

Dear Parents/Carers,

### May 2023 Newsletter



I think we have had everything thrown at us this month in terms of weather...wind, rain, some chilly nights and sun too - but at last we have been finally able to use the school play field at lunchtimes...which is always a sure sign summer IS finally here!

One of the downsides of the warmer weather, and something I have mentioned just once or twice before(!) in Newsletters, is school uniform, and more particularly, the **naming of items of school uniform**. The extract below is from the April Newsletter, it says it all...

I know I have said what I am about to say many times before(!!) but as we head into the Summer Term and the weather - hopefully - gets warmer and sunnier, please could I once again ask that all items of school clothing are named, most

especially sweatshirts and cardigans that, when the sun comes out and the air heats up, are the first things that the children remove and often abandon. It is then nigh-on impossible returning these to the individuals if the items are unnamed and unidentifiable.'

We have had the **Lost Property** 'Bin' out at the school gate (Greenbelt) this last week and anything left in it, unclaimed, this evening (Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May) will be sent to a clothing bank to be recycled. Any really good quality school uniform items will be sold at the PSA's next 'used school clothing sale'. I hope you have all checked!!

May saw **Y6** pupils sit their **SATs**. Nationally, as always, there was 'interesting press' about the tests; all I will say is that *our* pupils conducted themselves really well throughout the 4 days (Tuesday 9/5/23-Friday 12/5/23) and 'what now will be, will be!'. The national release date for results is not until the very last week of term, so they will be sent out to parents just before we break up for the Summer Holidays! (Nationally the powers that be always forget that Leicestershire schools finish their school year a week or more ahead of other counties, making it a bit of a last-minute rush!).

I would remind you that **our term finishes this year at 3.20pm on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> July** (Friday is an INSET Day for staff). We have been reminded - and therefore have to pass that message on - that pupils should **not** be going on holiday ahead of that date. Schools are asked to *track* pupils who are 'ill' in the last few days of term -in fact, in the last few days of *any* term, or ½ term, to be certain that the reported illness is actually an illness; I think you will understand the message behind this expectation on schools.

'Exceptional circumstances' requiring **pupil absence** do not include 'cheaper flights or accommodation' etc



Please note that future **Term Dates** can be found on our school website:

Key Information tab > Term Dates.

These are set up to, and include, the school year 2024-25.

On that webpage it also clearly states that:

*'If you type 'term dates for Mountfields Lodge' into some search engines the WRONG holiday dates are flagged up; these are NOT our dates nor have we approved or sanctioned these; please be careful!'*

Just to bring this to your attention; if you want to know our school term dates, refer to our school website.

A **Transition Day** for current EYFS-Y5 pupils is arranged for Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July in school (slightly different for the High Schools; De Lisle most especially); so, it is important that pupils are in school on that date.

**Pupil School Reports** will have been sent home on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June – the previous Friday - so do please look out for those when the time comes. As always, these reports will be addressed to you and should not come home already opened; we will remind our pupils of this fact!

There are other diarised events that you may also wish to be aware of...these are included below for your information. They can also be found on the school's website:

News and Events tab > Calendar

As this 'arrives' in your inbox, the end of Summer (1) is here, and it is mind-blowing that there are only 6 weeks of the school year left when **we come back for Summer (2) on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June!**

There is a busy half-term ahead and that old concept that 'schools wind down in the Summer Term' could not be any further from the truth, Summer (2) is as busy, and as important, as any other half-term in school.

Please do now read on to find out about some other school-related events from the month of May.

Kind regards,

Michael Hoare, Head Teacher

**Please read on for more important information about our school.**

### **Car parking around school - Forest Road and neighbouring roads:**

I dream of not having to mention parking in a Newsletter...if only!

I cannot stress enough, as you well know, that there are double yellow lines outside schools for a reason – **pupil safety**.

There is a reason why there are speed restrictions outside schools – **pupil safety**.

There is a reason why there are zig-zag lines outside schools – **pupil safety**.

There is also an understanding that people's driveways will not be blocked by inconsiderate parkers.

There is the understanding that parking IS restricted outside schools and therefore journeys to and from school have to be planned to accommodate this so that pupils get to school on time.

**There is the acknowledgement that SO many of our parents/carers manage to 'work' with these 'things' day in and day out** and therefore must get fed up hearing about them just so that I can reiterate the message to the few who just can't manage to abide by these things. **Thank you to the majority. Please take note the minority!**

Grumble over – for this Newsletter anyway!

Mr Hoare



On Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May, Foundation stage visited the allotments on Epinal Way.

We previously visited the allotments nearly 6 months ago (not long after the children first started school!) it was surprising how much they could remember from our first visit, which goes to show how beneficial little trips like these really are.

Once again, the children were very well behaved and did their best to listen and ask questions. The visit was made possible by John Storer Charnwood. Neil very kindly demonstrated how to make eco-friendly plant pots and also bug hotels using recycling that we might have at home and showed the children plants at their different stages of growing. Clive spoke to the children about mini beasts and newts! Clive showed the children a left-over wasp nest from his own house, the children mostly wanted to know how he retrieved it without being stung! Very considerate children 🇧🇪



Recently we have been learning about life cycles and the children were keen to explore, searching high and low for different pictures of each stage of the frog life cycle, but sadly no actual frogs to be seen, however we will be keeping an eye on our own pond in the school grounds in case any frogs decide to move in!



We noticed this time that the allotment had some new plants growing, which was really nice to see! Being able to show the children real life change and growth is really important to help them make connections and links within the real world.



We visited the Beach Garden again...which is always a hit! It brought back memories of being at the seaside. The late Marion Smith, who as well as being a well-loved and respected community activist, was also a school governor at Mountfields Lodge for over 30 years, is fondly remembered by many staff and families of Mountfields. Marion was known for giving many talks about bees and beekeeping and this topic came up when we were on our visit. Marion would have been so pleased!



Once again, we are extremely grateful to John Storer Charnwood, we believe that building relationships within our local community is so important and beneficial. We are very fortunate to have so many wonderful spaces within Loughborough. John Storer Charnwood is a charitable organisation, working to promote and achieve community activity and well-being, if you would like more information regarding how John Storer House might be able to help you or how you might be able to help John Storer House please contact 01509 631750 or email [enquiries@johnstorercharnwood.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@johnstorercharnwood.org.uk)



**Our next Green Day is on Tuesday 6th June**

We are doing lots of fun activities in school to celebrate **World Environment Day**.



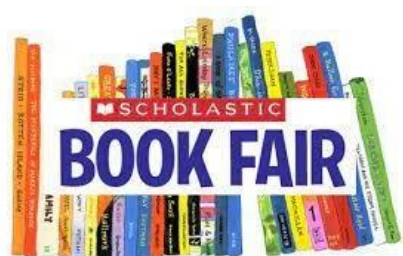
We are asking children and staff to wear green and donate any clean, unwanted plastic bottles (with lids) or yoghurt pots to make recycled bird feeders for our school grounds. We will also be doing our usual litter pick.

Thank you for your help and let's hope we can have another successful day raising awareness of important eco issues.



From Mrs. Rudkin and all of the Eco-Committee

### **School Book Fair**



Thank you to everyone who has supported our Scholastic Book Fair this year and helped to make it a resounding success! We are still in the final stages of finding out how much we have made but can reveal that **over £1000 of books were paid for online alone!** The funds raised from the sale will provide new books for our library and classrooms. None of this would be possible without the support of our wonderful Mountfields parents, carers and staff! Thank you again for making this sale such a success.



### Worldwide Wednesday Menu

This term the kitchen is serving food from a different country every Wednesday, to give the children an opportunity to try foods from around the world. So far, we have tasted Chinese sweet and sour, Italian chicken, Indian curry, Mexican chicken wraps and Swedish meatballs. Still to come are foods from America, Jamaica, Greece, France and Spain. We hope your children have enjoyed the Worldwide Wednesday meals so far 😊.



### Year 5/6 Cricket Event

#### A spirited performance!

Our amazing Year 5/6 cricket team played in a tournament at Loughborough Cricket ground on the 16<sup>th</sup> May. We were drawn in a small pool of 3 teams alongside Belton and St. Pauls Primary schools.

We played Belton first and it took a while to get into our batting stride, but eventually we started to find the boundary with some fabulous strikes! The bowling also went from strength to strength with some lovely wickets being taken. After a hard-fought match, we lost out by 5 runs!

Our second match against St. Pauls was extremely close. The team raised their game considerably with their batting and bowling, vastly improving as the game went on. Unfortunately, the opposition rallied their batting score and won by a mere 3 runs! The team which comprised of Maddie, Rocco, Josh, Kush, Rory, Harry, Tom and Frankie all performed brilliantly on the day and they have learned many new skills and techniques along the way. Well done team!

## **Year 3/4 football event**

On Tuesday 16th May Mrs Mock and I had the pleasure of taking two teams to the football festival at Loughborough College. This event was a fantastic opportunity for many pupils to experience football and represent the school. It was great to see how supportive and respectful all the players were during the matches. The round robin format saw the two MfL teams play each other in the last round for a place in the final. Team ***Mountfields W*** were well beaten and headed to the 3rd/4th play-off, which they eventually won on penalties. The final was also decided on penalties but unfortunately this time ***Mountfields M*** came up just short, finishing in 2<sup>nd</sup> place. Well done to both teams and players

Mr Woolley



## **SEND Parent/ Carer Coffee Afternoon: Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2:30-3:15**

An opportunity to drop into school to speak with other parents/ carers who have children with SEND over a cup of coffee/tea (+ biscuits!). There will be the opportunity to chat with the SENDCo and seek advice about support services in the area.

## **We Need Weeders!**

A few years ago, a group of parents came into school over the summer and helped us to clear the pond area and make it accessible. It is truly a beautiful area and an exciting time of year for the children to visit. Unfortunately, the weather conditions have been perfect for the nettles and weeds to thrive, and the far side of the pond is barely accessible.

Do you have 2 hours to spare on **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> June 1.15pm – 3.15pm to make it accessible again?** If so, sign up at the school office. Wear long sleeves and trousers and bring gardening gloves and something to cut and dig with!

Look forward to digging and cutting with you! Mr Coleman





## Mountfields Lodge Community Carwash



### ***WANTED – DIRTY CARS!***

The **School Council** have been working on ideas for a community project. Together we came up with a list of ideas that the councillors then took back to their classes to vote for.

**The children across school voted for the 'Community Carwash'.**

This will involve people in the community signing up to bring their cars at specific times throughout the day. The children will come out two or three classes at a time. So, if you know of anyone who struggles to get their car washed, perhaps grandparents or neighbours or yourselves, then keep your eyes on the school emails for more details – date to be confirmed (likely to be end of June).

***We are also looking for donations of clean sponges, car shampoo and buckets.***

Mr Coleman

### **School Lunch Price Increase**

We have tried really hard not to increase the cost of our School Lunches and have been selling ours at the cheapest rate possible for as long as we can. However, we now find ourselves in the position that we are going to have to increase our meals in line with all of the other local schools. The costs of our foodstuffs have risen sharply, and even though we source locally and 'shop around', we cannot sustain the current costs.

Therefore, as from the beginning of the Autumn Term (August 31<sup>st</sup> 2023) the price of a school meal **will be increasing to £2.50 per meal/day.**

### **Breakfast Club Price Increase.**

The cost of our Cool B4 School Breakfast Club is also set to increase from the beginning of next school year - from Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023. **The cost will increase to £4.00 per session, or £4.50 per session with a breakfast.** As with our School Meal increase, we have tried hard to keep the cost as low as we can for as long as we can, but have had to finally succumb to an increase.

### **Leicestershire Libraries May Half-Term**– LCC

May is Local and Community History Month and is a fantastic opportunity for children to learn about the history of where they live and also that of other countries and cultures around the world.

Leicestershire Libraries are hosting living history workshops for children and families during the May/June half term:

- Loughborough Library on **Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2023** 10am–11.30am- Songster the War horse [Book Here](#)
- Market Harborough Library **Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023** 10.30am–11.30am - What to Wear in Medieval Times [Book Here](#)
- Melton Library **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2023** 10am – 11.30am - Songster the War horse [Book Here](#)
- Suitable for 7+ years

Tickets are **£3** per child and Booking online through Eventbrite.

### **MMR Vaccination Reminder**– Public Health

#### ***A reminder to check children, teenagers and young adults are fully up to date with their vaccinations.***

There has been an increase in cases of measles in England over the past few months. Measles is a highly infectious disease, which can lead to serious health problems in children, for example meningitis, pneumonia and in rare cases, long-term-disability, or death. Symptoms include a high fever, sore red watery eyes, small white spots in the mouth and a blotchy red-brown rash (which starts on the face and behind the ears before spreading to the rest of the body). It is particularly easy to catch through close contact, in environments where children mix freely, especially during the summer holidays when they attend summer camps/clubs/festivals.

It is important for parents or guardians of young children, teenagers, and young adults to check they are up to date with their measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccinations. Normally children are offered the first dose of the MMR vaccine at the age of one year and the second dose around 3 years old. Parents or guardians can check if their children have had both doses by asking the GP surgery or they can check the vaccination status record online through the GP online service (if registered with this service.)

#### **Please contact your GP to arrange vaccination if your child has missed doses.**

If you think that your child has symptoms of measles, it is advised to stay at home and contact your GP or NHS 111 for advice, before visiting a medical centre. This will help prevent the spread of this high infectious viral disease.

For more information, please see the links below:

- [Why Vaccination Is Safe and Important](#)
- [NHS - Measles](#)
- [MMR \(Measles, Mumps and Rubella\) Vaccine](#)

### **Diary Dates Summer 2023**

Date	Event
Monday 5/6/23	Y4 Multiplication Check (3 weeks)
Thursday 8/6/23	EYFS Trip to Twycross Zoo
Friday 9/6/23	Y5 Sleepout Under the Stars
Monday 12/6/23	Y3/4 Trip to National Forest Conkers Discovery Park
Monday 12/6/23	Y1 Phonics Test Week (1 week)
Monday 19/6/23	EYFS Stay and Play
Monday 26/6/23	
Tuesday 20/6/23	Y3/4 Sports 'Day' 9.30am
Thursday 22/6/23	Y1/2 Sports 'Day' 9.30am
Friday 23/6/23	EYFS Sports 'Day' 9.30am



Friday 23/6/23	Y4 Sleepout Under the Stars
Tuesday 27/6/23	Y1 Trip to Stonehurst Farm
Thursday 29/6/23	Y5/6 Sports 'Day' 9.30am
Friday 30/6/23	Reports sent home
Saturday 1/7/23	PSA Garden Party
Friday 7/7/23	Transition Day in Mountfields Lodge
Tuesday 11/7/23	Leavers Performance 6.30pm
Wednesday 12/7/23	Leavers Performance 2.00pm
Wednesday 12/7/23	Y6 Leavers Picnic

## Updates from the PSA

**Funding** - We treated the Year 6 children to a much-needed ice cream from Mrs Sprinkles at the end of SATs week this month. We've also received delivery of leavers' t-shirts for Year 6, which will be given out at the end of term.

We've ordered bookbags for the children who will be starting at Mountfields after the summer and we've paid for the live duckling hatching experience for Foundation stage.

We've paid for a new banner flag which will be used at sporting events, so Mrs Mock and Mrs Newport won't need to hold it together with hair bobbles anymore!

Our current funding focus is on the school library. We are working with school and the volunteer librarians to draw up a list of new furniture that is needed and we're hoping to get some of this ordered before the end of this term. We won't be able to do everything that we want to all at once but over the coming year we plan on spending more money on improving the look and feel and usability of this space. If you're interested in getting involved, then please get in touch.

## Summer Fete

### ***BBQ needed - can you help!***

After half term we'll be sending out more information about how you can sign up to help at the summer fete. In the meantime, we're on the lookout for anyone who can lend us a **large or medium size gas BBQ** for the event. We can collect it and return it (fully cleaned) and we'll cover the cost of the gas used. If you have a BBQ that you no longer need but is still in good working condition, then please consider donating it to us!

### **How to get in touch**

Email: [mountfieldspsa@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mountfieldspsa@hotmail.co.uk)

Facebook @MountfieldsPSA or leave us a message at the school office.

**PSA**  
PARENTS & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

**SUMMER FETE**  
**Saturday 1st July**  
**1pm-4pm**

**Mountfields Lodge School**

**Raffle • Tombola • Performances**  
**Traditional Games • BBQ • Bar**  
**Teas & Coffees • Face Painting**  
**Pre-loved Uniform Sale • DJ**  
**Bouncy Castle & Slide • Cake Sale**  
**Ice Cream Van & much more!**

**Please enter via the Forest Road Greenbelt Gate**  
Adult entry - £1 Children - FREE @mountfieldspsa