



# LINGFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Dear Parents,

### School Car Park

First and foremost, I would like to thank you enormously for your cooperation and support with regards to the new car park rules. I have received numerous positive responses and only a few negative ones. The new rules have meant an immediate improvement to the start of the school day and especially to pupil safety. However, from observations, I have three important points to make.

1. Please pull on to the yellow hatched area to drop your child/ren off (do not wait in the middle of the road).
2. Ensure your child/ren get out of the car on the pavement side (not the road side).
3. Please could all pedestrians walk on the footpaths and not in the road at all times.

Thank you again for your support and cooperation for the safety of our children.

### Harvest Festival

We are grateful to Reverend Jenny Attwood for leading us in our Harvest celebrations last Friday. Thank you to all the parents and children who sent in coins. The money will be sent to the 'Open House' a charity based in Three Bridges, for the homeless and lonely. The total amount collected was £158.65. It was wonderful to see a number of residents from Orchard Court joining us for the occasion.

### LPSA Firework Display - Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> November

Due to unprecedented demand, firework tickets are almost sold out, down to the last 50. These are being sold on a first come first served basis. They can be purchased on line during half term at [www.thelpsa.org.uk/fireworks](http://www.thelpsa.org.uk/fireworks). No tickets will be sold on the night. Please note that the school car parks will only be available to staff and helpers who arrive early on the event day.

### Key Stage 2 SATs

Many of you will be aware that last year the NAHT (National Association of Headteachers) took the decision to boycott SATs for 11 year olds. Over 4000 schools nationally took part. Lingfield did not. This was done to send a clear message to the government that's SATs: (i) get in the way of exciting teaching and learning (ii) provide inaccurate information on children's abilities and (iii) put into perspective as just one way of checking children's progress. NAHT felt forced to take this action as the government at the time refused any commitment to rethink the current system. I am pleased to tell you that the government has recently announced a fundamental independent review of tests and league tables in primary schools. Therefore, plans to repeat the boycott have been halted. This means there will be one more year of the current system, and the current year 6 will sit SATs in 2011 on the week beginning 9<sup>th</sup> May.

### Mathematics in School

This school year, as well as continuing our hard efforts for children to improve their writing, we are also focusing on teaching mental maths strategies. As part of children being able to make good progress in this area it is essential they know their times tables facts. Mrs Martin has produced an excellent wall display, near the children's entrance, that is a useful teaching tool as well as a daily reminder for pupils (and parents). Children from Year 3 to Year 6 complete a monthly timed tables test. Please help your child at home in this matter and make the learning experience fun. It is important for the children to know that you too hold such things in high regard. Years 1 and 2 should learn 2, 5 and 10 times tables. Year 3 should learn 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 10. Year 4 should learn 7, 8 and 9. Years 5 and 6 should know them all including 11 and 12 times



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tables. Children should also use them to derive quickly the corresponding division facts. For example:  $6 \times 2 = 12$  because  $12 \div 2 = 6$  and  $12 \div 6 = 2$ .

### Photographs

We hope to have the staff and governor photographs on display, close to the children's entrance in the near future, following yesterday's visit of the school photographer. I would like to thank the following parents for all their help in overseeing the children, ensuring a smooth running of the photo sessions: Lorraine Latcham, Nicola Law, Hilary Horner, Lucy Curtis & Rhoda Holbrook.

### Year 6 School Council - REMINDER

The School Council pupils have launched 'Operation Shoebox' at Lingfield. The children are being asked to put quality toys that they are prepared to give up, in a shoebox, wrapped in Christmas paper with a note inside. On the outside please tape a £1 coin to the box indicating if the toys are most suited to a boy or a girl. The boxes will be sent to orphanages abroad. Half term might well provide a good time for children to sort through their toy box and find suitable donations!

### Electronic Newsletters - FINAL REMINDER

As you will know from the last two newsletters from 1<sup>st</sup> November we will be sending school newsletters electronically to your preferred email address. If you receive an electronic copy of this newsletter then you know we have your up to date email address. If you do not receive this newsletter via email today, please supply us with your email address. This can be given by recording it on the return slip, sent out with the newsletter of 24<sup>th</sup> September or, preferably, by logging on to the school website and clicking 'newsletters' on the left hand side then clicking register for newsletter.

### Morrisons Vouchers

We are collecting the 'Let's Grow' vouchers, so if you receive any please send them into school. We will make good use of them to help support our soon to be launched 'Kitchen Garden' project.

### Parents' Evenings

As you know, 'Parents' Evenings' are the first Tuesday and Thursday following the half term break. It is important that every parent makes an appointment to see their child's class teacher to find out how they have settled in during the first few weeks of the new school year. I urge you to return the slip today if you haven't already done so.

### Congratulations

Well done and congratulations to two pupils who have successfully auditioned to take part in professional productions at Christmas. They are Anna Smith who will be performing at The Hawth and Danielle Glanville at The Harlequin (second year running).

### Cross Country Club

Cross Country Club starts the first Friday after half term. I have sent a letter to all those parents whose children are taking part with further details.

### Toy Sale in Aid of Flood Victims of Pakistan

As you will know, six children from Lingfield Primary School (including ex-pupils) took the initiative to organise a sale at the Community Centre last Saturday. They have asked me to let you know that they raised an amazing £251.50 and to thank all those who went along. I would like to say very well done to Kerry, Lara, Bonny, Natasha, Mona, Afreen and Leah.

### School Dinner Money Autumn Term 2010

The cost of school dinners for the second half of the autumn term is £70.30; please pay promptly. Cheques should be made payable to Lingfield Primary School.

### Inset Day TOMORROW + Holiday Dates

You will be aware that tomorrow is an inset day and next week is the half term break. During the inset day, teachers and teaching assistants will be reflecting on the first half term of the school year to ensure the teaching and learning programme, for the seven weeks leading up to Christmas, is further enhanced.

You will find a complete list of this year's term dates on the school website. (A copy of the sheet sent home last term.) Alternatively, another copy can be collected from the school office.

If you have any queries or concerns please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Ron Gandolfo

Headteacher.