



Lavant

C.E. Primary School

Headteacher: Mr Adrian King B.A Hons (QTS) NPQH

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30th September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is hard to believe that we are already one month into the new school year. Your children have settled really well in their new classes and we are all continuing to enjoy being back in the school building once again. We were delighted to have such a very good turn out to our welcome meetings early this month and hope you found your class meeting informative.

Staffing news

I am sorry to inform you that, after struggling with long covid for a number of months now, Mrs Morgan has regretfully taken the decision to step back from school life to focus on her recovery. Mrs Morgan's kind and loving nature has had such a positive effect helping many children and adults within our school community and we are all going to miss her. We do however wish her all the best in her ongoing recovery. Mrs Morgan will be popping into school next Wednesday, so if you wanted to drop in a card of best wishes, we will happily pass it onto her.

ARRIVAL AT SCHOOL

The change of our school start time to 8:45am has been welcomed by many parents and has had a really positive impact on our school day and valuable learning time. Learning starts as soon as the children enter the building with 15 minutes of spelling work or morning challenges and registration. By 9am, all children are immersed in phonics / reading activities which run for 30 minutes. At 9:30am, all classes begin their main maths or Learning Journey input of the day. Please do ensure that your child is ready to enter the school doors at 8:45am so that their learning time is not affected or other children's learning disrupted. Any pupils arriving after the gates are shut, must be **accompanied by an adult** and enter the school building via the main doors. Please can I ask that parents of any child arriving after the gates are shut, sign the late book and provide a reason for lateness.

ATTENDANCE

Our attendance in the summer term dipped below 96% for the first time in many years. Although missing school due to illness cannot be helped, a significant percentage of absences were due to family holidays taken in term time. Whilst we fully understand this was largely due to holidays being rescheduled following the pandemic, I must remind you that any holidays within term time cannot be authorised by the school and West Sussex are issuing Fixed Term Penalties (FTP) to parents whose children have poor attendance, or are taking holidays in term time. (Please see attached leaflet for further information) Every day in school counts, so please ensure that your child does not miss out on vital learning in class.



Winter Clothing

As the autumnal weather appears to be approaching, please can you ensure that all children bring a warm waterproof coat to school every day. We aim to get all the children outside at playtimes even when it is cold and damp. We believe in children getting lots of fresh air and keeping active all year round and therefore, children are allowed to continue to play on the school field during lunchtimes in the wetter months as long as they have an old pair of tracksuit bottoms and an old pair of trainers/wellingtons in school.

Individual photos / uniform

The photographers will be in school on Tuesday 15th November to take an individual photo of all the children. Please ensure your child is in their smartest uniform on that day. If you would like your pre-school child to come and have his or her photograph taken with your school child then please wait in the hall at 9.00am.

On the subject of uniform, although the vast majority of children have all the necessary items in school and look really smart every day, a small minority are in danger of slipping into bad habits. Please note the following polite reminders:



- School fleeces are an additional item of uniform that may be worn over the school jumper in cold weather. A fleece is not a replacement of a school jumper
- We ask all children in KS2 to keep a pair of trainers in school for their fifteen minutes of fitness each day (Please note, these should be in addition to older trainers/wellingtons that get wet playing sport on the field at lunchtime)
- The only jewellery allowed in school are stud earrings. These must be removed or taped over by the children for sporting activities (removed for swimming).
- Any mobile phones coming to school must be given in to the class teacher / office on arrival. Children must not keep them in their school bags.
- Unless in exceptional circumstances, children are not encouraged to bring in toys from home. We have many in school to share.

Now COVID restrictions have been removed we are keen to re-establish our team of parent helpers who help out in class or come into school to hear children read. If this is something that you may be interested in becoming involved in, please do pop in to have a chat. All helpers will have a DBS check, undertaken by the school, to ensure all members of the school community are fully safeguarded.



Anti-bullying week 14th – 18th November

Later this term we will be celebrating Anti-bullying week, exploring the theme of bullying across the school and ensuring all children know what to do if they are worried that they, or someone else, is being bullied. We are extremely fortunate that incidences of bullying are very low at our school but each and every possible case is always taken seriously. Time is always

taken to talk to all those involved, and if bullying is suspected, parents will immediately be informed as we work together to support those affected. Watch out for further information on this important week after half term.

Here's to a really fun and productive October

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Adrian King".

Adrian King

If you have any ideas or additional suggestions for our school please feel free to complete the slip below and return to the school office at your convenience

Name:
Comment:

