

L.J.S. NEWS



The Monthly Newsletter of Laxton Junior School

Michaelmas Quarter, Issue 8

7 September 2009

'Give me six hours to chop down a tree and I will spend the first four sharpening the axe.'

Abraham Lincoln

UNIFORM

All children should be in full winter uniform from Tuesday 29th September.

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

Welcome to the first edition of this year's L.J.S. News. I hope that you find the L.J.S. News informative and helpful; should you have any suggestions or ideas for future articles, please let me know.

On behalf of the staff,

Mark Potter

DATES AND HOLIDAYS FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR

Michaelmas Quarter 2009

Quarter commences Monday 7th September.
Long Exeat - Saturday 17th October - Sunday 1st November inclusive.
Quarter ends at 3.45pm Friday 16th October.

Christmas Quarter 2008

Quarter commences Monday 2nd November.
Quarter ends at noon on Friday 11th December.

Easter Quarter 2009

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

Trinity Quarter 2009

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

PARENT AND FRIENDS' ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Parent and Friends' Association Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 17th September at 7.00 p.m. You are all most welcome to attend.

Please remember that the PFA is your organisation, your voice; be sure to make the most of it.

OPEN DAY SATURDAY 3rd OCTOBER

The Laxton Junior School Open Day will be held on the first Saturday in October. Some children will be required to come into School on this morning and Miss Bass will contact you soon should your child's assistance be required.

All pupils who are assisting with Open Day on 3rd October will need to wear their full winter uniform.

PUPIL INFORMATION CHECK SHEETS

Please return all outstanding forms to the School office by Friday 11th September.

ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING ARRANGEMENTS AT LAXTON JUNIOR SCHOOL

This year we have made some changes to the way in which we report your children's learning and social and emotional progress to you.

The way that the current system operates, in that reports are sent to parents on the final day of the Quarter, does not provide any opportunity for parents and teachers to discuss the comments made in the reports until the following Quarter or new academic year.

The new timetable for reporting to parents enables parents and teachers to discuss your child's report upon receipt and allows for the immediate resolution of any concerns or explanations of teachers' judgements.

In the Michaelmas and Christmas Quarters, each year group will have an Open Evening followed by Parent Conferences.

The Open evening will be an opportunity for you to visit the school with your children to look at their learning over the Michaelmas and/or Christmas Quarters. This will allow you more time to measure your child's progress and discuss with them their learning as they guide you through their work. All this will then form the basis of your discussions with the class teacher when you have your individual appointments the following week during the Parent Conferences.

5.00 and 6.30pm. You will probably need at least 20 minutes to look through the work with your child. The Teaching staff will be in their classrooms during the Open Evenings but any discussions on learning will need to be saved until the following week's conferences. The Open Evening is an opportunity for you and your child to share your child's learning successes.

During the Open Evening You are most welcome to walk around the school and visit other classrooms and general rooms.

Comprehensive reports on your child's progress will be sent home to parents in January and June and Parent Conferences will take place during the week after you receive your child's report.

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Oct 1 | Rec and Year 6 Open Evening |
| Oct 6 | Rec and Year 6 Parent Conferences |
| Oct 8 | Rec and Year 6 Parent Conferences |
| Nov 16-20 | Assessment Week |
| Nov 19 | Y1 - Y5 Open Evening |
| Nov 24 | Y1 - Y5 Parent Conferences |
| Nov 26 | Y1 - Y5 Parent Conferences |
| Jan 29 | Reports to Parents |
| Feb 02 | R - Y6 Parent Conferences |
| Feb 04 | R - Y6 Parent Conferences |
| Mar 15-19 | Assessment Week |
| Jun 7-11 | R - Y5 Assessment Week |
| Jun 18 | Reports to Parents |
| Jun 22 | R - Y6 Parent Conferences |
| Jun 24 | R - Y6 Parent Conferences |

Each Open evening will be held between

SATS TESTS

We are delighted to inform you that the majority of our Form 6 children all met or exceeded the expectations from the UK National Curriculum in their end of year/end of key stage assessments in Literacy: reading, writing, spelling and handwriting; mathematics: both written and mental; and science.

All of last year's Form 6 children should be congratulated for their efforts.

English: L4 - 30%, L5 - 70%
Mathematics: L3 - 8%, L4 - 16%, L5 - 76%
Science: L3 - 3%, L4 - 26%, L5 - 71%

SATS TEST SCORES EXPLAINED:

A child of 7 years old (Y2) is expected to achieve level 2 whilst a child of 11 years of age (Y6) is expected to achieve Level 4. Children of 14 yrs are expected to achieve Level 6.

At each specific age group, children achieving higher grades than these are working above expectations. Children achieving these grades are working where they should be for their age and children achieving lower grades than these are not meeting expectations.

For children taking the optional SATs (Y3, Y4 and Y5) the levels to achieve are not as clearly defined as at the end of Key Stage 1 (Y2), Key Stage 2 (Y6) and the end of Key Stage 3 (Y8) but at LJS we can say that our children not only meet but generally exceed the Primary Framework expectations.

BOOKS FOR SCHOOLS

Year 5 would like to say a big thank you to all families who brought in the Sunday Times 'Books for Schools' tokens. We have been able to expand and refresh our Year 5 Library with more than 30 brand new books, and promise to make good use of them! Many thanks for your help.

OPEN DOOR POLICY

We continue to operate our open door policy at Laxton Junior School. Should you wish to discuss anything with a member of staff, please come to school to speak with us.

The most convenient times to do this would be before school between 8.15am and 8.25am or after school at 3.45pm. If you are unable to come to school, please contact us by either telephone or email and we can discuss the issue at hand or arrange another, more suitable time to meet.

PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

I am delighted to announce that the PFA have purchased a wide variety of playground equipment for the children to use freely at break times.

Toys will no longer be required in school, with the exception of infant 'show and tell' days, when the toy can remain in the rucksack until required.

Many thanks

Mr T

SENIOR SCHOOL EXHIBITION EVENING

Bi-annually, we have invited schools to attend a Senior School Presentation evening, whereby each School presents all that they have to offer to you, followed by an informal question and answer forum.

On Tuesday 22nd September, we are holding another such event; but instead of each school having their own evening, we are holding an exhibition evening, with all the invited senior schools attending together and we hope that the parents of children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 will be able to join us.

The evening will take place as follows:

- The event will run from 6 to 9 p.m.
- There will be a welcome from Mr Potter.
- Each School will introduce themselves to you.
- All the senior schools that have accepted our invitation will have a stand in the School hall.
- Refreshments will be available throughout the evening.
- You will have the opportunity to speak with all of the schools that you are interested in.

You will shortly receive an invitation from Mrs. Taylor, where we will ask you which schools you are interested in talking with on the evening. This is so that we may inform each school of how many visitors they are likely to receive.

STAFFING AT LJS

We have had a number of staffing changes at Laxton Junior School during the summer months.

At the end of the last academic year, we said goodbye to Mrs Edwardson and I am delighted to inform you that Mrs Sophie Maslen will be taking the Junior RE lessons as of next Monday 14 September. This also means that as of next Monday, Mrs Sarah Ashby will be the full-time class teacher for class 1A.

During the summer months we also said farewell to Mrs Shair. Mrs Shair has left her Teaching Assistant post to work in the Oundle School library; an ambition that Helen has held for a long time. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Helen for her dedication and hard work during her time with us at LJS, she will be sorely missed.

I have subsequently appointed two new Teaching Assistants for the Infant department, one to replace Mrs Shair and an additional TA to improve the adult:pupil ratio in the younger years.

Mrs Sharan Pick has already taken up her post in Year 1, having previously been responsible for a very successful Early Years - Tumble Tots programme in the area. Miss Gemma Paris will be joining us in October from her current school in Peterborough where she has worked as a Teaching Assistant for the past three years.

Both Gemma and Sharan will be real assets to the team at Laxton Junior School.

Laxton Junior School Calendar of Events for September 2009

| Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri | Sat | Sun |
|---|--|--|--|---|---|-------|
| 31 AUG | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 Michaelmas Quarter commences 18:30-19:00 -- New Reception parents induction meeting | 8 | 9 New Reception children commence School | 10 08:30-09:30 -- PFA: Committee Meeting | 11 08:30-09:30 -- PFA: Coffee morning | 12 | 13 |
| 14 Clubs and Instrumental lessons commence 19:00-21:00 -- Parent and Teachers' Social Evening | 15 | 16 | 17 19:00 PFA Annual General Meeting | 18 15:45-16:45 -- PFA: House cake stall (Burghley) | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 Individual School photos 18:00-21:00 -- Senior Schools' Exhibition Evening | 23 14:30 -- Netball: U11 & U10 v Winchester House (H) 15:00 -- Tag Rugby: U8 v Copthill & Grantham (A) | 24 | 25 08:30-10:30 -- Macmillan Coffee Morning Come & Play - Spotlight Piano | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 Compulsory winter uniform | 30 | 1 Oct 17:00-18:30 Reception and Y6 Open Evening | 2 Oct | 3 Oct Laxton Junior School Open Day | 4 Oct |