



Lavant

C.E. Primary School

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

It was great to see so many of you at parent consultations last week; thank you for your overwhelmingly positive feedback as to how useful and informative you find these meetings. The children have had a really good first few weeks in school and it has been lovely to see all the creative learning that has taken place



Well done to our early years children who have thrown themselves into school life. They were all settled quickly at the start of the term and we are so pleased to have them in our school. We look forward to seeing each child in Wren Class flourish over the coming months and years.

Pheasant Class visit to CYE



From 1st – 3rd October, Pheasant Class had a fabulous few days at Christian Youth Enterprise Activity Centre. The children had so much fun and rose to the challenge of tunnelling, rafting, sailing, and much more. Well done to our Pheasants, for showing a really positive attitude throughout the residential. We were so proud of all the children who were an absolute credit to our school.

Local heroes

As part of their learning about 'Every day Heroes', Wren Class had an exciting visit from the Fire service. The children learned about the job of a Fire Fighter: how they help us, what they wear, what tools are stored on a fire engine etc. They have also had a great time role playing nurses, doctors and police officers.



Book Fest



To celebrate Chichester Book Festival, we were thrilled to partner with West Dean CE Primary School and welcome two children's authors to our school. John Bond and Catherine Wilkins both shared the inspiration for their books and kindly signed a copy of their books for each child in school to take home.

Harvest

A big thank you to everyone who donated harvest gifts for our Harvest Festival. As usual, the service was very well attended and a wonderful celebration of God's provision for us. We have received a letter of thanks from Chichester Food Bank for the donations made.



CHICHESTER
CATHEDRAL
SCHOOL FRIENDS



Grounds morning

A huge **thank you** also to all of you who worked so hard tidying and improving our school grounds during our Grounds morning last Saturday. We have such a wealth of talented parents, and we hugely appreciate your commitment and willingness to help. These mornings make such a difference in maintaining and improving our school grounds.

Governing Body News

Following my letter informing you of a vacancy on our local governing board, we are delighted to welcome Mr Kier Sessions and Mr Luke Rogers, who have both agreed to become parent governors. Ms Sally Steel, who has been a very active governors for many years, stepped down from her governing role at the start of this academic year. We thank her for all she has contributed towards the leadership of our school for the past seven years. Mrs. Ann Smith is kindly continuing as our Chair of Governors, and we are grateful to Mrs. Georgina Blair, who has agreed to support Ann as our vice chair.

As always, I am very grateful to all our governors who effectively offer challenge and support to our school. Their dedication to the children of Lavant and in helping our school grow from strength to strength is hugely important to our development.

Winter Ready



As the autumnal weather is well upon us now, 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 so that everyone has some fresh air and a chance to run around. We encourage children to continue playing on the school field at lunch times but do insist that they have a change of footwear and an old pair of tracksuit bottoms to put on. Please remember that in winter all children must wear smart school shoes in school, no boots or trainers please.

School Medication

As many of you are aware, we keep a stock of Capol, Piriteze, emergency asthma inhalers and Epi-pens in school. These essential items are needing to be replenished increasingly more frequently and the associated costs have significantly risen over recent years. If at any time, you feel able to make a small contribution towards these items, please place a cash donation in a marked envelope in the office post box in the school foyer.

Attendance

There is a clear link between academic outcomes and school attendance and we want all pupils to achieve excellent outcomes to give themselves the very best chance in life. In line with our Bishop Luffa Partnership schools, we have recently updated our Attendance Policy which sees small tweaks to some of our practices regarding school absence. The following extract is from the Trust policy which outlines new procedures for requesting absence from school:

Leave of Absence Requests – 'Exceptional Circumstances'

The law does not grant parents the automatic right to take their child out of school during term time.

Only exceptional circumstances warrant an authorised leave of absence. Generally, a need or desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation would not constitute an exceptional circumstance. The school will consider each application individually, considering the specific facts and circumstances and relevant background

context behind the request. The request must be made by the parent with whom the child normally lives, and permission must be sought in advance. The school will not grant leave of absence unless there are exceptional circumstances. The school must be satisfied that there are exceptional circumstances, based on the individual facts and circumstances of the case; following consultation with other staff as required, including the Designated Safeguarding Lead. Where a leave of absence is granted, the school will determine the number of days the pupil can be away from school. A leave of absence is granted entirely at the school's discretion.

Circumstances which could be authorised include significant family emergencies or funerals. However, parents will also be aware that, wherever possible, it can be better for children to continue to attend school normally during difficult family times.

Parents should complete an **'Application for an Absence During Term Time' form, available from the school office or website.** Once completed, it should be returned to the school office for processing.

For further information regarding school attendance, please see our full policy which can be found on our school website 'Key Information & Policies' – 'Attendance Policy and Leave request'

Remembrance Day Poppies

We will be selling poppies on behalf of the British Legion during the first two weeks after the half term break. Children in year 6 will bring around the poppies first thing each day and any child is welcome to one by offering a small donation.

Anti-bullying week 10th – 14th 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.

Christmas Fair

Organisation is now well underway for our Christmas Fair which, this year, is being held on Saturday 29th November. We will be holding a donation day on 7th November. On this day the children will be able to wear non-school uniform in return for bringing in items to the fair. Please do all make a real effort to support this excellent event which raises a huge amount of funds for our school, whilst getting everyone in the Christmas spirit.



Best wishes,

Adrian King

KEY UPCOMING EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 3 rd November	INSET DAY – School closed for children
Tuesday 4 th November	2 nd half of autumn term commences for children Robin Class Great fire of London Workshop Pheasant Class trip to the D-Day museum
Friday 7 th November	Non Uniform day – Donations for the Christmas Fair
Saturday 8 th November	Friends Jumble sale
Monday 10 th November	Wren Class Toy workshop
Friday 14 th November	Children in need day Art Evening with Mrs Totman and Mrs Faulkner
Tuesday 18 th November	Yr3/4 football tournament @ Chichester University
Friday 21 st November	Flu vaccinations Wren Class 'Toy Museum' for parents
Tuesday 25 th November	Parent workshop – Managing worries Yr 5/6 girls football tournament @ Chichester University
Thursday 27 th November	Pheasant Class Museum for parents
Saturday 29 th November	Christmas Fair
Monday 1 st December	Woodpecker Class visit to Butser Farm
Thursday 4 th December	Yr 5/6 football tournament @ Bognor Arena
Tuesday 9 th December am	Wren and Robin Class Nativity
Wednesday 10 th December pm	Wren and Robin Class Nativity
Tuesday 16 th December	Woodpecker and Pheasant Class Carol Service
Thursday 18 th December	Christmas Jumper Day, Music Assembly Chartwells Christmas lunch
Friday 19 th December	CYE Christmas Assembly Last day of the autumn term

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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:

