

10TH SEPTEMBER 2019

Welcome back to a new school year. I know the staff were keen to get started with their new classes and refreshed topics that they have planned to be even more engaging and exciting than before!

On the last page of this newsletter are all of the dates we have so far for events in the Autumn Term, so please pop them in your diary. As always, key dates can be found on the school website and the app.

We are really keen to re-establish our PTA (Parent-Teacher Association) during the academic year. Some of you may have been a member of a FORS at Ridgeway or a PTA at a different infant school. Our previous group raised some valuable funds for the school, paying for the original trim-trail and the outdoor classroom and we were sorry to part company with them when their children moved onto secondary school. Please contact Mrs Hardisty in the school office if you are interested and have a little time to spare us—fundraising is becoming a bigger part of life in schools and we'd love to reach out and involve as many parents as possible in this!

Mrs J Hill

Road Safety

I would like to remind you again to please be careful if you are using your car during school drop off or pick up times near the school or the surrounding area. Towards the end of last year we had several near misses reported, particularly with cars that had driven all the way up to the school gates. There is not sufficient room to turn round here: a parent who did this last term almost knocked over several pedestrians, including children, whilst also mounting the pavement. I have previously asked parents not to drive right up to the gates for this very reason so would like to reiterate the request as we are at the start of a new year. **The most important thing at home time is that all of our children get home safely.**



Dinner Money

Dinner money remains at £2.20 per day or £11 for a week. **It should be paid in advance or on the day a meal is ordered.** Please send money to school in a named envelope.

Remember that your child can order a sandwich or a jacket potato in the school office if they prefer. This should be done before school.



We are continuing to use the same menu until later in the term.

Remember that our online payment system, Scopay, now has an app! It's free to download for Android and Apple devices.

PE Kit

Following discussions at the end of last term, we have reviewed our PE kit policy. Children will now be **able to wear small stud earrings in lessons if they are covered with tape** to avoid them being caught. Children will need to do this themselves—**staff are not permitted to do this**.

Some girls have begun wearing PE skirts. Whilst these can still be part of their PE kit, for some units, such as gymnastics, they are not suitable for practical reasons, so please ensure you also provide shorts, leggings or tracksuit bottoms for your child as part of their standard PE kit that they bring to school.

Please ensure your child brings their PE kit to school on the correct days. Their kit should include:

a change of footwear—pumps or trainers (no football boots with studs);

a plain white t-shirt and

navy shorts, leggings or tracksuit bottoms (for colder weather).

As it is an indoor unit, tracksuit bottoms are not allowed to be worn during gymnastics—shorts or leggings are fine.

Please make sure all kit is named.



Harvest Collections

We will launch our annual Harvest collection next week with an assembly and discussions with the children around the festival and why we donate food to good causes. This year, we are joining together with Newmount Church who are making donations to the Basics Bank Charity in the city centre. The charity give out around 800 food parcels a year thanks to donations from other organisations and we are pleased that our collections will be added to help them continue to provide the vital support they give to families across the city.



Please look out for our Harvest flyer which will come home with your child next week and will include a list of the food and goods we will be collecting in school.

Learning for Memory

One big focus for us this year is looking in more depth about how we remember things and the best ways to teach children to remember so that they can develop new skills and make connections between the knowledge they learn in lessons.

Working Memory

Did you know that we can only take on board between 5 and 7 new pieces of information at once and that we only store these in our working memory for about 20 seconds? We have to do something with that information—write it down, use it to complete a task, draw a diagram or a picture—in order for it to move into our long-term memory. This is called encoding.



Long-Term Memory

Some information may be lost over time—this is to be expected. But the more you recall that knowledge, practice using it, or adding to it, the more likely it is that you will remember it. So don't be surprised if your child sometimes comes home with tasks you know they can do or they have done before—this is enabling your child to practice using a specific skill or certain knowledge, which in turn enables them to store it in their long-term memory.

Year 6 Secondary Transition

Your child will be bringing home their transition paperwork imminently. It is really important to fill this in and return it by the deadline provided by the local authority. These applications can also be made online if you prefer. Our experience has showed us that it is really important that you put down more than one preference for a secondary school, as sometimes schools are heavily oversubscribed and, without a second option, children are placed at schools in the city that are left with spaces after all places are allocated. This can cause unnecessary worry for children during what is already a difficult time whilst parents appeal for places at other schools.

Ms Brannick, the Principal at Landau Forte College, has asked me to invite you on her behalf to the Year 6 Open Evening at the college on Wednesday 11th September from 5:30-7:30pm.

During the evening, there will be a talk on the admissions process, some background information on the college and an opportunity to ask questions. You will be able to tour the college and visit each subject's department to get an idea of life at Landau. If you wish to attend, please telephone Samantha Davis on 01332 204040 or register your interest on the college website (www.landau-forte.org.uk).



Bikes and Mobile Phones

We recently updated our cycling policy. **Year 6 children** who wish to ride their bikes to school **on their own** this year will need to get a cycle licence from the office. Children may ride their bikes to school with an adult as usual without the need for a licence.



We will also be sending out new mobile phone consent forms to children who walk to school on their own and bring their mobile phones to school with them in. To avoid phones being lost, broken or misused during the school day, phones **must** be handed in as usual each morning and collected at home time. These forms will be sent home with children the first time they hand their phone into the office.

Playtime



Please remember to send your child with a healthy snack for playtime. Snacks such as vegetable sticks, cheese strings, yoghurt pouches, fruit or cereal bars. Please contact the office if you are interested in signing up for Cool Milk and they can give you the details. Children should bring their snacks in their bags, not their lunchboxes/sandwich bags please. Snacks can be left in bags or trays until playtime.

In lessons, we like to encourage the children to keep them hydrated, as this helps them to concentrate better throughout the day. To avoid ruining work if there are spillages, we have a **still water only rule for drinks in the classroom**. Children can bring in their own, named water bottles—ideally with a sports cap or similar to drink from—which they should take home daily to be cleaned. The office also sell water bottles if you wish to purchase one from them.



KEY DATES 2019-20

Monday 23rd September	9:15am	SPAG Session for Year 3 & 4 Parents
Thursday 26th September	All Day	Year 3 Markeaton Park Trip
Tuesday 1st October	AM	Individual & Family Photos
Thursday 24th October	TBC	Halloween Discos
Friday 25th October	3:30pm	Break up for Half Term
HALF TERM		
Monday 4th November	All Day	INSET Day 2
Tuesday 5th November	8:55am	Back to School
Monday 11th November	3:30—6:30pm	Parents' Evening
Tuesday 12th November	AM	Year 3 & 4 Flu Vaccinations
Wednesday 13th November	3:30-6:30pm	Parents' Evening
Monday 25th November	9:15am	SPAG Session for Year 5 & 6 Parents
Thursday 19th December	3:30pm	Break up for Christmas
Friday 20th December	All Day	INSET 3
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS		
Monday 6th January	All Day	INSET 4
Tuesday 7th January	8:55am	Back to School
Friday 14th February	3:30pm	Break up for Half Term
HALF TERM		
Monday 24th February	8:55am	Back to School
Thursday 2nd April	3:30pm	Break up for Easter
Friday 3rd April	All Day	INSET 5
EASTER HOLIDAYS		
Monday 20th April	8:55am	Back to School
Friday 22nd May	3:30pm	Break up for Half Term
HALF TERM		
Monday 1st June	8:55am	Back to School
Friday 24th July	3:30pm	Break up for Summer