Our current value is: NEIGHBOURLINESS

OUR THOUGHT FOR THIS WEEK: “A book may be compared to your neighbour: if it be good it cannot last too long; if bad, you cannot get rid of it too early.” Henry Brooke

Welcome to our first newsletter of the Summer Term!

Dear Pupils, Parents, Carers and Friends of Linslade

Welcome to the families of our new Year 5 for September 2016!

First of all we would like to extend a very warm welcome to the families of Year 4 pupils who are now our prospective Year 5 families for September. We are delighted to report that we are now planning for a six form entry at the start of the new school year. Our Year 5 team, led by Mr Powell, is just beginning to make contact with the lower schools to put plans in place for sharing information and preparing for September in earnest. We will be writing to all of our prospective families in the next week or so to outline the transition process.

News

The first two weeks of term have flown by with lots of excellent work and experiences taking place inside the classroom and outside too.
**Bikeability:**

This week has seen no fewer than 91 members of Year 5 taking part in our Bikeability training. Once again, we were happy to welcome in the team of instructors led by Pauline Roby. The pupils all responded so well to the instruction and have been the subject of tremendous praise as a result of their politeness and outstanding behaviour. The children really enjoyed this different kind of learning and have learnt some valuable lessons about keeping safe on the road.

![Bikeability images]

**Radio 2 500 Word Story:**

As followers on Twitter will be aware, we returned to school after Easter to a series of emails informing us that 13 of our pupils have been successful in getting through to the next round of the Radio 2 500 Word Story Competition. This is an incredible achievement and one of which we are immensely proud. Pictured here are the 13 pupils who come from Years 5, 6, 7 and 8. Well done to you all and fingers crossed for your success in the next stage.

![Radio 2 500 Word Story images]

**New Mini Buses!**

We are very pleased to announce that we are now the exceptionally proud owners of two new mini buses. The buses replace our very old vehicles that served us well over the past six years. Nevertheless, the time had come to move on and the new mini buses reflect the Linslade of 2016, displaying, as they do, our new strapline, ‘Learning today, leading tomorrow’.

![New Mini Buses images]
Pictured below are the two new mini buses and members of the School Council who have passed on our thanks to the governing body for their support in making possible the acquisition of the buses.

Staffing Matters:

Welcome to new staff:

This term we are welcoming the following colleagues to Linslade:

- Mr Tayler  English Teacher
- Mr Nejad  Maths (covering Mr Warrick’s timetable during his absence)
- Mrs Howells  Lead First Aider
- Mrs McMonagle  SEND Administrator
- We hope you will enjoy working with us!

We are also delighted to be welcoming back to Linslade Mrs Richardson and Mrs Draper who will be covering Mr Taylor’s maths groups for the next few weeks. Families will have read in the local and national press how severe the shortage of teachers has become. We are grateful to Mrs Richardson and Mrs Draper for stepping in to help us. In the meantime, we are doing all we can to attract new staff to our school.

Vacancies: We are currently advertising for the following posts.

- Maths Teacher  From September 2016
- Head of English  From September 2016

Details are available via TES Online, CBC’s website, the local press and on the school website. If you have any family, friends or associates who you feel might be interested in either of these roles, we would be very pleased to hear from them.
**Gym and Dance Show Case (Mrs Shenton)**

Our annual Gym and Dance Show Case will take place on Tuesday 24 May. The performance will start at 4.30 p.m. and should end by 5.15 p.m. More details to follow shortly.

**Year 6: Summer Camp to the Isle of Wight: (Mrs Hughes)**

The pre visit meeting for the Isle of Wight trip will be on Thursday 9th June at 6pm in the school hall. This is the date that appears on the payment card. It is important that families attend as we will be giving out forms and information relevant to the trip. We can also answer any queries or questions that you may have. We look forward to seeing you there.

We would like to remind all of those who have been on the list since January that all monies are due to be paid at the end of this half term. A later date was offered to those families where children joined from the Reserve List. Thank you to all those people who have already paid in full.

**A Final Word on Lion King Junior:**

Thank you to everyone who supported our raffle during Lion King Junior. We are pleased to announce the winners were as follows:

- **1st** Simba Mrs Cloke
- **2nd** T shirt Chloe S 8NM
- **3rd** Lion King Mug Aideen Murphy
- **4th** Lion King Bag Mrs Mason

We would also like to thank Tom, Jess and Hannah from the Disney Team at the Lyceum Theatre who so generously sponsored our prizes.

**Revisiting ACE Day:**

*In the final newsletter of last term, we provided a very quick update on ACE Day, which had taken place three days earlier. Here members of Years 5 and 6 tell us about their experiences.*

**Year 5:**

On ACE day, Year 5 took part in doing several activities based on space including:

- **Communication** - we learnt how to speak in Russian, Esperanto and English sign language.
- **English** - we were designing and describing our own alien for Tim Peake.
- **Maths** - we worked out how much supplies were needed on the trip to Mars.
- **P.E** - we trained to be an astronaut with fitness equipment.
- **Art** - we painted a picture of outer space with texture.
THE PLANETARIUM - we discovered the stars, planets, galaxies and learnt tonnes!

Nothing beats an ace (day!)

Written by Anouk Wood

Year 6:

On 21st March Year 6 had a day based on maths. We did a range of exciting activities including:

- Mr Monks’ magnificent market. You had to buy different objects and when the prices changed you could either sell them for more or buy them for less.
- Mangahigh work on angles with Ms Wells.
- Awesome arithmetic with Mr Powell.
- 24 hour clocks with Mr Taylor.
- We had menacing measuring with Mr Sanders.
- Fantastic fractions with Mrs Jones and
- Number differences with Mr Warrick.

The day flew by with all the fun we were having. It really made us think and helped us with our maths in preparation for (the not so far away) SATS.

Written by Rhys Nicholas and Daniel Goodson

Congratulations to:

Hollie Welford, Madeline Grant and Jessica Daykin, who performed in the Milton Keynes Ice Skating Club Spring Gala, on Friday 18 March. They skated together to Kaboom Pow! by Nikki Yanofsky. Hollie dressed as Bat Girl, Madeline as Spider Girl and Jess as Wonder Woman.
In the photo, they are with their coach, Tabitha from International School of Skating, Milton Keynes.
Learning at Linslade

Our Five Words of the Week: We have been continuing with our words of the week in an effort to increase our vocabulary and improve our spelling across the school. This week’s words have included:

- Vegetable
- Temperature
- Government
- Parliament
- Cemetery

Our grammar focus of the week: This week our focus has been:

Active Vs Passive Voice

e.g. Derick ran the obstacle course in record time = Active

e.g. The obstacle course was run in record time by Derick = Passive

Florrie McKinnon in Year 6 who was awarded the Leighton Buzzard Hockey Club Under 12 Player of the Year Award over the Easter holiday.

Millie Sinclair in Year 5 who has just received the good news of passing her Grade 1 piano exam – and with distinction too!!
**Maths Fact:**

**Reciprocal of a Fraction**

To get the reciprocal of a fraction, just **turn it upside down**. In other words swap over the Numerator and Denominator.

**Examples:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fraction</th>
<th>Reciprocal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(\frac{3}{8})</td>
<td>(\frac{8}{3})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(\frac{5}{6})</td>
<td>(\frac{6}{5})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(\frac{1}{3})</td>
<td>(\frac{3}{1} = 3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(\frac{19}{7})</td>
<td>(\frac{7}{19})</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Celebrating Learning:**

The past two weeks have seen us celebrating the conclusion of a whole series of projects within school. In fact, I have had the pleasure of seeing approximately 25% of the pupils on different visits to my office. This is an incredible achievement. Added to this, 460 pupils out of 566 have been successful in gaining a Golden Ticket for next week. We are incredibly proud of all of you! Here are some snapshots of the successes we have enjoyed celebrating since Easter. We have had to condense them as there are so many!!
Important Information:

A request to all road users and pedestrians in the Mentmore Road Area:

Once again, we have received complaints from members of the public regarding the (sometimes) inconsiderate behaviour of drivers and pedestrians in the area around the school. One of the complaints we have received is as follows:

*I have, on several occasions had to brake suddenly because a child/teen has run in front of my car. The reasons are that the kids are being irresponsible by not using the appropriate crossings, but a greater annoyance and concern is the cars which park on the ‘KEEP CLEAR’ markings, which inevitably blocks the view of oncoming cars, bicycles and kids dashing through the cars. Please could this matter be taken up as a matter of urgency? There is plenty of parking for cars, both up the road and at Tiddenfoot Nature Reserve, where I sometimes have to park. It is just pure laziness and lack of concern for the kids and others that use the roads that these parents park where they do.*

Another complaint raises the issue of drivers turning around in the gates of our school which, in turn, adds to the congestion when members of staff then try to enter the premises. In the spirit of our current value, ‘Neighbourliness’, we would like to ask all road users and pedestrians to think about their own safety and that of others as they make their way to and from school.

Mobile phones:

Next week will see us issue new mobile phone agreements to all families. This follows the text issued on 11 April which, in turn, follows earlier requests for all pupils who bring their phones to school to ensure that they are named clearly and handed in each morning in a protective case; one which protects the screen as well as the back of the phone. Many thanks to families for supporting us in this matter.

Water bottles in warm weather!

The warm weather this week has highlighted the fact that a number of pupils are coming to school without water bottles. Whilst the temperatures look set to drop this weekend, we are optimistic of some warmer weather later in the term. To this end, please would you make sure that your child comes to school with a water bottle that is named clearly. Where named water bottles are found, we will return them to their rightful owners. Un-named water bottles, however, are a more difficult matter altogether; especially when so many pupils have such similar water bottles.
Key Dates: (Correct at the time of going to press)

- 26 April: UK Maths Team Challenge
- 2 May: Bank Holiday
- 9 – 12 May: SATs Tests (Year 6)
- 16 – 20 May: Testing Week (all year groups)
- 24 May: Gym and Dance Show Case
- 27 May: End of Summer Half Term 1

Celebration Assemblies:

Congratulations to everyone whose effort and engagement have been celebrated in our celebration assemblies over the last half term and again this half term.

Week ending Friday 15 April

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bucket Full of Joy</th>
<th>Values Champions</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>Bethany O’Brien</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>Laura McCrorie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 7</td>
<td>Holly Platt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 8</td>
<td>Thomas Wall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>Tyler Rose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>Ciaran Hazell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 7</td>
<td>Gemma Green</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 8</td>
<td>Charlie Wells</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Key Stage 2 Maths Fact: Ethan Marmo
Key Stage 3 Maths Fact: Joseph Kilby

Week ending Friday 22 April

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bucket Full of Joy</th>
<th>Values Champions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>Phoebe Wood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>Kyle Ward</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 7</td>
<td>Poppy Booth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 8</td>
<td>Freya Cole</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>Noah Pastore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>To be announced (6JI)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 7</td>
<td>Olivia Campbell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 8</td>
<td>Sammy Jo Kombo</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Key Stage 2 Maths Fact: Neve Hazell
Key Stage 3 Maths Fact: Melissa Foxwell

Sports News:

Year 5 Hi-5 Netball Team end of season report

Congratulations to the Year 5 team for winning the local Leighton-Linslade Hi-5 Netball tournament just before Easter. There was excellent team work, absolutely fantastic footwork and deadly accurate shooting from all players. The team beat Brooklands, Fulbrook and Gilbert Inglefield schools with confidence and energy. In the match against Leighton the team found themselves under enormous pressure and defending for much of the game. Fortunately the team was able to turn its attacks into scoring opportunities and won by one goal. This put the team through to the County Finals tournament at Bedford.
County Finals

The County Finals tournament was a great learning experience for the team. The opposing teams came from Luton, Bedford and further afield. The matches were very fast with some very assertive players. Our team played with great determination and spirit; never giving up and always being supportive of each other. Despite our excellent footwork, attacking and defending skills we lacked accuracy with our shooting and unusually we did not score as highly as we normally do.

The team had an exceedingly enjoyable afternoon of intense netball and have got plans for their future training sessions. They were a complete pleasure to coach and be with and must be praised for their great attitude and effort.

The team were; Aimee Spavins, Grace Bailey, Jessica Tsang, Mary Rossiter, Myra Moyo, Olivia Bailey, Olivia Msoffe.

Mrs Shenton

Newsletter: District Football Year 5 (Miss Horwood)

The boys had four games to play against the local schools. They played superbly and won the tournament with the results outlined below.

- Leighton- 0-3 (Won) Goal scorers: Kyle Cutler, Kodone Blount and Alex Butt.
- Gilberts- 0-3 (Won) Goal scorers: Alex Butt, Pele Arganese- McDermott.

The boys are now through to the County Finals next Tuesday 26th April 2016 at Cedars.
Year 5 and 6 Boys at MK Dons:

Our Year 5 and 6 boys were also busy over the Easter break. Given their success in recent tournaments, they were invited to go to the Milton Keynes Dons’ training ground to spend an afternoon at their training ground and meet the players prior to attending a match at night where they were flag bearers.

Hello and welcome to our termly update from the Governors.

Being a Governor at Linslade is such a rewarding experience. There is always something exciting going on at the school, whether it be sports events, live productions or school-wide story submissions to the BBC. It really is great to be part of such a dedicated team of people committed to bringing education to life and moving our young people forwards.

For the Governors it has also been an incredibly exciting few months. We have seen the New Art room completed as well as taking delivery of the brand new school mini buses. Additionally the school Twitter feed has gone live - meaning you can now follow school activities and news worldwide too. All of these deliverables are as a result of Governor decision-making and I hope you, as parents and carers, agree that all of these new elements to school life will benefit your children whilst they are learning in the school environment, as well as allowing you as parents to feel more a part of our school.

We continually review the cost efficiency of the school and how money being spent directly impacts the education of the children, and we are always keen to hear the views of parents to know if we are getting it right. We know from our financial benchmarking that the school spends its money "on par" with other schools of a similar size, but it is not just about the pound notes - it is also about the educational delivery. Please do get in touch with us if you have any questions or suggestions.

As we move forwards this term there are still a lot of exciting challenges ahead. You may be aware that Central Beds have issued draft revised catchment area details for Middle schools
in Leighton Buzzard from 2018 and this, coupled with impending changes in education countrywide in the form of the recent White Paper, mean the Governors are engaged in ensuring we have a robust strategy mapped out to deal with the seemingly ever-changing educational landscape.

We are also waiting for our Ofsted re-inspection and are all "on standby" with reams of data, facts, figures and real life examples of why we believe Linslade is a "Good" school. In fact it gets better every week. Our Teaching & Learning Committee meets regularly to "deep dive" the data and come into school in order to provide assurance that we are getting it right.

From a school fabric point of view we are still waiting for confirmation of funding for a number of capital projects over the summer months, including:

- Upgrading library facilities
- Replacement of boiler
- Changing room/toilet refurbishment
- Fire safety works

So, as always, there is much going on. If you have any questions or want to know more about the role of the Governors please do get in touch.

Kevin Higgs: Vice Chair of Governors

And finally...

It has been an incredible start to the new term with a real focus on achieving excellence. We were all inspired by the example of our very own Miss Horwood last weekend as she captained the England Dodgeball Team at the World Cup in Manchester. Although we know how much winning would have meant to everyone, we are so proud of the third place success by the English ladies and are looking forward to the Europeans later this summer.

Good luck next weekend to the cast of LBYT’s production of ‘The Vakees’, a number of whom are current and former pupils of Linslade. (Please see the poster below and also details of how to join the group.)

Best wishes

Kate Smith
Headteacher
We're a local group of 9 - 19 year olds who strive to put on high quality musicals twice a year at the Leighton Buzzard Theatre.

We welcome all types of people - regardless of previous experience, level of confidence, or how much you want to feature in our productions.

If, after looking through our site, you would like to come to a meeting to see for what we get up to, we rehearse on Wednesday's (6pm - 7.45pm) and Friday's (6pm - 8.30pm) at The Forster Institute, 1 Waterloo Road, Linslade, LU7 2NR.