



Newsletter Friday 22nd September 2023

Headteacher News

We started this week thinking about determination. I talked to the children about Bear Grylls and how he persevered to go from having a broken back to being the youngest person to climb Mount Everest. The children were incredibly insightful about his challenges along the way. This included people saying he'd never do it, his fears, the weather, deep snow, the cold, his doubt and the doubt of his team as some of them turned around. I asked them to think about what their Everest was and what they really want to achieve. We linked this to school and the age of the children, of course. I wonder what your Everest is and how you keep going to achieve what you believe in? I passionately believe this school has a wonderful future ahead of it and the children and staff and community who we serve, who attend here, will flourish as a result. It has been lovely talking to more parents this term and hearing their views on the school and what is working. Please do feel free to book an appointment with me should you have thoughts or feedback on anything we do.

Next week we will be thinking about Trust and how we can inspire others and be inspired to lead by it. I have already seen trust in action this week - our new Year 6 prefects taking on their roles and being trusted to do them with pride and respect for the school. We also have new prefect roles with

the older children working with the younger ones, in and around, the KS1 lunches. Watching them interact and model compassion as they support, nurture and help the in the dinner hall is lovely to see. We really are very proud of them.

A final word from me this week, I would again really like to thank all of those who came to the school last weekend for the festival. It was well attended with stunning sunshine and a summer vibe all day. Your contribution to the school PTA fund will go a long way to supporting projects this year. These events only happen where a community is keen to support. This includes parents, grandparents, staff, children and local businesses. To see all of these people together filled many of the school staff with pride. Thank you to all and everyone involved, particularly our PTA and staff, for giving up their time to make it happen.

Have a wonderful weekend,

Trevor North



Assistant Headteacher News

Mr Hogwood here this week. It is so lovely to be back in the swing of things at school. The children are responding to our new behaviour system and many values are being shown daily by the children. This year one of my foci is giving children experiences to enrich and enhance the curriculum. One way we do this is our offer of school trips. Staff are currently researching options for trips and an overview will be sent to parents to let you know the date and estimated cost this term. We do endeavour to source the most cost effective trip to give children an experience to enhance the curriculum throughout their time at Loose. We are always on the lookout for businesses or professions who can give their time to explain their job to the children and support the curriculum

we deliver. If this is something you can offer then please do not hesitate in contacting myself or Mr Johnson.

Have a great weekend.



Diary Dates

Term 1

05 Oct - Year 4 Roman trip to Museum of Kent Life - more info to follow

07 Oct - BIG TIDY UP - come any time between 9am & 12pm with gardening gloves to help tidy up the grounds

11 Oct - Harvest Church Services All Saints Church Loose

13 Oct - Parent Council Meeting - Staffroom 2.30-3.15pm (refreshments from 2.15pm)

16 Oct - Restart a Heart Day - 30 minute online workshops for Yrs 3-5 (Year 6 will do doing a separate workshop - date to be confirmed)

16 Oct - KS1 (Years R, 1 & 2) Class & Individual Photos

17 Oct - KS2 (Years 3, 4 & 5) Class & Individual Photos (Year 6 done in June)

17 Oct - Parents Evening Consultations - 4.00pm to 7.00pm

18 Oct - Parents Evening Consultations - 3.40pm to 6.30pm

18 Oct - Kent 11+ Test Results to parents from 4pm

19 Oct - Last day of term for children - school finishes 3.20pm

20 Oct - Staff Training Day

30 Oct - Children back to school for term 2



School Office - Delivery of forgotten items

Please do not drop off forgotten items for the office staff to deliver to your child after the start of the school day. Children should be encouraged to take responsibility for their own things as part of growing up and as a preparation for their next school. Please note that if non-essential items are left with office staff during the day, we cannot guarantee that these will be delivered. This will depend on pressure of work in the office on the day. Clearly we will ensure that essential items, such as lunch boxes, are delivered to the child. Our thanks to all parents who have supported office staff in this matter – your help is much appreciated.

Big Tidy

I was disappointed to have to cancel the BIG TIDY but we have another date on the 7th October. If you can come along and help cut and trim the bushes, sweep, wash or fix then please let the office know your intention. We can arrange a few nibbles for a hungry team.



Parking

I have received a number of concerns from neighbours of the school recently regarding parking. If you do need to drive, please do park safely and well away from yellow markings and school crossings. Please also refrain from parking on pathways as we have a number of families walking with push chairs who need the path! Thank you in advance.



Drop Off & Collection

We have a large number of children entering the school each day and a limited number of entrances. Can I ask that a little more space is given around the year 3 and 5 entrance at the back of the building by the swimming pool/quiet area? Currently it is very crowded and for some of our younger community this can create a feeling of overwhelm. I will monitor this over the coming weeks and seek a sensible solution.

Communication

We recognise that communication between home and school is not yet meeting everyone's needs. A communication policy is being drawn up to clarify expectations and processes. As we are such a large school it is impossible for us to deal with all enquiries immediately. Our staff are teaching full time, planning lessons, running clubs and attending meetings to ensure provision and curriculum here is the best it can be so it is not an easy task to get back to emails quickly. However, we recognise that knowing the timescale around a communication can help things. With this in mind we strive to ensure:

1. **All enquires will be acknowledged by an email receipt within two working days from the initial call or email.**
2. **A response to your enquiry will be communicated within 5 working days.**
3. **Any concerns or questions about the class must follow the order of - Class teacher - Phase Leader - Deputy Head Teacher - Head Teacher.**

Phase leaders are as outlined below and can be contacted through the school office at:-

EYFS - Mrs Oliveri

Years 1 and 2 - Mr Farley

Years 3 and 4 - Mr Hogwood

Years 5 and 6 - Ms Burman (Mon-Wed) Mr Johnson (Thur-Fri)

Secondary Applications

Online applications for secondary school admissions opened on the 1st September and the national closing date for all secondary school applications is midnight on the 31st October 2023. For children sitting the Kent 11+ Test, results will be emailed to parents after 4pm on the 18th October. You can apply for up to 4 schools, putting them in order of preference. It's in your best interest to list 4 schools. Naming only one school does not guarantee your child a place at that school or give your child priority for a place over another child, neither does naming a school more than once. For advice call 03000 41 21 21 or email kentonlineadmissions@kent.gov.uk

You can also find lots of information on the following link:-

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places/secondary-school-places#tab-2>

National offer day is 1st March 2023.

Please contact the school office with plenty of warning if you are completing a scholarship for your child's admission to secondary school to allow time for the school section to be completed. Ideally we would like these all in by Friday 6th October. This gives us time to complete scholarship paperwork which will be ready to collect on Thursday 19th October from the main office. We do need the application booklet to stick our section in and sign or if you have an email link you can email to the office. Please make sure you let us know what kind of scholarship you are applying for too.

Restart A Heart Day

On Monday 16th October our pupils will be joining an online interactive CPR awareness session hosted by a paramedic team from Air Ambulance Charity Kent Surrey Sussex (KSS) to mark 'Restart a Heart Day'. The light touch session has been carefully planned and is designed to be both fun and informative and focuses on who to call in an emergency, knowing your address etc., with an CPR interactive demonstration for pupils to follow.

We're asking that the children bring in a cuddly toy as their patient on that day. Should parents wish to join in the learning, KSS are also offering parent and child 30-minute sessions later in the day at 4pm, 5pm or 6pm – **to register visit aakss.org.uk/restart**. For useful resources and support on heart health, please visit www.bhf.org.uk/information-support

Kids save Lives



National Trust Offer

Visit a National Trust place free of charge this autumn. Each free visit ticket is single use and available to for up to for two adults and up to three children, or one adult and up to four children at a participating place we care for. Valid from 18 September until 20 October 2023. One ticket per household per order.

<https://www.nationaltrust-tickets.org.uk/category/33543?branches.branchID=2286>



Ethic of Excellence

A huge well done to the following children from their Ethic of Excellence Award!

Week ending 15th September

Topaz Class - Freya M

Sunstone Class - Jasper H

Amethyst Class - Edward A

Peridot Class - Sophie F

Zultanite Class - Matilda C

Quartz Class - Lexi-May D

Week ending 22nd September

Coral Class - Ida D

Amber Class - Karim A

Jade Class - Chrissy S

Emerald Class - Sophie H

Onyx Class - Chloe E & Robyn M

Ruby Class - Jacob H



KSS Air Ambulance Heli Hike

KSS Heli Hike! Lace up your boots in Kent and conquer either a 3 or 7.5-mile sponsored walk through the stunning countryside starting and finishing at The Friars Aylesford Priory, Aylesford. Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity to join forces with hundreds of others, united to make a life-saving impact in your community. Please see the flyer attached to add to your school newsletter.

If you want to find out more about supporting KSS, please visit <https://aakss.org.uk/get-involved/>

Healthy Snacks

A reminder that snacks brought into school should be healthy snacks such as whole fruits like apples, bananas (so no fruit winders etc.) and vegetables like cherry tomatoes, carrot sticks etc. Snacks shouldn't have wrappers so ideally no biscuits, cereal bars or crackers unless there are unwrapped and in a reusable container. No chocolate items or crisps should be brought in for snack time and please avoid any food items with contain nuts. We are keen to encourage healthy eating in school and also reduce the amount of litter around the school site. For ideas about healthy snacks at school and at home, please visit [Healthier snacks - Food facts - Healthier Families - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk) Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.



Shout Outs

Jacob C of Zultanite and Emily G in Tanzanite Class are involved in a local community project where they both have allotment plots. They attended an awards evening yesterday where they won the best community project in Maidstone.



The Loose Community



Shelagh Maclaurin · 4 m · 🌐

Congratulations to Mike Harwood and Tiger Gardeners for winning Coolings and Maidstone in Bloom, best Community Project. Pictured with the mayor of Maidstone at the Coolings awards this evening



You and 2 others

2 comments





Under 12 British Weightlifting Champion!

Huge congratulations to Dylan B in Sunstone class who became the Under 12 British Weightlifting Champion last weekend. He went into his last lift just needing to be successful and despite this, he opted to push for a personal best and was successful with the lift. We are so proud of Dylan for showing such determination, a fantastic role model for us all.



Parent Council - New Recruits

Following the request in the last newsletter for parent council class rep's we have only had volunteers for the following classes:-

Coral, Onyx, Sunstone & Zultanite. We still need reps for the other 17 classes!!

As many may know, we have a parent council at Loose Primary School to make sure parents' opinions and voices are heard. We have 6 meetings a year, always on a Friday afternoon, and welcome a representative from each class. Please let the office know if you are interested in representing your child's class by emailing morag.thomson@loose-primary.kent.sch.uk Our first meeting is on Friday 13th October. You can find a page on our website with information and minutes of previous meetings <https://www.loose-primary.kent.sch.uk/page/?title=Parent+Council+%2F+Feedback&pid=21>

PTA Events & Dates

The PTA would like to say a huge thank you to everyone for supporting our Summer Festival. We raised over £3000! That's a fantastic amount and we're all very pleased with how the day went and how much it was enjoyed by everyone. A special thank you to all the staff and volunteers who helped as well, without you it wouldn't be possible.

A special mention goes to Kim Price - she worked tirelessly all day, lifting heavy tables, chairs, constantly litter picking in-between duties, sorting out the PA system, staying late to make sure everything was tidy and put away for Monday. She also made sure all vendors had everything they needed.

Spooky things are coming so watch this space for our Design a Pumpkin Competition with some ghoulishly good prizes.

Our Lucky Lotto is launching next week. You have to be in it to win it and the more of you in it, the greater our cash prize. It's a great way to donate something to the PTA with the chance of winning a cash prize for yourself.

Save the date: Our KS2 Disco is happening on the 13th October. This is for Years 3-6.

Many thanks.



Correct Contact Details

extended.services@loose-primary.kent.sch.uk - please use this email address for **ALL** extended services bookings/queries/requests etc. Please do not email the office with these.

absence@loose-primary.kent.sch.uk - please use this email for all absence related matters including illness and hospital appointments and holiday notifications.

office@loose-primary.kent.sch.uk - use this for all other emails and urgent matters

Phone Number 01622 743549

