

L.J.S. NEWS



The Monthly Newsletter of Laxton Junior School

Easter Quarter, Issue 11

14 January 2010

"The purpose of learning is growth, and our minds, unlike our bodies, can continue growing as long as we live."

Mortimer Adler

Dear parents, children and other members of the school community,

Welcome to the first LJS News of 2010. There are lots of exciting things to tell you about in this edition, particularly the Form 6 LJS Award and our first Science Fair. It promises to be an exciting month!

On behalf of the staff,

Mark Potter

DATES AND HOLIDAYS FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR

Easter Quarter 2010

Quarter commences Monday January 11th.
Long Exeat - Saturday 13th - Sunday 21st
February inclusive.
Quarter ends at 3.45pm Friday 26th March.

Trinity Quarter 2010

Quarter commences on Monday 19th April.
Long Exeat - Saturday 29th May - Sunday 6th June inclusive.
Quarter ends at noon Wednesday 7th July.

Michaelmas Quarter 2010

Quarter commences on Monday 6th September. New Reception Form - Wednesday 8th September
Quarter ends at 3.45pm Friday 15th October.

LJS SCIENCE FAIR

You are cordially invited to attend the Laxton Junior School Science Fair on the morning of Wednesday 27th January 2010 between 9.00 and 11.30 a.m.

All of the children at LJS have been involved in designing and carrying out their own experiments. During the Science Fair, you will be able to view the children's learning and they will be able to explain their learning to you.

The children's efforts will be judged by a team of judges, led by Mr Paul Clarke, Head of Science at Oundle school.

Please do come along and share this event with your children. There will be lots to talk about.

ELECTRIC LEGO CITY

During the same week as the Science Fair, we will also be visited by Mr John Pilling and his Electric Lego City Workshop.

This workshop is a hands-on Science and Technology workshop where the children in Forms 1 to 6 will build tall city buildings, use batteries, bulbs, wires and switches to provide lighting for the buildings and will build and control trains using circuits.

Mrs Pearson will be writing to you in the near future with further details.

FORM 6 LJS AWARD SCHEME

The LJS Award is an award based on service to the community, developing individual skills and challenging oneself. The programme is designed to supplement your child's learning and the School's existing Schemes of Work.

The LJS Award is designed to give Form 6 the opportunity to work and challenge themselves over the course of the Easter and Trinity Quarters, involving a range of activities, pursuits and projects. It is a prestigious award, which will both extend and reward every child.

Criteria

The following sections outline some examples of what the children might like to pursue during the two Quarters. Some will be compulsory and others will be of your child's choice. Activities marked with a * are compulsory. **The children must complete these activities and also any TWO activities from the Service Section plus any other TWO.**

All areas will be assessed and marks towards the final total will be awarded.

School

- Represent the School at something or take on some type of job or position of responsibility. Eg: School team, Librarian, helping with Reception children after break.
- *Reading to Infants.
- Helping at cake stalls, Summer Fayre, doing work for your House.

Service

- Anything that the children organise themselves. Eg: fundraising event, helping with a Club, taking an assembly - something outside the normal School day.
- Visiting elderly relatives, visiting the local care home, helping at a local club or children's activity.
- Cook a meal at home for the family.
- Mow the lawn, help in the garden, do the Hoovering, do the dusting.

Challenge

- *Taking part in an organised Team Building course.
- Taking part in some physical activity which challenges you outside of School: swimming, camping, Scouts/Guides.
- *First Aid course.
- *Write and illustrate a book to be presented to the Reception classes.
- *Design and make a game for the Infant Department to help with their learning in Literacy or numeracy.

Interest

- *Produce a presentation on a subject of particular interest.
 - Give a musical recital.
 - *Write an article for the Oundelian based on a School visit or trip.
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FORM 6 LJS AWARD SCHEME cont:

Assessment

- Teachers involved will assess each child's performance which will be recorded in their "LJS Award Record Book".
- Photographic evidence of things that take place outside School should be kept and can be pasted into your Record Book.
- You should write a report on any activity you take part in or organise outside School to be shown to Miss Bass as part of the assessment process.
- A proforma will be included in your Record Books for you to take to Scouts/Guides or to people for whom you perform an act of Service so that they can write something about what you have done and how well you did it.

Grades

<i>Fail</i>	Very Poor
<i>Pass</i>	Good
<i>Commended</i>	Very good
<i>Highly Commended</i>	VG + extra effort
<i>Distinction</i>	Excellent

Final Awards

Bronze Award
Silver Award
Gold Award
Governors' Prize

(The Governor's Prize wins a Gold Award and a token and has their name on the LJS Award Honours' Board.)

Additional information:

All activities will be organised during lesson time after the entrance exams apart from the Service activities which the children will be expected to organise independently at some convenient time over the course of the 5 months of the Award.

Staff involved will receive a timetable well in advance as well as a mark scheme and a sheet for recording the marks.

At the end of each section of the Award, participants will receive their results: Pass, Commended, Highly Commended etc.

Marks will be awarded for initiative, commitment, effort and ingenuity as well as for results; it doesn't matter if the Shepherd's Pie a child has cooked is not that tasty as long as the child has given it their all and really made a huge effort (and done the washing up!)

Final awards will be decided on the percentage of distinctions/highly commended/ commended/pass grades and not on the number of each grade awarded.

The certificates will be awarded on Speech Day.

Miss Janet Bass

PFA FAMILY ORGANISERS

There are still a small number of family organisers available from the office. Please see Mrs Taylor if you would like one.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES CONFERENCE

Laxton Junior School will be hosting The East Northamptonshire Local Strategic Partnership (ENable) 'Sustainable Communities Conference' on Thursday 28th January between 2.30 and 6.30 p.m.

ENable is a partnership of key organisations and agencies from the public, private and voluntary sectors whose work directly affects the local communities of East Northamptonshire.

Its job is to bring these organisations and agencies together so that positive things are achieved. By everyone working together, resources are spent more efficiently and more can be achieved in the long-term by way of outcomes for local communities.

ENable has the task of making sure this Sustainable Communities Strategy is delivered by all concerned. It will be monitoring progress very closely and encouraging everyone with a key interest to contribute to making the vision set out in the strategy a reality.

Sustainable Communities Strategy 2008 - 2015 for East Northamptonshire

ENable's vision is to make: -

"East Northamptonshire a network of thriving communities where people enjoy a high quality of life"

The ENable team are expecting around fifty delegates for this conference and as this will put extra strain on the LJS parking facilities I need to inform you that I shall be closing off the car park to parents for the afternoon only.

Please can I request that you use alternative parking spaces in the Joan Strong car park or park further in the town for after school collection during the Conference?

The teaching staff will understand if you are a little later than usual onto the playground. Please avoid parking in East Road as this will cause unnecessary congestion and may alienate some of our neighbours.

I am very excited about this conference and believe that by hosting this event, it will help Laxton Junior School and Oundle to be at the heart of local community development.

I hope to be able to invite parents to the evening session (5.45p.m. - 6.30p.m.) of the conference so that you may meet some of the delegates and find out for yourselves the ways in which ENable are working for your community.

REPORTS TO PARENTS

Comprehensive reports on your child's progress will be sent home with your children on Friday 29th January. You will receive a ParentMail reminder that the reports will be coming home on this day.

Parent Conferences, where you will be able to discuss your child's report with their Form Teacher, will take place the following week.

Jan. 29th - Reports to Parents
Feb. 2nd - Parent Conferences
Feb. 4th - Parent Conferences

Laxton Junior School Calendar of Events for January 2010

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 Easter Quarter commences KS1 Trip: Cinderella at Milton Keynes After school activities commence	12	13 14:30 -- Football: U11A&B v Kimbolton (A) <i>Postponed</i>	14 08:30-09:30 PFA: Committee Meeting 13:00-15:30 Y6: OS Entrance Interviews	15 08:30-09:30 -- PFA: Coffee Morning Oundle School Entrance Examinations	16 Oundle School Entrance Examinations	17
18 Oakham School Entrance Examinations	19 Oakham School Entrance Examinations	20 14:00 -- Cross Country: U11 & U9 v Ayscoughfee (A) Oakham School Entrance Examinations	21 14:30 -- Football: U9A, B,C & D v Kimbolton (H)	22 12:30-13:00 -- Music: Come & Play, spotlight Piano Peterborough High School Entrance Examinations	23	24
25 08:40 Y4 Music Assembly: parents welcome 09:00- Y1: Lego City 13:00- Y5: Lego City	26 09:00 - Y4: Lego City 13:00 - Y3: Lego City	27 09:00-11:30 -- Science Fair -parents welcome 13:00- Y2: Lego City 13:00 Netball: House Matches 15:30 -- Football: U9 A&B v Coptthill (A)	28 09:00-Y6: Lego City 13:00-Netball: House Matches 14:30-19:30 -- Sustainable Communities Conference	29 09:00-13:30 -Whole school: Skipping workshop Reports to parents	30 Stamford Schools Entrance Examinations	31 <i>Kimbolton School Entrance Examination February 6th</i>