

The Leighterton Leaf

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

Term 1, Newsletter 2 (2026-2027)
Thursday 10 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

It has been a busy few days back in school. It has been lovely to see the Apsemore children stay for lunchtimes. The older children have enjoyed playing with their new younger friends. Yesterday, I met with all of the teachers to talk about the progress of the children and what individuals need to learn next. Without exception, across the school, the children have settled well into the lessons and have made an excellent start to the term. Keep it up everyone!

Reception Class Arrangements

A reminder for new Reception children that **from Monday 14 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.

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, today, 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.

Today, 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.**

Homework

After looking at best practice and current research about homework, the teaching team have reviewed our approach to homework. Our reviewed Homework Policy is attached to this edition of The Leighterton Leaf with further details.

From September, the teachers will set homework which focuses mainly on recapping foundational knowledge – the regular practise of basic skills: reading, spelling and number facts. This is expected of every child each week.

Below is guidance on what homework you can expect for your child within each class. You will receive more detailed information about this at the Meet the Teacher sessions. Should you be unable to attend, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher for information.

Age Group	Homework
Early Years	Phonic sound cards to practise Harder to Read and Spell words (HRSW) to read by sight Repeated reading of phonic books to build fluency (at least three reads before books are changed)
Key Stage 1	Repeated reading of school book to build fluency Phonic sound cards to practise HRSW to read and to spell Number bonds or times tables activity set weekly
Years 3 - 5	Regular reading of school book to an adult (at least four times a week) HRSW spelling (and personal spellings if required) Practise times tables to 12x12 Maths activity set weekly (up to 10 minutes)
Year 6	Regular reading (at least four times a week) Spelling, punctuation and grammar activity each week HRSW and personal spellings Revisit maths learning activity

Clubs

Clubs begin next week at school and there is a wide variety of clubs from which to choose. Please see the table below.

Phonic Workshop for Parents of children in EYFS and Year 1

We are running a parent workshop to help give you an understanding of some of the areas we are teaching in school. If you are unable to make the workshop, please contact Miss Tetlow for further information.

- Wednesday 22 September, 9.15am – Teaching Phonics and Early Reading (Miss Tetlow and Miss Roberts)

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.

School Lunches

We are very fortunate at Leighterton School to have our wonderful cook, Sabrina, creating lovely meals in the school kitchen. The children can bring a packed lunch or have a school meal (there are three cooked lunch choices each day). The teacher will take a dinner register each morning so Sabrina knows how many lunches to cook. Lunches are free for the children in Apsemore, Barnhill and Boxwell classes. There will be a new menu for everyone after the October half term.

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 <u>all</u> children have a named book bag and an outdoor coat <u>every</u> 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.

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.

Athelstan Trust Vacancies
There are currently two central team vacancies. Please click the links to find out further information – IT Support Technician and Senior Finance Officer (based at SWR)

Book Fair
Please come along after school on Wednesday 16 – Friday 18 September to the annual book fair in the hall.

PTFA Save the Date
The PTFA are holding a new starters' event straight after school on Friday 18 September. Please come along if you can. Details to follow.

Open Morning
We are holding our open morning on Thursday 15 October. This is a drop-in session between 9am and 11.30am – no need to book. The older children will be giving guided tours and there will be coffee and biscuits available in the hall afterwards. Everyone is welcome to join us.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Jane Rushton
Executive Headteacher

Attendance Information **98.06%** 	 **Thinking Corner** **Are words or pictures more important in books?**

Term1 Clubs – w/c 14 September. *Please note, school run clubs do not run in last week of term*

MONDAY	**French Club**	3.10 – 4.00pm	R & Y1. Please see separate email for info (there is a cost)
TUESDAY	**Atlas Sports – Multi Skills**	3.10 – 4.00pm	Y1 and 2
WEDNESDAY	**Cross Country**	8.00 – 8.30am	Y3 - 6
	Dance Club	12.30 – 1.00pm	Open to all Year 1 classroom
	Art Club £5 contribution per child	3.10 – 4.00pm	Y3 - 6 Y2 classroom (max 12 pupils)
THURSDAY	**Drama Club**	3.10 – 4.00pm	Y1 & 2 Please see separate email for info (there is a cost)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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

Thursday 10 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
Friday 18 September	Celebration assembly
Tuesday 22 September	Phonics and Early Reading Workshop for parents of EYFS and Y1
Wednesday 23 September	Henry the Horse visit for Y3-Y5
Wednesday 30 September	School photographs (all classes)
Friday 2 October	Flu Immunisation (all classes)
Wednesday 7-9 October	Y5/6 residential
Monday 12 – 14 October	Y6 bikeability
Thursday 15 October	Open Morning

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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Online Safety



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.)






Key Stage 2 girls...
Join us for Stroud High School Open Evening
Thursday 8 October 5-7.30pm
Register online at
www.stroudhigh.gloucs.sch.uk
@StroudHighSch
@stroud.high
Ofsted
Outstanding Provider