

# LEYBOURNE SS PETER & PAUL C E PRIMARY ACADEMY



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Dear Parents,

Welcome back to a new academic year! We are all so pleased to be back at school and have had a wonderful first week with the children, despite the numerous downpours that seem to have happened this week. The children have settled back into the school routine so well - we really are very proud of them all! I am sure some of them will be very tired after such a big week, though, and will enjoy a lovely rest this weekend! I would like to welcome our new Reception Class and their families, and also Kiarnah and Tiana (Year 3), Amelia and George (Year 5) and Amelia (Year 6) who have joined us this week. We hope that all of our new starters, and their families, will be very happy here.

## Class Information and Organisation

As you know, we said goodbye to a number of our teaching assistants at the end of last term. This has obviously had a significant impact on the level of support that we are able to offer the children in class and also on the workload of the remaining teachers and teaching assistants. Moving forwards, there will be fewer before school interventions and after school clubs offered by school staff, as I ask them to focus their energies and efforts on in-class teaching and support. We will also not be sending home weekly class newsletters. Instead, class teachers will write to parents regarding specific issues when the need arises. We are conscious that parents receive a great deal of communication from school, and it became clear last year that many parents did not read the letters, which took the staff a significant amount of time to produce. This time will be better spent by teachers planning and marking pupils' work.

This does mean that this newsletter will be the primary means of communication between school and home – so please do take the time to read it. Thank you!

We remain keen to continue to offer the children as many additional experiences and opportunities as we can, despite the pressure on school budgets and staffing. Little extras, such as biscuits and hot chocolate during Woodland Learning sessions, clay for art lessons and consumable science, art, DT and cookery resources all greatly add to the children's experience and enjoyment. In order for us to continue to provide all of these resources for each class, we are asking for a donation of £10 per child per year, payable on Arbor under Class Contribution, please. Thank you for your continued support.

## Dates List

I have attached a list of dates and expenses for the school year for your information. Please note that Sports Day will be a whole school event this year again this year, during

*Nurturing the spark of God within*

*"Those who trust in the Lord will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles" Isaiah 40:31*



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the morning of Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May, a little earlier than in previous years. The Dates List will also be published on the school website for you to refer back to over the coming year.

### **Ear Piercing and Earrings**

Just a reminder that if your child has recently had their ears pierced, they will be unable to take part in P.E. lessons until they are able to remove their earrings. We cannot allow them to participate in P.E. lessons with their earrings covered by tape, nor are we permitted to remove them ourselves. Finally, all earrings that are worn to school must be plain ball stud earrings, please (in gold or silver) – hoops or other earrings, including any other non-dangly earrings – are not permitted. Thank you for your cooperation.

### **Term time absence / Punctuality**

Please be aware that very few requests for term time absence will be authorised, as the clear expectation from the Government is that children should be in school. Whilst I do appreciate that some holidays are significantly cheaper in term time, that is not a justification for taking your children out of school. Family holidays do not constitute “exceptional circumstances” for absence from school, and cannot be authorised.

Please also be aware that the school gate is locked at 8:50am and all pupils should be in their classrooms, ready to start the day at this time. A child arriving late after this time misses the start of a lesson, or a basic skills activity. It also negatively affects children’s well being when they arrive when all of their friends are already settled. A calm start to the day has been proven to have a positive impact on pupils and their learning, both educationally and socially.

### **Toddler Praise**

Toddler Praise will run on the second Monday of each month – 9<sup>th</sup> September, 13<sup>th</sup> October, 17<sup>th</sup> November and 8<sup>th</sup> December. Please see the attached poster for details.

### **Welly Boots**

We are keen to use the school field for as much of the year as is possible, and would ask that all children keep a named pair of welly boots in school, please. This will allow them to play on the field during the autumn and winter months. Thank you.

### **Woodland Learning**

Please see below this term’s dates for Woodland Learning. Please note that some sessions will be shared sessions between two classes.

Reception		Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> October
Year 1	Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> September	Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> October
Year 2	Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> September	Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> October
Year 3	Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> September	Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> October
Year 4	Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> September	Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> October
Year 5	Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> September	Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> October
Year 6	Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> September	Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> October

I hope you all have a lovely weekend. I look forward to a very happy and successful year.

Best wishes

Tina Holditch  
Headteacher