



LEOMINSTER PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS



We have an exciting opportunity for parents coming up! Parents with Prospects will be coming into school on Tuesday 11th February at 11am to speak to any parents interested in further learning courses. Look out for flyers around the school. We hope that you will come and find out for yourselves what Parents with prospects can offer.

Parent/Family



We hope that you will join us at our Parental Engagement events and information sessions for parents. We understand that not all parents/family will be able to join us at these events, please speak to your child's class teacher if you require further information on any sessions that you have missed. We will also put information onto the school website.

Dates are as follows:-

Monday 3rd February	Reception Parents	Phonics Workshop	2.30pm
Tuesday 4th February	Year 2 Parents	SATs Workshop	2.30pm
Thursday 13th February	Year 4 Parents	Times Tables	2.50pm
Thursday 13th February	Reception Parents	Understanding the World	2—3pm

If you feel there is an area of your child's schooling you would like further information on please put your suggestions into the suggestion box located in the Reception Office foyer area. Thank you.

School Term Dates—Autumn 2020—Summer 2021

	Autumn 2020	Spring 2021	Summer 2021
Term starts	Pupils back Thursday 3rd September	Pupils back Tuesday 5th January	Pupils back Tuesday 20th April May Day: 3rd May 2021
Half term	Monday 26th October – Friday 30th October	Monday 15th – Friday 19th February	Monday 31st May – Friday 4th June
Term ends	Friday 18th December	Wednesday 31st March	Wednesday 21st July

Good Friday: 2nd April 2021

Easter Monday: 5th April 2021

May Day: 3rd May 2021

Spring bank holiday: 31st May 2021





2020 is a Leap Year. A leap year is a year which has 366 days, the extra day is 29th February. There is a leap year every 4 years. Anyone can be born in a leap year but people born on 29th February are called leap day babies. Leap day babies can celebrate their birthdays on either 28th February or 1st March, except in a leap year when they can actually celebrate!

Why do we have leap years?

A year is the total time taken by the Earth to orbit around the sun once. It takes the Earth **365 1/4th days (5 hours, 48 minutes and 46 seconds)** to make one orbit around the sun. But we calculate every year as only 365 and not the few hours left. So these leftover **hours add up every four years** and eventually add **one extra day** to our calendar. So, adding a day every four years matches our calendar with the solar year.



Vision Screening for Reception Pupils

Vision Screening for Reception Pupils will begin towards the end of February and into March. This is a routine eye test offered to every child in their Reception year and complies with the National Screening Guidelines and is recommended for every child. Parents are informed of the results of the tests. Children are automatically tested unless parents decide to opt out.

Attendance - Not a lot of time....

Of the 365 days in a year **only 190 are school days**. This is just over half the year. But the school day is only 6 hours long, one quarter of a day, so we only have your children for a very small amount of time each year (13%) and we have a huge amount of teaching to do in that time. We want your child here for as much of that time as possible to give them the best possible education.

10 days absence across the year takes the child below 95% attendance. This is why we do not approve holiday absence. 20 days absence takes them below 90% and this level of attendance affects the achievement of the child across their school years. With such small numbers of days having so great an effect we have to chase each absence and push for better attendance.

Part days are also important. Each time a child arrives late or goes home early they are losing hours of education, they miss out on literacy and numeracy teaching which is the basis for all they will do throughout their secondary education.

Children will get ill and cannot attend, but they get better and they can come back to school during the day if they feel better. They can take medication and can come in once treated. They can come in before or after a medical appointment. All of these will help the child fit into school and get the most out of it.

Where parents have appointments can a relative bring the child in or collect them at the end of the day? All of these things increase the time they are here and we need all the time we can to **give your child the best possible start in life and increase their life chances**.

School Matters!

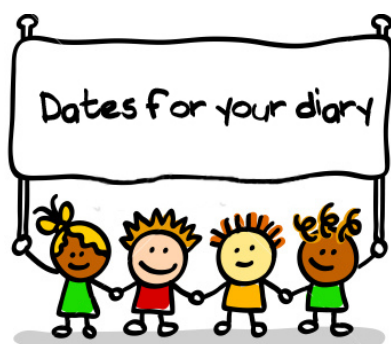


Martial Arts

We are delighted that Glen Parry of GP Martial Arts has joined us to run an after school club. The club proved extremely popular and applications for the club far exceeded spaces available.

As it has proved so popular we are looking into ways to increase classes so that more children will have the opportunity to join, we will let you know if and when classes are set to increase.





Monday 3rd February	Reception Phonics Workshop	2.30pm Reception Parental Engagement
Tuesday 4th February	Year 2 SATs Workshop	2.30pm Year 2 Parents
Wednesday 5th February	Year 4 Swimming	
Monday 10th February	Year 1 Hearing Tests	
Tuesday 11th February	Year 1 Hearing Tests	
	Year 4 Swimming	
	Year 5 Pottery Day	
Wednesday 12th February	Nursery—Sing rhymes to parents	9.00am Nursery Parents
Thursday 13th February	Year 4 Times Tables Meeting	2.50pm Year 4 parents
Thursday 13th February	Understanding the World (Parental Engagement)	2.00—3.00pm Reception Parents
Monday 17th February— Friday 21st February	HALF TERM HOLIDAY	
Monday 24th February	Year 1 & 2 pupils at Earl Mortimer College—'Sing in Spring'	9.30—2.30pm
Tuesday 25th February	Year 3 pupils at Earl Mortimer College—'Sing in Spring'	9.30—2.30pm
	Year 4 Swimming	
	NSPCC Assembly for KS1 & KS2 pupils	
Wednesday 26th February	Year 5 Bikeability	
Thursday 27th February	Year 5 Bikeability	
	PC Anna in Year 6 (Internet Safety)	



Here at Leominster Primary School we use the free Parentmail app to communicate with our parents. There are lots of benefits to the Parentmail app, you can access Parentmail with your own login, school communications are delivered to one place, payments can be made, forms completed and children's absence from school can be reported. The majority of our parents now access Parentmail, if you haven't already registered or require help registering please pop into the school office where we will assist you. Registering takes less than 5 minutes.



Thank you everyone for your fantastic fund raising efforts over the past year and your attendance at all of our events.

Your help and support at school helps make your child's time at school enjoyable and is great for bringing the school together as a community.

For further information about the PTA and monies raised please look at our school website.

P T A



We are always looking for new members to join the PTA, there are lots of reasons to get involved!

1. Feel at home at school—Joining makes it easy to get to know people at school, from the Headteacher, Teachers, to other parents. If you're new to school you'll meet other parents.
2. Have fun and get to know people. PTA events are fun, sometimes hectic and exhausting but everyone gets stuck in and enjoys themselves and work as a community.
3. Understand how the school works. Working with the Teachers you will appreciate how much they value the support the PTA give to the school.
4. Help the school be even better. Lots of school events are run (and paid for) by the PTA.
5. Become engaged in school life. Being involved in school life shows you think it's important and sets a great example to children. You are well informed and will make a difference.

Don't worry , you won't be expected to commit huge amounts of your time to the school, any help is much appreciated and in return we hope you will receive a sense of satisfaction and a group of new friends!



14th February 2020	Valentine 'Wear what you like Day'(Valentine colours) and Valentine themed cake sale.
10th March 2020	Festival Celebration Concert (details to follow)
23rd April 2020	Film Night (Years 1 to 6) (details to follow)
May 2020	VE Celebration (75th Anniversary) (details to follow)
June 2020	Square Board (details to follow)
10th July 2020	Summer Fete & Parade (details to follow)



Congratulations

Congratulations to Holly, Elise, Lily and Kacey who entered and won a design competition organised by housing provider Stonewater. Their designs were used to help decorate the hoarding around a housing scheme for veterans in Leominster.

Mrs Rees our Deputy Head took the children to receive their prizes and look at their artwork. The school were delighted to be involved in this project which gave the school the chance to contribute to the Leominster community and learn about how communities work together and in addition provided them with the opportunity to appreciate the contributions our service personnel make.