

Dear Parents/Carers,

September 2023 Newsletter

Welcome to the first newsletter of the 2023-24 School Year!

We would like to start by welcoming our Foundation pupils to Mountfields Lodge who have now settled into full weeks after a week of part-time. We have enjoyed getting to know them and their families and look forward to seeing how they develop in their first year and beyond.

We have also had 8 new pupils join us across the school and we would like to welcome them and their families to our school community.

There are also new members of our staff team; Mrs Osborne class teacher for Class Jade and Mrs Norris who has joined our Year 6 teaching team.

The first few weeks have flown by and, before we know, it will be the end of our first half term. Our half term break is from **Monday 16th October to Friday 20th October**.

The week before this we will have our **Parent-Teacher Consultations** - a separate letter has been sent out regarding this. Please ensure you read it so that you have plenty of time to book your timeslots. This is an opportunity for you to meet with the class teachers to discuss how your child has settled. Please note that access to the school after 3.30pm will be via the main office. One of the Senior Leadership Team will be there to direct you to your child's classroom.

Harvest Appeal

Well done to our Year 5 children who presented their Harvest Assembly to parents and other family members last week. This launched our Harvest Appeal, in support of Loughborough Foodbank. We will be collecting items until Friday 7th October. Thank you for all the donations we have had in so far.



Year 6 Residential

Last week also saw a number of our Year 6 children set off on a 3-day residential to Standon Bowers Outdoor Centre. It was a really successful visit allowing children to develop their independence and team work and also to have a go at activities that took them out of their comfort zone. On their return to school, there were some very tired faces (pupils and staff!) but some great comments about the amazing time they had.



The BMX Track

We had just arrived at Standon Bowers and Mr Grundy took us to the helmet store to get our knee pads, arm pads and helmets. We then got a bike and practised riding it. We finally went to the BMX track full of curly, high ramps. I was shivering with excitement to go down but I screamed when it was my turn. It's time for me to go down. When I came back up it was so much fun and there was no need to get so scared. Mr Grundy said, "Did you enjoy it?" I said yes.



Ayesha – Class Amethyst



House Captains

Each year we select House Captains from our Year 6 pupils. All staff in school are asked to nominate pupils who they feel show the following qualities:

Demonstrate positive leadership ability/skills

- Are good role models for other pupils (behaviour/conduct/attitude)
- Show initiative
- Demonstrate good organisational skills
- Communicate effectively and are able to speak to House members confidently
- Demonstrate pride in the school
- Are polite and trustworthy
- Are kind, compassionate and caring
- Have a proven record of the above throughout their time in school.

This year our House Captains are:

Beech	Mulberry	Sycamore	Willow
Georgia Eilidh	Flora Esme	Ruhi Ameerah	Ruby Haroun

These House Captains will be asked to

- Total monthly house points (and fortnightly mid-month totals)
- Encourage House members to earn points and be proud of their achievements
- Meet with visitors and welcome them to the school (conduct school tours)
- Promote the school ethos and Code of Conduct

Sporting Ambassadors

The school's new Sporting Ambassadors have also been selected. These children have demonstrated the School Games Values of determination, honesty, respect, passion, teamwork and self-belief and we believe that they will make excellent Sports Leaders at Mountfields Lodge School.

Congratulations to;

Zeynep	Martha	Freyja
Henry	Macy	Tom
Noah	Noah	Kaiya
Aaliyah	Josh	Corbin



School Council and Eco Committee

Democracy is one of the British Values we have been talking about in our assemblies this term and the children have followed a democratic process to elect the Eco-Rep and School Councillor for their class.

For those pupils who were interested in standing for these positions, they had to present to their class mates about why they should be considered for that position.

Once the presentations were completed pupil voting took place.

Well done to all who presented to their peers!

A big congratulations to those who were elected.



School Council 2023 – 24

Class Opal	-	Wesam
Class Topaz	-	Pippa
Class Jade	-	Adam
Class Ruby	-	Eric
Class Diamond	-	Rosie
Class Quartz	-	Manraj
Class Garnet	-	Arthur
Class Sapphire	-	Barnaby
Class Emerald	-	Orla
Class Onyx	-	Orla
Class Moonstone	-	Esme
Class Serpentine	-	Darcy
Class Turquoise	-	Macy
Class Amethyst	-	Max

Eco Committee 2023 - 24

Class Opal	-	Ella-Rose
Class Topaz	-	Leonardo
Class Jade	-	Florence
Class Ruby	-	Florence
Class Diamond	-	Lloyd
Class Quartz	-	Vaila
Class Garnet	-	Hughie
Class Sapphire	-	Lydia
Class Emerald	-	Adrika
Class Onyx	-	Edie
Class Moonstone	-	Ettie
Class Serpentine	-	Ellie
Class Turquoise	-	Harrison
Class Amethyst	-	Josh



Our sporting calendar is already underway and we have many events planned for the year ahead.

Active Start

Twelve Year 6 children recently had the rare opportunity to spend an afternoon participating in some fun football, netball and basketball workshops at Charnwood College. These were led by local elite coaches and players, including the Leicester Riders Basketball Club.



The children all engaged wholeheartedly for 2 hours and were taken through lots of exciting drills and challenges, as well as playing some fun games. Well done Lyla, Iqra, Haroun, Soraya, Max, Jenson, Blake, Ben, Harley and Nancy for your energy, enthusiasm and attentiveness to the coaches.

Year 6 Girls Football

Our Year 5/6 Girls Football team recently took part in a fantastic football competition at Charnwood College. It was inspiring to see 140 Year 5/6 girls from 14 different schools battling it out for the team prizes.

Although we didn't make it past the group stages, all the girls performed with determination and great team spirit in their 7 consecutive games, winning two games, drawing four and losing only one game to the eventual silver medallists.

There were some very tired Mountfields legs at the end of the 56 minutes of play, but a feeling that they had given it their all. Well done Macy, Abbigail, Anayah, Isla, Darcy, Harriet, Esme and Amelia!





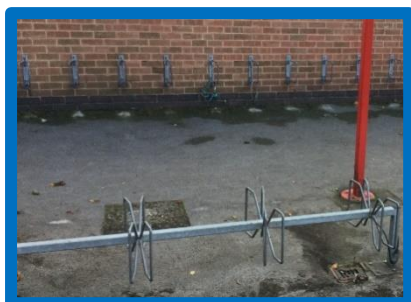
Active Travel Month – October 2023

Mountfields Lodge has chosen to be involved in the Leicestershire Active Travel Month in October which aims to increase the number of children travelling to school by walking, cycling and scooting.

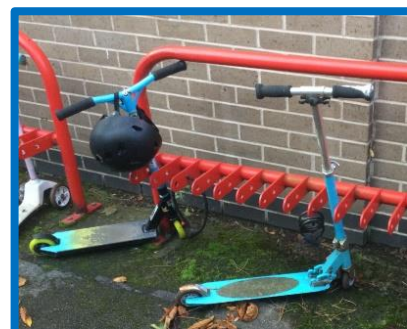
Actively travelling to school has many benefits for your child; it helps keep them fit and healthy, can increase concentration levels in class, helps to develop road safety skills and is fun. Reducing the number of cars around the school will also help to make the area quieter, safer and less congested.

During October, each class will use their active travel wall chart to record how pupils are travelling to school during the month.

If you aren't able to travel actively all the way from home you can still take part by parking a distance from the school (e.g., 10 minutes away) and walking, cycling or scooting the rest.



Please can we ask that bikes are parked in the bike standsand scooters in the scooter racks.



Click on this link to watch a short video about Active Travel.



<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#search/active+travel/FMfcqzGtxKSkCvsfIMGQCCLLrNQZHJC?projector=1>



Art competition

During the Summer Term Mountfields Lodge pupils were asked by local company 'The Printers' to take part in a competition to draw a favourite animal. The winning entry for this competition was drawn by our very own Rosie from Class Sapphire! Not only was her winning design printed on to a T-shirt and a mug, she also won a £250 voucher for the school to spend at 'The Printers'!

We will be asking the children to decide what they would like the money to go towards over the next few weeks.

Well done Rosie and thank you very much!



Family Fund

Helping disabled children

Family Fund grants are available for families on a low income, raising a child or young person aged 17 or under with a long-term disability, disabling condition or life-limiting illness. Grants depend on available funding.

To decide if your family is eligible for a grant, Family Fund look at your income and the impact of disability on your child. Please visit the website for more information <https://www.familyfund.org.uk/>

Few Reminders

School Uniform

Thank you to all those children who are wearing our school uniform, this includes PE kits.

A reminder of our expectations:

Trousers/ skirts and pinafore dresses – Grey, skirts and dresses should be knee-length
Sweatshirts/cardigans - School blue, *preferably with the school logo*
Zip-up fleece - School blue with the school logo (worn as an outdoor garment)



Polo shirts - Pale blue (with or without the school logo)

Socks - Grey short or long socks, grey tights

Shoes - Black (heels should be low; **no** strappy sandals, knee-length boots or sports trainers with an obvious logo)

Regular physical education is an important part of the curriculum that we provide for children and, as such, a **PE Kit** is needed.

For indoor PE:

A pair of PLAIN black shorts, football or cycling-type;

A PLAIN white T-shirt;

N.B. If, for religious reasons, black shorts for girls cannot be worn, a pair of close-fitting black PE leggings should be worn instead

For outdoor PE - and for wearing over their black shorts and white T-Shirt on their way to and from school on PE Days:

A PLAIN black, grey or blue sweatshirt;

A pair of coordinating tracksuit bottoms in black, grey or blue;

A pair of trainers.

As the children come to school in their PE Kit on PE Days, they should bring a spare pair of shoes (trainers or school shoes) and socks with them to change in to should their feet get wet whilst outside in their lesson; this extra pair of shoes and socks should be brought in *and* taken home on each PE Day and should not be left in school. They should be brought in in a drawstring PE bag or in their school bag (dependent upon size of the bag and shoes!).

We ask that children **do not wear jewellery at school** as it can be dangerous on the playground and difficult to trace if it is lost. However, if earrings are to be worn, they must be **small, plain studs**.

Children are not allowed to wear any jewellery, including earrings and nose studs, during P.E. as it can cause serious injury. Please can we ask wherever possible that children do not come to school in earrings on PE days.

We will be sending messages home with children if we feel their uniform is not appropriate.

Lost Property

Our lost property bin seems to be filling up fast and we try to return any items that are found to the rightful owner, however that is often difficult due to no names. **PLEASE can we ask that all items of uniform be named**, that way you stand a really good chance of your child's items being returned. We will have the Lost Property Box out next week before and after school on the playground next to the Green Belt – please take a look.



Parking

As you are aware, the roads around the school site have limited parking and we encourage as many children as possible to walk, scoot, bike etc to and from school. The County Council Camera Car regularly visits Squirrel Way, and the roads around school, to 'capture' cars parked illegally or inconsiderately. We have had reports from our neighbours relating to cars being parked on and across drive ways meaning residents are unable to leave their property. This may seem only a few minutes but it causes great inconvenience to others.

We have some parents who choose to park on zig-zag lines, on bends of the roads and across pavements. The safety of our children has to be at the forefront of our decision making and none of these actions are safe choices!

Please can we also avoid **idling car engines** when parents are dropping off and collecting their children, as this causes a polluted journey to school for many pupils as they pass by the fumes coming out of exhausts. Please could we ask that you be mindful of this – and save some fuel – by switching off your engines for the sake of the well-being of our children...thank you.

Nut Free School

We have a number of pupils in school with allergic reactions to peanuts and sesame seeds; these are not mild reactions or 'food fads', these are very real and potentially serious reactions to these food products, so much so that these young pupils have epi-pens (or similar) in school should they be needed.



To therefore protect these children in school, and others who may yet develop an intolerance to nuts, I would ask that **NO KNOWN NUT-BASED PRODUCTS** are sent **into school** for mid- morning snacks or in lunch boxes. **PLEASE** check that **what you are sending in is nut-free.**



Attendance

Our school gates open at 8.40am and children are expected to be in their classrooms for **8.50am**. It is really important for all pupils to be in their classes on time allowing them to settle and be 'ready to learn'.

Illness: Please be reminded that if your child is ill, please call the school voicemail **no later than 8.50am** on the first day of illness and each day thereafter until their return to school, unless otherwise advised by a member of the Office Staff i.e., if a child had sickness and diarrhoea, we would expect you to phone in on the first day of absence but not on the second as we know that any pupil with this type of illness **MUST** be absent for 48 hours.



Medical Appointments: Where possible, we need to be informed in advance of any pupil needing a medical appointment. We do understand that many surgeries and GP practices now only send confirmation of an appointment via text and email; we would ask to see these as proof of the appointment please.

Absence Requests: All requests for absence must be made prior to the event. Absence Request Forms are available via the school website or from the School Office.

National guidance states that a school should ensure that pupil attendance is as high on their agenda as it can be; this is the case at our school. This means more 'chasing up' on pupil absence and implementing sanctions and penalties robustly in line with national expectations.

What does this mean to you?

- It means ensuring ***your child attends every day*** the school is open, except when a statutory reason applies.
- It means ***notifying the school*** as soon as possible when your child has to be unexpectedly absent (e.g., sickness).
- It means only ***requesting leave of absence in exceptional circumstances*** and doing so in advance. This does not include holidays as they are not considered an exceptional circumstance.
- It means ***booking any medical appointments*** around the school day where possible.



Dates for you Diaries

(These are subject to change, although every effort is made to avoid having to do so)

SEND Parent/ Carer Forum: Tuesday 7th November 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.

Date	Event
Tuesday 10/10/23 Thursday 12/10/23	P-T Consultations: 3.30pm – 7.00pm Face-to-Face Mtgs
Tuesday 31/10/23	School Photos
Friday 1/12/23	INSET Day 3 (school closed)
Monday 11/12/23	EYFS End of Term Performance 2.00pm
Tuesday 12/12/23	EYFS End of Term Performance 2.00pm
Wednesday 13/12/23	Y2 End of term Performance 6.00pm Y4 End of Term Performance 2.00pm
Thursday 14/12/23	Y2 End of term Performance 2.00pm Y4 End of Term Performance 6.00pm
Wednesday 20/12/23	Christmas Lunch
Thursday 21/12/23	PSA Carol Concert

