

Lingfield Primary School Newsletter

Polite reminder, school is closed on Friday 27th May for the Queen's Jubilee.

Parents in School

Thank you to all the families who attended the Year 5 assembly this morning. The Year 5 class did a brilliant job presenting to the whole school and approximately forty family members. It has been a good week for the Y5 class having had a fantastic trip to the Life Centre on Monday. Behaviour on the trip was excellent and the class really showed off their space knowledge in the workshop at the end of the day. Photo's of the trip are posted on Twitter (see below) for parents to enjoy.

Other year groups have dates planned for assemblies, nearer each date we will send out a short letter on school gateway asking you to book your places just so we know how many chairs to put out. Dates can be found on page 2 of this newsletter.

This week we have also welcomed Reception Parents into school to have a school lunch with their child. Again, thank you to those parents who were able to join us. I know our Reception children were very excited to have lunch with you. The Date for the Y1 Parents can be found over the page.

Jubilee

We are celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on this coming Thursday. Children are able to attend in non-uniform with a red white and blue theme. As mentioned in last week's newsletter, we are holding a class 'crown' competition where there will be a small prize for the best crown made at home for one member of each year group. Children have been busy doing craft activities ready to decorate school and will be doing 'Queen' related activities next week and on Thursday in particular.

New Arrival

Today we were meant to be saying goodbye (for now) to Mrs Park as she started her maternity leave, however, baby Seth had other ideas..... Seth decided to celebrate the end of Y6 SATs week by arriving last Friday night. Everyone at Lingfield wishes the Park family the very best and we look forward to Seth's time keeping improving as he grows up.

School Trips

Now that we are returning to normal, many year groups are either having tips planned or have just been on a school trip. School trips are an excellent way of inspiring children, this was very evident this week when the Y5s visits the Life Centre in Newcastle. Trips offer opportunities that we cannot always offer in school. However, I am aware that the prices of trips are the highest they have ever been. Coach companies and venues have increased their prices due to a number of reasons, including the price of fuel and trying to recover from Covid. Trips can only go ahead if we receive enough voluntary contributions to cover the costs. We are more than happy to plan for trips moving forward as we do see their value and we are aware that there are year groups who have missed out in recent years due to restrictions imposed. I am interested to hear the views/opinions of parents regarding the cost of the trips we have organised this term and would really appreciate any comments to be emailed to me for school to consider. Please email any comments to phil.thackstone@mcschools.org.uk.

Playground Markings

Please can I ask parents to be mindful of any equipment on the playground next Wednesday and Thursday linked to the markings being removed. Parents will be able to access the playground as normal but things might be a bit messy for a couple of days.

E-Safety

Last week I included an excellent resource providing advice to parents on e-safety, particularly for the under fives. I have kept this resource on the newsletter this week. If you have any concerns around e-safety, please come into school and have a chat, we can signpost you to some really good resources at home. Also take a look at the e-safety section on our school website.

Have a great weekend,
Phil Thackstone
Head Teacher



Dates for the Diary

- Thursday 26th May Jubilee Day (Details to follow but expect a red, white and blue day....)
Break up for Half Term
- Friday 27th May Queens Jubilee Bank Holiday
- Monday 6th June PD Day
- Tuesday 7th June Return to school after Half Term
- Wednesday 8th June Y6 Play in a Day
- Thursday 9th June Y2 Parents Assembly
- Monday 20th June Sports Day - 1:30pm start
- Tuesday 21st June Nursery Sports Day am + pm
- Monday 27th June Summer Fair - 3:30pm
- Thursday 16th June Y1 Parents Assembly
- Friday 1st July Reception Parents Assembly
- W/B Monday 13th June Year 1 Parents invited for school lunch
- Friday 1st July Reception Parents Assembly
- Thursday 7th July Year 3 Parents Assembly
- Thursday 14th July Year 4 Parents Assembly
- Friday 22nd July Year 6 Leavers assembly
End of School Year
- Monday 25th July PD Day

Please note, at the start of the 2022/23 academic year, **Thursday 1st and Friday 2nd September** will be taken as PD days. Children will start the new school year on **Monday 5th September**.

ONLINE SAFETY FOR UNDER 5s

10 Top Tips for Parents and Carers

According to Ofcom's most recent research, a significant proportion of children are already online by the time they start school, with 17% of 5-year-olds owning their own mobile phone and 50% using messaging platforms. As becoming familiar with technology is generally encouraged in younger children – and has been essential for education during the pandemic – it is crucial that trusted adults recognise both the benefits and the risks of infants and toddlers using digital devices. We've compiled our top tips to help the under-5s start their online safety journey.

1 USE DEVICES TOGETHER

This lets you monitor and control what your child is using the device for. It also provides the interaction that supports children's understanding of what they're seeing – allowing them to ask you questions, and so on.

PARENT CODE:

6 BLOCK IN-APP PURCHASES

If your child uses a device that's linked to a payment method (such as a bank card), use the parental controls to block buys from app stores, as well as in-app purchases. That will prevent your child from accidentally spending money while on your device.

2 ACTIVATE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Most digital devices have built-in parental controls that can limit the type of content children have access to. If your little one uses any device (even borrowing yours), it's a good idea to explore what controls the device has and enable them whenever they have access to it.

7 CHOOSE SAFE APPS AND SITES

There are some fantastic apps and platforms that are specifically designed to be safer for children. Always check the PEGI age rating before downloading an app, and test it yourself before allowing your child to use it.

3 MANAGE SCREEN TIME

This can be tricky, especially if your child is interested in a certain video, app or game. Try to agree on some ground rules and get your child into a routine which includes certain times of the day when they go without devices.

8 INVOLVE THE FAMILY

If your toddler has older siblings, it's likely that their rules for device use will be different – and that they'll access content that isn't appropriate for younger ones (a particular worry if they share devices). Encourage the whole family to be good role models and help little ones stay safe online.

4 TALK ABOUT BEING SAFE ONLINE

Just like we teach children about being safe in the real world, we need to educate them about how to stay safe online. Use age-appropriate language to help them understand, and plenty of hand gestures can reinforce what you're telling them.

9 IF IN DOUBT, ASK

The easiest way to find out what your child is doing online is usually just to talk about it with them. Developing an open dialogue at an early age helps them grow up feeling able to talk to you about their digital life – providing opportunities to intervene if you're concerned.

5 SET A GOOD EXAMPLE

Children often learn by watching and copying those around them, and using digital devices is no exception. When you're around your child, try to follow the same rules that you've set for them. Let them see you balancing your time online with interacting with people in real life, too.

10 SUPPORT CREATIVE & ACTIVE PLAY

Physical and creative activities are important for a child's wellbeing, and there are plenty of ways to incorporate technology into that. For example, you could encourage games that require physical movement; dance and sing along to songs your child loves; and follow step-by-step crafting videos.

Meet Our Expert

Konstantina Moustaka is a professional development and EYFS coordinator at an 'outstanding' nursery school in London. She has been working as a nursery and early years practitioner, both in the UK and internationally, for the past 16 years.



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Sources: https://www.ofcom.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/00234/204809/children-media-use-and-attitudes-report-2022.pdf



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