

The Leighterton Leaf

Rooted in optimism, ambition and kindness, we grow together.

Term 1, Newsletter 1 (2026-2027)
Thursday 3rd September 2026

Value in focus: Gratitude
Gratitude is more than saying "thank you." When it becomes an attitude — a consistent way of orienting your attention toward what's good— it reshapes how you move through your day, your relationships, and the harder moments in life. The Positivity Team



Dear Parents, Carers, Friends and Governors

This week's news

Welcome Back!
We hope that you all had a lovely, relaxing summer break and are raring to go at the start of another exciting and busy year at Leighterton Primary School. The staff here have been busy preparing the classrooms to welcome you all back into school and are looking forward to the term ahead ☺

Start of Term News

The children are enjoying settling into their first day in their new classes; it was lovely to see their bright smiles and hear their summer news today. We are very pleased to welcome our new pupils and their families to Leighterton School. We hope you are all very happy during your time here.

This year, Ridge class (Y6) will be taught by Mrs Ward who will also take Y5 in the afternoons. Saddlewood (Y4/5) will be taught by Mrs Holian every morning. Ozleworth (Y3/4) will be taught by Mrs Walker and Miss Bence. Mrs Hall will support children across Y3-5 every morning, and will be based on Ozleworth class every afternoon. Boxwell (Y2) will be taught by Mrs Laver and Mrs Pocock. Barnhill (Y1) will be taught by Miss Tetlow. In Apsemore (EYFS) are Miss Roberts and Mrs Brisland. Mrs Brisland will also be continuing her work as our school ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant). Dawn will continue to support children across the school. Mrs Elliott will also be teaching classes across the school. Mrs Walker will be leading Forest School sessions which take place each week for children in EYFS and KS1. The other classes will take part in a block of sessions during the year. Miss Roberts is the school's SENDCo, spending one afternoon each week on this aspect of her work.

Staffing News

On a temporary basis, Mrs Embling will be work in the office on Monday to Wednesdays. She will be covered by Mrs Davey on Thursdays and on Friday mornings. Please note that the office will be closed on Friday afternoons.

School Improvements

Over the summer, both sets of children's toilets have been refurbished. The wooden hall floor has also been polished and looks wonderful, with new lino laid to replace the old, torn flooring. All of these improvements have been funded by The Athelstan Trust.

A Message from our Chair of Governors

Parent Survey

A big thank you to all who returned the parent survey last year and for so many positive comments. We are pleased to tell you that we have already addressed some items from the wish list.

For example:
Quiet spaces - we are introducing playground zones and a wider variety of activities to cater for differing needs.
Class sizes - we held meetings to explain both our thought processes and the decision made.
More SEND training - the government is looking to up skill all teachers and Miss Roberts is taking on additional training to fulfill her new role as SENDco.
The request to notify INSET days earlier - we do give notice once dates are decided (next year's school dates were sent out in February, highlighted on the 26/27 calendar). The newsletter (Leighterton Leaf) also lists dates.
This is not an exhaustive list.

With regard to visibility of governors, currently, I am the only non-parent. I am frequently in school and can be contacted through the office.

Look out for a parent governor election coming soon. Please do get in touch should you want further information about this vacancy.

Thank you again,
Jackie Batten
Chair of Governors

There is rather a lot of information in this letter, but it is all important for a smooth start to school. Please look out for more essential paperwork coming home over the next few days.

School Day – 8:40am – 3:10pm
The school day starts at 8.40am when registers are taken. Gates onto the playground open at 8:30am, with doors opening for children to enter the school building shortly after that. Children have a morning task on entry to the classroom, so it is important that they are in class and ready to begin by 8.40am. Children arriving late will need to sign in with their parents at the main entrance. *Where children arrive at 9.15am or later, they will be marked in the register as an unauthorised absence, in line with our Attendance Policy.*

At the end of the school day all parents are invited into the school playground to collect their children, with parents/carers of the Apsemore children asked to come to the classroom gate, and parents/carers of Boxwell and Barnhill to the door so their child can be directly 'handed over'. To encourage independence, we ask that the Key Stage 2 children stay on playground until they are sure that their 'adult' is there. No child is allowed to walk home without being given permission by their parents/ carers to school.

Please note that we will be closing the gates once children have left at the end of the school day for safeguarding reasons.

Parking Safely Outside School
Please remember to consider others and park safely outside school and on the school car park. That way, the children and their parents can make their way safely into school. Thank you.

Mobile Phone and Device Free Schools
In June, the Department for Education published new statutory guidance for schools making all settings mobile phone free from September 2026. The guidance a clear expectation that schools should be mobile phone free environments by default, with any deviations being exceptions only to support learning, wellbeing and safeguarding. This has always been our policy and we expect on the rare occasions when a child has a mobile phone at school that this should be handed into the school office at the start of the school day with permission of parents/carers. Please see the guidance for further information: Mobile phones in schools - GOV.UK

Please also note that this policy also applies to smart watches and other electronic devices which are not permitted in school. Should your child wear a watch in school, this should be an anologue or simple digital watch. Thank you for your cooperation with this important new guidance.

Reception Class Arrangements
A reminder for new Reception children that they will come to school for **mornings only** until Friday 11 September. For the week beginning Monday 14 September the children will stay at school for lunch, going home at 1pm. **From Monday 21 September** they will attend school all day. School finishes at 3.10pm. We feel this introduction enables them to settle into the school routine without becoming too tired. If you have any concerns or would like to talk to any staff, we are always available when the children are collected.

Data Checking Sheets
A data checking sheet will soon be sent home for each child. Please could you ensure that all the details are correct – **particularly emergency contact numbers and email addresses** – and return the form to school as soon as possible.

Photo Consent Form, General Consent Form, Acceptable Use Form and Home School Agreement
Please complete and return these forms as soon as you can, even if you have already completed forms on a previous occasion. Thank you.

Meet the Teacher Sessions
You have the opportunity to come to an informal meeting with your child's class teacher straight after school next week.

- Barnhill, Boxwell, Ozleworth and Ridge – 3.10pm, Thursday 10 September
- Saddlewood – 8.45am, Tuesday 15 September

The teachers will be talking through the start of new year routines and key information, including how you are able to support your child's learning at home. Please join us if you can.

On Thursday 10 September, Mrs Rushton will also be giving a brief talk about the priorities for the school for the year ahead in the hall at 2:45pm.

Medical Information
Please make sure you inform us if your child has a medical condition and needs medication. We are in the process of writing Health Care Plans for any child who needs regular medication. There is new guidance around allergies with which all schools need to comply. Please inform us of any allergies your child may have.

- If your child has asthma and needs an inhaler, please make sure that we have one that is in date in school.

Music Lessons
This year, we continue to offer music lessons from our peripatetic teachers, Mr Cooper, Mrs Frewer and Mrs Leroy. If you would like further information about these lessons, please contact the school office.

Text and Emails
The Teachers2Parents mobile app will soon be retired and replaced with the Eduspot parent mobile app. You may like to download and register for the Eduspot app. There is a flyer attached to this newsletter with further information.

Breakfast and After School Club
Breakfast and After School Club is run by Leighterton Primary School and provides before and after school activity for children aged 4-11 years of age. We aim to offer safe, stimulating and affordable play and care, in a happy environment. A variety of activities are available for the children to enjoy, including creative arts, puzzles, games and other recreational activities, as well as there being a quiet area where children can read or rest. The children will also be able to take part in various outdoor activities as the club has access to the school's playground equipment.

Breakfast Club runs from 7.30am to 8.30am, Monday-Friday, term time only.
Kites runs from 3.10pm-6.00pm, Monday-Thursday, term time only.

Please speak to the school office should you want more information about our childcare.

Naming Uniform, PE kit, Bags and Lunchboxes
Please ensure that all items are clearly named, so they can be quickly returned to their rightful owners. It is particularly useful if all children have a named book bag and an outdoor coat every day, particularly as the weather becomes more changeable. Please discourage your child(ren) from bringing toys, games or other belongings into school. These are best kept at home as they can be a distraction and can so easily be lost.

School Uniform
We feel it is very important that all children wear the right uniform at all times (unless there is a special non-uniform day), giving them a sense of pride in their appearance, contributing to a positive learning ethos and reinforcing their important place in our school community.

Our uniform is available to buy from PMG Schoolwear. You can also Contact PMG by phone on 01895 809321. Alternatively, please contact the school office if you wish to purchase items of second-hand uniform. The list of required uniform items can be found below. Generic items of school uniform without the school logo will be accepted.

- White shirt or polo tee shirt
- Red school sweatshirt, red jumper or cardigan
- Grey trousers or skirt
- Red and white checked dress in summer or school shorts
- Black low-heeled shoes or boots. Trainers are not considered to be school uniform.
- Jogging bottoms may be worn on swimming days for ease of changing but should not be worn on other days.

Children need to wear coats, hats and gloves as appropriate throughout the school year – and supply their own sun cream. Long hair should be tied back off the face. An analogue or simple digital watch may be worn and one small pair of stud earrings which children must remove before sports activities and they are responsible for the safekeeping of such items. For health and safety reasons, we ask that no other jewellery be worn in school.

PE Kit – For Physical Education and Games lessons children will need:

- A pair of plimsolls and or trainers
- A white tee shirt
- A pair of navy-blue shorts
- A bag to hold the above items
- A one-piece swimming costume/trunks and hat
- A track suit is optional but useful for games (especially on our exposed site)
- Leighterton School PE Hoodies are also available for outdoor PE in colder weather. For more information about these, please contact the school office.

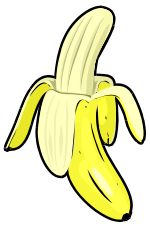
We request your co-operation in ensuring that your child/children come to school in the correct uniform every day, unless there are special circumstances such as non-uniform days. In addition, please make sure that all uniform is labelled correctly and clearly. Thank you in advance for your support.

Wellies
Please check if your child left wellies at school at the end of last term. There is a collection of wellies under the shelter on the entrance into school. Please take home or place on the welly racks We will be clearing these wellies after Friday.

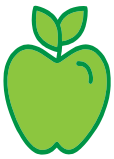
Forest School Days

Apsemore – Wednesday
Barnhill – Wednesday
Boxwell – Wednesday
Ozleworth – Tuesday

Milk, Fruit, Water Bottles and Lunches
Milk is organised through Cool Milk for Schools. Order forms are available from the school office. Under 5s are entitled to free milk, but it is still necessary to register the child with Cool Milk.
Key Stage 1 children are provided with a small fruit snack at morning break. Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 children are welcome to bring their own healthy snack.



Hot school lunches are available and cooked onsite. For Apsemore, Barnhill and Boxwell lunches are free. For children in Key Stage 2, lunches must be paid for online. Logging on details for new children will be sent home soon. Please remember that water is available in all classrooms, but the children can bring a drinks bottle with a sports top (named) filled with water to have in class if they wish.



Packed Lunches

As part of our Healthy Schools status, we encourage parents to try to avoid too many packaged snacks in lunch boxes. In addition, these foods can be difficult for young children to unwrap and manage. If your child has a packed lunch, we recommend savoury sandwiches, fruit, a drink (which may include squash or fruit juice) and an additional item such as a pot of yoghurt as quite sufficient for most children.

Chess Boards

Two of our Year 6 children are hoping to run a chess club this year and are asking for any donations of old chess sets for this purpose. If you can help, please drop them into the school office. Thank you!

Here's to a happy, productive term full of learning and fun!

Mrs Jane Rushton
Executive Headteacher

Attendance Information	Thinking Corner
Coming soon! 	**What do you want to achieve this year?** 

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

(Please note that there sometimes may be changes/additions at short notice)

Friday 4 September	No Celebration Assembly
Thursday 11 September, 2.45pm	Year ahead overview with Mrs Rushton, then Meet the Teacher (Key Stage 1, Ozleworth and Ridge)
Tuesday 15 September, 8.45am	Meet the Teacher, Saddlewood
Wednesday 16 – 18 September	Book Fair after school
Wednesday 23 September	Henry the Horse visit for Y3-Y5
Wednesday 30 September	School photographs
Friday 2 October	Flu Immunisation

We are O.A.K.

Optimism – We are optimistic.
We persevere to improve.
Ambition – We are ambitious.
We aim high and do our best.
Kindness – We are kind.
We use kind words and kind actions. We respect ourselves, others and our world.

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Community News

(Please note that the school does not endorse external providers and families should enure they are satisfied will all necessary safegurding checks before engaging with any advertised services below.)

Brasshoppers

You may know Dr Dillon as teacher at SWR, but he is also chairman of the Nailsworth Music Society. This is made up of the Nailsworth Silver Band, Nailsworth Academy Band and 'Brasshoppers'. Brasshoppers is a

beginners band, where young people can learn how to play a brass instrument with a music tutor and play together in an ensemble. Children are encouraged to join Brasshoppers – see the information below.




TETBURY
R.F.C.
COME JOIN OUR TEAM
New Season Starting 6th September
Boys and Girls, 5 - 18
Every Sunday, 10:30 - 12:00, Sept - April
Sir William Romney School, Tetbury
2x FREE INTRO SESSIONS
U6 (5+, Y1) to Colts (17-18, Y12/13)
Mixed to U11, Boys and Girls from U12+
Trained coaches and first aiders
Competitive league rugby for older sides
Regular representation in RFU Talent Pathways
All welcome, regardless of experience!
Contact us via our website, Messenger, Facebook or
clubsecretary.tetburyrfc@gmail.com
Small club. Big heart | www.tetburyrfc.com