

Dear Parents/Carers,

June Newsletter 2023

What an incredible pace these last few weeks of the school year are galloping by at! Our last day of the Summer Term, and subsequently **the last day of the School Year, is Thursday 13th July**, and it will soon be upon us.

That is not to say that there is a 'wind down' in these last few weeks, we have Leavers events, Transition Days, 'Welcome Meetings for our new starters, a Garden Party...it is 'all go' right through until the gates close at 3.20pm on the 13th.

I would just reiterate that the last day **is** the **13th**, not the 12th or the 11th etc; pupils are expected in school right up until the end of the day on the 13th.

There are a number of staff who will be leaving us this Summer, for a variety of reasons; this is never unusual, especially in a staff of our size.

We have some 'retirees' – myself included – with **Mr Evans** (class teacher, class Larimar, **Mrs Johnstone** (class teacher, class Amber) and **Mrs Lopeman** (class teacher of French). We have staff moving on to pastures new/new jobs – **Mr Woolley** (class Teacher, class Onyx), **Mrs Stevenson** (class teacher, class opal) **Mrs Yasmin**, HLTA in Y3/4, **Mrs Hayes**, HLTA in EYFS,Y1/2 and **Mandy Pieniek** (class teacher, class Serpentine)

We certainly wish all of those leaving, for whatever reason it may be, all the very best and thank them for all that they have done for the pupils of Mountfields Lodge whether they have been with us for one year or 10 years, their impact will have been felt in a number of different ways, and our gratitude to them is heartfelt.

As some staff leave, of course others arrive...**Mrs Norris** will be joining the Y6 teaching team to support in the teaching of Maths and English each morning and **Mrs Osborne** will be teaching alongside Mr Coleman as he steps in as Interim Deputy Head Teacher for the Autumn Term.

Mrs Johnson (class teacher, class Coral) has both left and will return! She is on maternity leave currently, and I am delighted to say that baby Johnson was born 2 weeks ago and that mother, baby and father are all doing well 😊 ; our congratulations go to them.

More importantly than all of the staff leaving (who **are** obviously important), are our current Year 6 pupils who will be heading off to their 'new pastures' at the end of the summer. We have pupils entering every local secondary school this year; state and private, and a couple of pupils even further afield than that!

Change can be a very personal thing, felt differently by everyone, being so dependent upon circumstances and experiences.

There are many sayings and quotes and mantras regarding change, but one I think 'sticks' with me is:

Change is inevitable in life. You can either resist it and potentially get run over by it, or you can choose to cooperate with it, adapt to it, and learn how to benefit from it. When you embrace change you will begin to see it as an opportunity for growth.

To our Year 6 pupils I would simply say:

It doesn't matter
what others are doing,
it matters what you
are doing.

And remember...

"Twenty years from now
you will be more disappointed
by the things you didn't do
than by the ones you did do.
So throw off the bowlines.
Sail away from the safe harbour.
Catch the trade winds in your sails.
Explore. Dream. Discover"
-- MARK TWAIN



I am saddened to say that there are more **teacher strikes on the horizon**; saddened that they still need to happen. The original reason for the strikes was to do with 'centrally-funded pay increases', and this is the reason staff in our school have chosen to strike at times this year and this is what they have felt so passionate about. A centrally-funded pay rise means more money for education and for the pupils of the school and that is what my staff believe in.

The national strikes days are Wednesday 5th July and Friday 7th July.

Our Transition Day was scheduled for Friday 7th July, in line with the majority of the secondary schools in our local area, but we have had to change this day/date as they have had to change theirs. This means that our new **Transition Day will be Thursday 6th July. But please note, we are NOT changing the date for our new EYFS intake pupils, that is remaining as Friday 7th July** as this was too much of a logistical and organisational nightmare to alter! If this does lead to any inconvenience we apologise, but to use one my well-used sayings, 'it is what it is!'



So, to confirm, the following classes, as we are aware at the present time, **WILL BE CLOSED to ALL pupils:**

Wednesday 5th July: Class Moonstone (Y5/6), Class Amethyst (Y6), Class Turquoise (Y6), Class Onyx, (Y4), Class Diamond (Y2)

Friday 7th July: Class Sapphire (Y3), Class Amethyst (Y6), Class Turquoise (Y6)

If there are further closures still to come these will be communicated to you at the earliest opportunity.

In the meantime, thank you for your continued support in all things related to school, and we look forward to seeing many of you at the PSA Summer Fete this Saturday, Saturday 1st July, starting at 1pm until 4 pm

Kind regards,

Michael Hoare, Head Teacher

Please now read on to find out about other school news...

School Opening Time: A reminder...

Just a reminder for those who are regularly coming into school through the school gates **at 8.50am...this is too late!**

Our school day **starts** for pupils **at 8.50am** – this means that the teaching starts at 8.50am and all pupils are expected to be in class and ready for lessons to begin.

To enable pupils to be in class for 8.50am, the school gates open at 8.40am and classroom doors open at 8.45am. This is the same for all pupils from EYFS to Year 6.



Parking and the LCC Camera Car



We have requested, once again, that the LCC Camera Car 'visits' the roads around the school before we break for the Summer...specifically we have requested 'eyes' on Forest Road, Holt Drive, Oaklands Avenue and Squirrel Way, focusing upon parking on double yellow lines and zig-zag lines and parking to obstruct the flow of traffic. Just a heads up...

Year 5 Sleep Out Under the Stars

Year 5's big adventure sleeping out in the school grounds was a real success!

Some children pitched tents, others slept under canopies and a few brave ones just put their bed rolls and sleeping bags out in the open – including the staff!

All the children embraced the experience and it was thoroughly enjoyed by children and staff.

Part of the evening was spent on activities such as blindfold trail, making a marshmallow roasting stick, fire lighting followed by a sausage and chip supper. When darkness fell the children used their jam jar night lights to find their way on a night walk around the school grounds and used their roasting forks with marshmallows around the camp fire..

As it became light, about 4.00am, the group had breakfast, decamped and took part in team games before being collected by the parents. There were some very tired children but all had a great time.



Year 4 Sleep out under the stars

We repeated the experience for the Year 4 children two weeks later and another great night was had. The children threw themselves into every activity and all the staff involved were impressed with their enthusiasm, independence and the way they supported each other.

A little more sleep was had this time but there were some very tired children going home (and staff!) the next day.

Well done to all of you!



Helping Hand in the Nature Area

On Friday the 16th June, in the Summer sun, our squad of determined volunteers came in to help push back the inevitable and relentless nettle invasion. Although we do understand the natural value of the nettles it was getting to the point where it was difficult for the children to safely enjoy the wildlife and appreciate and learn about how important it is to our world. We laid some more bark down, and this combined with increased footfall, should help to keep the paths accessible for a while at least. You can see from the photos how beautiful the area (and volunteers) look!

A huge thank you to the volunteers who gave up their time: Carmen Momir, Zeynep Cicek, Jamie Fearn, Rob Hannis, Lee Holland and Mohammed Ali.



North Charnwood Cross Country Shield Winners!

49 KS2 children were due to contest the third and final Cross Country League race at Charnwood College last Tuesday. All had been attending recent training sessions in preparation for this event as we were leading ahead of 19 other schools going into this final race.

Unfortunately, due to the torrential rain we had on the morning of the race, the organisers had to cancel the event. With no plan to reschedule the event this late in the term, it was decided that the final result would be based on results from the two previous League races. Fantastic news for us - we have been crowned the League winners with 660 points, ahead of Sacred Heart (617 points) and St. Pauls (477 points)!

A huge well done to all the children who have participated in this event this year. Every single child contributed to our final score as points were rewarded for finishing, as well as bonus points for positions. Thank you to all our parents and carers who have helped with transporting children to these races – one was even on a parents evening! We couldn't do this without your support.

Quad Kids Athletics

Our athletes have had a busy time recently, firstly competing in a Quad Kids Competition against 11 other schools at the end of May at Charnwood College. Quad Kids consists of 4 girls and 4 boys all competing in 4 athletic disciplines – the howler throw, a standing long jump, a 50m or 75m sprint and a 400m or 600m (depending on the age group,) with all their results contributing to the overall team score.

Year 3 and 4

It was the turn of our Year 3 and 4 athletes first who all gave 100% effort in all their events, scoring consistently well over the 4 disciplines. The team were absolutely delighted with their 2nd place overall and silver medals, narrowly beaten by Sacred Heart Primary School. A huge well done to: Connie, Anayah, Amelia, Darcy, Morgan, Milo, Joseph and Ashton. Congratulations to Milo who finished 2nd overall in the individual event after an amazing howler throw and strong runs and jump – a fantastic achievement!



Year 5 and 6

These children had a tough competition from 13 other schools but battled well in each of their events, scoring a massive 1,430 points between them. This was enough to secure them a very creditable 4th place. Although we know some of the children were slightly disappointed just to miss out on a medal-winning position, they should be very proud of their performances! Well done to: Asher, Nathan, Frankie, Noah, Elsie, Camryn, Harriet and Abbigail.



Thank you to all the parents who helped to transport the children over to the event and who were able to stay and support the children. It was lovely to see the children's delight when their supporters were able to share in their successes.

Year 6 Town Sports Athletics competition

In the middle of June we took a strong team of 20 Year 6 children to compete against 7 other Loughborough Schools at Quorn Playing fields. There was a mixture of excitement and nerves on our arrival as our children 'took in' the 400m full size track and the opposition. Well, what a wonderful competition it turned out to be! All the children jumped, ran or threw with great determination and were rewarded with some fantastic results. It was wonderful to witness and hear the cheers for their teammates, the enthusiastic celebrations for a success but also the quiet words of support for a disappointment.



We came away with 10 well-deserved medals! Congratulations to:

Keelyn – Gold in shot putt and bronze in 200m.

Maddie – Gold in rounders ball throw.

Nina – Bronze in 400m.

Rory – Bronze medals in 200m, cricket ball throw and 4 x 100m relay.

Joseph – Bronze in 4 x 100m relay.

Nathan – Bronze in 4 x 100m relay.

Asher – Bronze in 4 x 100m relay





Year 1 and 2 Multi-skills Festival

Ten children from Key Stage 1 recently took part in a fun Multi-skills Sports Festival with other schools at Charnwood College. They were instructed and led through a series of different activities by Charnwood College's young Sports Leaders. They tested their agility, balance and

coordination skills in activities such as obstacle courses, shooting practices, target games and running, jumping and throwing activities. The children all represented Mountfields Lodge brilliantly and Mrs Alderson and Mrs Newport were very proud of both their efforts and their behaviour. Well done Nate, John, Tobi, Kaysie, Ellie, Millie, Penelope, George, Aliyah and Armaan.



Year 3/4 Badminton Tournament

On the 15th June Mountfields participated in a badminton tournament against Stonebow. The children were fantastic throughout the whole tournament considering this was the first time some of the children had even played a match. We came second but we did have some good news with Idris and Jennifer coming joint first. Well done to everyone who took part.

Mr. Stanfield



Success at Summer Games!

After previous success earlier in the year, 8 Mountfields Lodge children were selected to represent North Charnwood in a Sportsability event at the Summer Games. This was a County Championship held for lots of different sports at Loughborough University. The children loved taking part in the Opening Ceremony at the Athletics Stadium and dancing together in a mass warm up, involving 800 participants. They then competed against 7 other teams in activities such as Kurling, Boccia and Target throwing and were delighted to be announced as the silver medal winners behind Hinkley and Bosworth. It was lovely to hear the organisers comment that our children demonstrated so many of the School Games values of determination, honesty, passion, belief, respect and teamwork throughout the competition. We are so proud of you! Well done Charlie, Josh, Harrison, Summer, Isaac, Tim, Eddie and Willow!



Donations Required



Do you have any children's pants lurking in drawers that you no longer need? We are very short of spare underwear and tights for children who may have had an accident or need a change if they fallen over in the wet weather. Age 3-8 are the ages we are looking for please.



SEND Parent/ Carer Coffee Afternoon: Thursday 6th July 2:30-3:15

This is an opportunity to chat with the SENDCo, other parents who have an understanding of the SEND system, as well as the Mental Health Practitioner team that works with us in school.