



Little Leigh Primary School



Friday 26th April 2024
www.littleleighprimary.cheshire.sch.uk

Spring Term 2024
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Dear parents, carers and families,

Green Festival

Don't forget that tomorrow is the day of the Little Leigh Green Festival which is taking place at school. It's from 11:00am – 3:00pm and promises to be a fun-filled family friendly day. The children will be able to enjoy the school grounds for the day, and Mr Weston will be there to welcome them into our fabulous forest area.



We are two weeks into the summer term and, although the weather hasn't always been on our side, we have been embracing every opportunity to learn outdoors. We are incredibly fortunate to have such beautiful surroundings so the teachers have been making the most of our local environment over the last couple of weeks. Here is a taste of our outside learning:

Kitchen Garden



This term has seen the launch of our kitchen garden! I would like to extend a huge thank you to all involved in making this happen – it is a truly wonderful addition to our school. Providing our children with an opportunity to work in the garden with Christine will provide countless, fabulous benefits, such as:

- ❖ Developing motor skills and cognition.
- ❖ Encouraging healthy and clean eating.
- ❖ Shaping a positive, hard-working attitude.
- ❖ Inspiring self-esteem
- ❖ Improving concentration and focus, patience and perseverance.
- ❖ Learning about how our food grows
- ❖ Building love for the natural environment.



Forest Schools

Forest school sessions with Mr Weston (Mr Andy) are taking place for Reception and Year 4 this term. Mr Weston has worked incredibly hard on making our forest area fun and engaging for the children and they all absolutely love their time down there. Forest school has such an important part to play in connecting children to nature and there is an increasing understanding of how green and blue spaces aid mental health. Mr Weston plans sessions from building rope bridges to sitting in the tree house and listening to the birds. The activities all have an ethos which promote self-esteem, confidence and independence.



P.E.



This term, we are fortunate to have Jarrod, a professional tennis coach, here to teach Years 3, 4, 5 and 6. The children are all having fun whilst learning all the essential tennis skills such as balance, movement and coordination.

Science

Year 4 used their observation and recording skills to explore micro habitats found in woodland areas. They correctly identified the conditions of some habitats and discovered some living creatures within them!



Art

Year 5 have been making the most of the sunny afternoons by taking their sketch books outside to study textures in the natural environment.



Geography

To further their geography fieldwork skills, Year 1 enjoyed a walk around Little Leigh village in the sunshine! They identified signs of spring and learnt the names of the flowers that are beginning to show.

Residential

As I write this newsletter, Year 2 are having a fabulous time on their residential at Burwardsley! They have been having so much fun learning together and enjoying hill walks, eating fire-side marshmallows and bread on sticks (which they cooked themselves), learning survival skills and having bunk beds - they were SO excited about the bunk beds and wearing dressing gowns!



Attendance

Being in school is obviously important to your child's academic achievement, wellbeing, and wider development. Regular school attendance is a key mechanism to support children and young people's educational, economic and social outcomes.

Evidence suggests that pupils who performed better both at the end of primary and secondary school missed fewer days than those who didn't perform as well. For example, data from 2019 shows that 84% of Key Stage 2 pupils who had 100% attendance achieved the expected standard, compared to 40% of pupils who were persistently absent across the key stage.

What does it mean if a child is persistently or severely absent?

Children who are registered at a school but regularly fail to turn up are officially referred to as being 'persistently' or 'severely' absent.

The school day is split into two sessions – one session counts as a morning or afternoon spent in school. Pupils who have missed more than 10% of school sessions are considered persistently absent, while children who have missed more than 50% of school sessions are referred to as severely absent.

Whilst we understand that there are sometimes unavoidable absences due to illness, we are dedicated to supporting strong attendance so that children receive an excellent education. As a school, we have to report our attendance data to the local authority and to our school governors and trustees of Create Learning Trust.

In my newsletters, I will provide regular overviews of our attendance data. Here are our attendance figures for the year so far.

Class	Attendance
Reception	92%
Year 1	95%
Year 2	97%
Year 3	94%
Year 4	96%
Year 5	93%
Year 6	95%

I hope you all have a lovely weekend and that our Year 2 children have a good rest after their residential!

Mrs Toni Clarke
Headteacher

If you would like to see more of what your children have been enjoying at school, join us on our Facebook and/or Twitter page (@LittleLeighSch).

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