical texts to help us understand why some Jewish people believed that Jesus was the Messiah. In PSHE, we have been thinking about our futures and the jobs or careers we might want to do when we grow up, including the different pay and benefits we could earn, as well as how we could help our society one day!

Class 5CL have had a brilliant start back to the half term and they have been extremely welcoming of their new class teacher. They have started the term off with some exciting learning and lots of guest visitors. In particular, Argyle Community Trust has visited every Wednesday to run workshops linked to fitness, teamwork and to raise awareness about healthy eating, food donations and food wastage. 5CL have really enjoyed playing dodgeball and working as a team to ensure teammates can re-join if they are caught out. In Maths this month, we have spent time practising our multiplication and division skills before moving onto fractions. We have been impressed with how 5CL have persevered to tackle tricky questions, especially long multiplication. In Computing, we have been building circuits that contain a Sparkle (LED light) and a motor. We have learnt how to program our circuits to make a wheel spin and the Sparkle flash. Lastly, we have also started learning about space in Science and we have made a model of our solar system using various fruits to represent the different sizes of the planets.

Following our Christmas break 3JR have been busy learning about the Shang dynasty of ancient China. This included a visit by his imperial majesty the Emperor Shang. The children learnt about the Shang laws and how the imperial system worked. The also tried their hand being archaeologists digging up historical artefact before drawing them and matching them up to known discoveries. To support this in English we have been learning about information text based off the book 'Why did the Shang write on turtles?'. We hope to produce our own shortly using technical language. Meanwhile in science we have been investigating forces and magnets. In our most recent lesson we learnt about the different poles and how they are repelled or attracted to each other. Did you know that some magnets can even levitate? During art, we looked at different British artists. We were inspired by Paula Rego to do illustrated books. Finally, we started coding in computing. We have been adapting premade programs and will shortly create our own based around maze games.

In 3RM this term, we have absolutely loved beginning our learning about The Shang Dynasty in History. We were very lucky to have a visit from Emperor Shang himself, where we learnt about what life was like as a peasant during Emperor Shang's rule. In Science this term, we have been learning about forces and magnets. We enjoyed taking part in an investigation to find out which material has the most friction. In English, we have written postcards based on our learning from the book 'Meerkat Mail' and in maths we have been learning to multiply and divide 2-digit numbers. Our French lessons have seen us learning the months of the year and in RE, we have been thinking about how festivals and worship show what matters to a Muslim. It has been a busy month full of exciting learning!

Year 1 have had a busy month, going on their first school trip to Torquay Museum. They learnt about life in Ancient Egypt, taking part in workshops to enhance their History learning. We are super proud of the children for being excellent role models for our school. This was noted by many members of the public. In Science, we have been finding out about different light sources and the celebrations that use them. In Maths, the children have been partitioning numbers up to 50 into tens and ones. In PSHE, we have discussed goals and aspirations and are beginning to think about small steps they can take to achieve these. A super month of learning Year 1!

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This month the children in class 2MT have been busy improving their writing skills in English by focusing on presentations and use of punctuation. The children and teachers are really proud of their story outcomes! In Maths we have finished our money unit; the children have become real experts at recognising coins and notes, as well as using their timetables knowledge when counting. In Art the children have been exploring nature sculptures around the school grounds. We then went back to class and started creating our own sculptures with clay. In PE the children have loved learning new shapes and working with a partner to create routines. Children have become experts at presenting themselves before performing and holding each shape for 4 counts.

In Class 4PN, we have been reading a book called 'Wheels'. We have learnt about the first wheels that were invented (a potter's wheel), the history of wheels and how a water wheel works. It has been fascinating and the children have asked some very searching questions. In our French lessons, we have learnt to say all the numbers up to 100. Some of the pronunciation is very tricky and number 70, 80 and 90 are very different from our number system. We have loved our Science topic called The Big Build - looking at beam bridges, suspension bridges, the Blackpool Tower and the Eiffel Tower. Using what we learnt, we challenged ourselves to build a very solid bridge out of Multilink cubes - some of them held 10 books without collapsing. Next, we built towers with a solid base out of spaghetti and marshmallows. In PSHE we have been talking about how to handle disappointment and all the children wrote a three-step plan of what to do when things go wrong. It was very useful when the towers fell down!

School Council Update...



This month our School Council members were excited to receive an email to reschedule our visit to the Lord Mayor's Chamber and Council House. Prior to the visit, we thought really carefully about questions we wanted to ask. We found out some interesting facts: The Lord Mayor, Councillor Mark Shayer, served in the Royal Navy for 25 year and has visited many countries - he has even been to the North Pole! The Lord Mayor's most favourite events to attend so far have been the Remembrance Service on the Hoe, visiting the Tamar Bridge and he also enjoys meeting and talking to the people of Plymouth. Did you know that Plymouth had its first Mayor in 1439, however on 6th May 1935 King George V, in commemoration of his Silver Jubilee, granted the dignity of Lord Mayor to the City of Plymouth and we've had a Lord Mayor from 1935 to the present day. The Lord Mayor told us to always try our best, to persevere and to believe in ourselves so that we can achieve our goals. We really enjoyed talking to him and to his Macebearer in the Lord Mayor's Parlour. It was also a fantastic experience to see where decisions are discussed and made about Plymouth.

Better Health healthier families

Whether squeezing it in before the school run in the morning or before bed on busy midweek evenings, preparing your child's lunchbox can seem like just another thing on the list.

School meals are a great choice, but if you do make a packed lunch for your child then the NHS Healthier Families website has a range of quick, easy, healthier lunchbox ideas and tips for healthy lunchboxes.

Cheesy coleslaw with wholemeal pitta recipe

Crunchy, cheesy coleslaw in a pitta makes a change from traditional sandwiches. Try serving with 5 cherry tomatoes and a small box of raisins.

Prep: 10 mins
Serves 1



Ingredients

- 1 teaspoon reduced-calorie mayonnaise
- 1 tablespoon low-fat Greek style yoghurt
- 1 thin slice of white cabbage, shredded (to give a handful)
- 1 small carrot, grated
- 2 spring onions or a slice of onion, chopped
- 20g reduced-fat cheddar cheese, finely chopped or grated
- Parsley, chopped (optional)
- 1 large wholemeal pitta bread

Method

1. In a bowl, mix the mayonnaise and yoghurt.

2. Add the vegetables, cheese and parsley (if using). Mix well.

> The coleslaw keeps well in the fridge so make it the evening before to help with the morning rush!

3. Carefully split open the pitta bread and fill with the coleslaw.

> Simply double the quantities if you have 2 lunchboxes to prepare.

Snapchat
Parent / Carer Advice



What is Snapchat?

Snapchat is one of the image-based social media platforms which is incredibly popular with children. One of the key features of Snapchat is that, by default, messages sent through Snapchat disappear seconds after they are viewed by the recipient. The minimum age to use Snapchat is 13 but it is a popular and widely used platform among children younger than this.

Safety Tips

- **As with all Internet activity, talk to your child about how they use Snapchat, the importance of not 'oversharing, and any issues they have faced.**
- **The default privacy setting of 'My Friends' prevents children from sharing 'snaps' with users unknown to them. However, children may change this setting and make their posts public. Ensure your child is aware of the importance of maintaining strong privacy settings and check the settings your child has selected.**
- **In the settings options, ensure your child has Snapmap set to 'ghost mode'. This will ensure that nobody can see their current location.**
- **Ask your child if they know how to report or block a user who sends them anything that upsets them. This can be done by going to the friends list, selecting the person creating the issue and then selecting the gear icon.**
- **Remind your child that although Snapchat automatically deletes images once seen, somebody can copy the image and share it with others.**

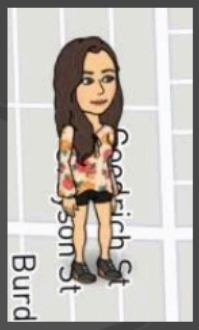
Reasons for concern

Abuse and bullying

As messages disappear shortly after being read, Snapchat has become a popular tool for abuse such as online bullying as abusers feel they will not be held to account for messages posted once they are deleted. This is supported by the fact that if somebody takes a screenshot of a message posted on Snapchat then the person who posted it is informed that this has happened, making it more uncomfortable for people to take evidence of abuse they have suffered or witnessed.

The Snap Map

The Snap Map allows users to see the live location of their friends on a map. Cartoon-style avatars are used to represent people in a move that was clearly designed to be popular with younger users. This feature can result in children sharing their location (including effectively their home address) with individuals.



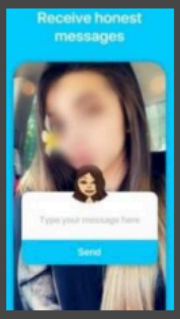
Addiction-inducing features

Children are naturally more prone to addictive behaviour than adults. As such, the inclusion of features such as 'Snap Streaks' (where two users share pictures with each other on consecutive days) encourages addictive behaviour. Snapchat rewards longer streaks with special emojis. This can result in children increasing their daily usage of the app.



Risk of secondary apps

Snapchat allows users to link to secondary apps that can be used inside Snapchat. A recent concerning example is YOLO which allows users to offer people the opportunity to anonymously ask them questions. Such apps have led to online bullying and hate crime.



OSA
Online Safety Alliance

www.onlinesafetyalliance.org

Online safety education for school staff, pupils and parents

© Online Safety Alliance, 2020

Sugar facts and recommended daily amounts

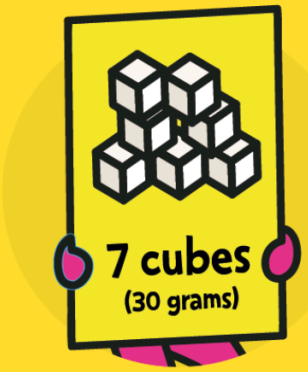
The maximum recommended daily amounts of sugar are:



4 to 6 years old: 19 grams (5 cubes)



7 to 10 years old: 24 grams (6 cubes)



11 and older: 30 grams (7 cubes)

Foods to watch out for

There can be a lot of sugar in everyday food and drinks. Do you know how much sugar is in these family favourites?



Juice drinks

They don't have salt or fat, but 1 juice pouch has **2 cubes** of sugar.



Yoghurts

Believe it or not, a pot of sugary yoghurt contains up to **6 cubes** of sugar!



Cereal bars

We tend to think of these as a healthier option, but a single bar has **3 cubes** of sugar.



Fun-sized sweets

The packet may be small, but it still contains **5 cubes** of sugar.



Ice cream

There are up to **5 cubes** of sugar in an ice cream.



Chocolate bars

Yikes! A single chocolate bar has a whopping **6 cubes** of sugar. That's the entire day's allowance for a 10-year-old!



Ofsted
Good
Provider

Don't forget to book your Child's Progress Meeting

Monday 5th, Tuesday 6th and Wednesday 7th February

We love children scooting or cycling to school but please remember that any scooters or bikes left in school must be parked at the front of school in the scooter pods/bike racks. This prevents any accidents happening at break and lunchtimes.





Please remember that the school opens at 8:30am and the gates remain open until 8:50am. Please can we ask that children enter via the gates and not the school office. This will mean that the office can deal with phone calls and enquiries quickly.

Laira Green Primary School
Shaping hearts, minds and futures

Remember to log on Boom Reader every time your child reads at home (even a few pages). If you need help, please speak to your class teacher or contact the office.

boom reader

ARGYLE COMMUNITY TRUST

SATURDAY TURN UP & PLAY

£5.50 PER SESSION EVERY SATURDAY

Manadon Sports Hub
9am - 10am

Harpers Football Centre
10am - 11am

VISITS FROM MINI PILGRIM PETE



Mini Kickers
(Ages 18 Months - 4 Years)

Turn Up and Play
(Ages 5-13)

lewis.jenkins@pafc.co.uk

https://officialsoccerschools.co.uk/argyle/courses.html



Save the Date... Class Assemblies

9:15-9:45 am

Friday 8th March RSC Mother's Day Assembly

Friday 22nd March- 3JR

Friday 10th May- 5CL

Friday 17th May- 5LG

Friday 24th May- 3RM

Friday 14th June RSC Father's Day Assembly

Friday 21st June- 1MM

Friday 28th June- 4PN

Friday 5th July- 2MT

Friday 12th July - 4JL

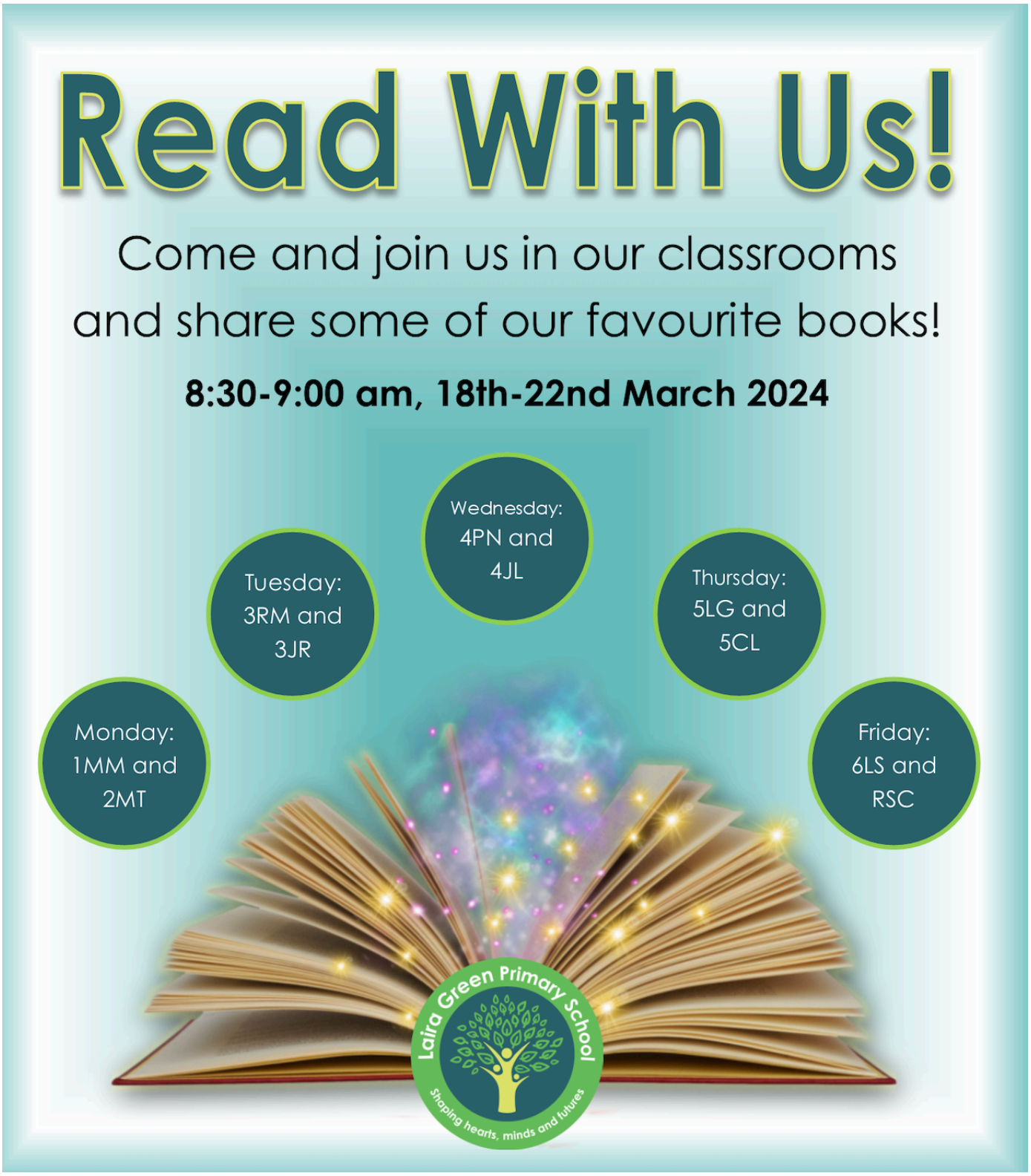
Friday 19th July- 6LS Leavers Assembly

Laira Green Primary School

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Save the date…

Starting next term, we will be opening our doors to parents and carers/family members once a term to come in and read with their child/children. The dates are listed below- we will send out reminders near the time.



Don't forget that we offer wraparound care for all children attending Laira Green Primary. We offer a range of activities to keep children happy and occupied during the clubs and can make use of the outdoor space when the weather allows! In Breakfast Club children can choose from a choice of different cereals, porridge, toast, yogurt or fruit in the mornings. In Afterschool club children receive a snack and a drink. Children attending until 6:00pm receive a light tea. There is no need to book in advance- you can book on the day. There is no requirement to have the same sessions each week, you can use us as much or as little as required.



LAIRA GREEN PRIMARY TODDLER GROUP

In the Dell Centre Every Tuesday 8:45-10:00am

No need to book- just turn up

Are you new to the area? Do you need support from other parents/carers?
Do you just fancy a chat and a coffee?





Come along and have a coffee whilst the little ones play

Come and join us every week.
Everyone welcome!



BE KIND, BE DETERMINED, BE PROUD

A month in pictures…













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