

Dear Parents,

September 2015

Welcome back to the new school year. I hope that you have all enjoyed the summer break and not spent too much of it sheltering under an umbrella.

The children have come back very enthusiastic and focussed. As you walk around the school there is already a real buzz of excitement and endeavour. It's great to be back!

We have another very busy year ahead of us with Harvest Festivals and International Week only weeks away.

DATA COLLECTION **** VERY IMPORTANT ****

- 1. Parent Information** - At the beginning of term we like to make sure that we have all your child's details. Please could you let the office know in writing or by email to office@ladyj.kent.sch.uk of any changes to your address, telephone number or mobile numbers that may have taken place over the summer holidays. If you would like to check the information we hold on your child you may request a Data Collection sheet.

We would like to send out the majority of school correspondence by email. Please make sure you have given us an up to date email address for the contacts who have parental responsibility. (For your information - I have sent a paper copy to all our Reception children's parents but will be sending subsequent letters by email if possible).

- 2. Health/Medical** - It is very important that we know of any medical conditions, in particular allergies to foods, plasters etc or medications that your child is taking. Children should be discouraged from bringing medicines to school as most dosages for antibiotics can be worked around home. However, if your child is required to take medicine during school hours you must fill out a 'Request for School to Administer Medication' form (this includes Asthma Inhalers- you may also have a card from your doctor). Inhalers will be kept by your child or child's class teacher (depending on their age), would you please ensure that your child has been trained to use the inhaler.

I would reassure you that all information regarding your child is held in the strictest confidence and in line with the guidelines set down by the Data Protection Act.

School Security

You will appreciate as parents that one of our prime concerns in school is the safety of our boys and girls. Whilst no site can be 100% secure there are ways in which your cooperation can help us without us becoming a fortress.

Beginning and end of the day – Could you please ensure that children arrive no earlier than **8.30am** - we begin our supervision at **8.35am**. A reminder, too, that in the morning we have a 'no running' rule, given the number of pushchairs and toddlers we have on the playground. **Please can parents make sure that none of your children play on the Trim Trail equipment either in the morning or afternoon, thank you!** At the end of the day we open the gates at 3.00pm; this not only keeps our playgrounds free for games activities but also helps us monitor who is on the school site.

Coming into school – We have always tried to foster an 'open door' policy at Wye so that parents feel welcomed into our school community and so that the vital liaison between home and school is promoted. With this in mind all visitors are directed to use our electric gate leading from the Village Hall Car Park, with the front gates of the school being locked from 9am to 3pm each day to further secure the site. This ensures that we know exactly who is on our school site with 'strangers' being appropriately challenged.

We do not want to discourage dialogue between teachers and parents at arrival and home times. These moments help to maintain the care of our boys and girls and build working relations, however, I would ask that if a 'meeting' with a teacher is needed these are planned for the end of the day not the beginning and that wherever possible an appointment is made. I do keep the teachers very busy!

Absences – if your child is absent due to sickness you must let the school office know on the first day of sickness and send a short note with your child when they return to school. It is not necessary to call each day they are off, however, if an illness lasts longer than 5 days please do keep in touch with us.

Appointments during school – please can you make sure that you have signed your child out at the school office before taking your child off site.

Arriving late - if your child is going to be late for school we would appreciate, where possible, a note or telephone call advising us especially if a school meal is required. All absence must be followed by a brief note of explanation. The school is required to record a variety of different types of absence for each child; also we are obliged to record unauthorised absences and late arrivals.

E-Safety

As adults it is our responsibility to ensure that our children use the internet, social media and technology safely and appropriately. Within school this is part of our curriculum. We also apply filters through our internet provider to limit access to the web. We are aware, though, that any filtering is not fool proof and often there are no such limits in all home environments. Subsequently we have noted a worrying increase in the number of children accessing inappropriate materials or social media sites, the impact of which we unfortunately often end up dealing with in school. As parents it is wise to ask yourselves some basic questions on a regular basis: Do you know what your children are accessing at home? Do you know who they are 'talking to'? Do you know the legal age for children to have an account for such sites as 'facebook', 'youtube', etc? Our responsibility is to look after the wellbeing of our children and their friends.

As part of our management of the children's safety it is also our strict policy to NOT allow children to bring mobile phones into school. Aside from the expense of these items they give significant concern as these days they provide children with direct / unfiltered access to the internet. Should, in an emergency, there be the need for a child to have a phone for use outside of school hours we will look after them in the office. A written note should be provided from parents.

Staff

I am delighted to welcome Mr A Grout into our teaching team this year. He is teaching Swift (Year 5). Whilst having two Mr Grouts could lead to some confusion, the children seem to have resolved that problem in a most pragmatic way. Mr Grout and Mr G seem to be the preferred terms, however, I also note that there is an 'old' Mr Grout and a 'young' Mr Grout – Ouch! I wish him every success and happiness in his new role.

We are also advertising for a Teaching Assistant post and Midday Supervisor post. Details can be found on the school website and applications made on www.kent-teach.com post reference KCC3284-29S and KCC3284-30S – **closing date Monday, 14th September.**

Mrs Lamaison

It is with great personal sadness that I inform you of the passing of a dear friend. Mrs Lamaison who ran our school library voluntarily for over 23 years, died during the holidays. She had been unwell for some time.

Those of you who knew her will be aware of how passionate about and dedicated to our children she was. Whatever the weather she travelled in from Kennington on the bus to run our library. She did this despite the physical challenge it presented her and only stopped when her illness became acute.

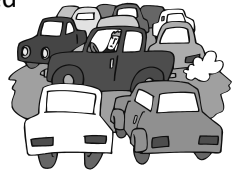
Each child in the school was known to her as were their hobbies and interests. Books would be 'put aside' with particular children in mind following some earlier conversation. Everyone who visited the library was special to her with her interest in and care for the children going far beyond her contact with them in the library.

Two years ago we dedicated the library to her in recognition of the extraordinary support she had provided. It is a fitting tribute to a quite remarkable lady. Thank you Marriette. Our thoughts go to Alex, her son. If you would like details about her funeral please do speak to someone in the school office.

Car Parking



If you sit outside any school at the beginning and end of the day you will most likely be looking at car parking or car related problems! We are no exception, however, we are extremely lucky to have the Village Hall car park directly adjacent to the school, which sees us much better served than the vast majority of schools. All the more reason, then, that we all use it courteously and with all due care.



When parking can I remind you all to park with consideration and in the bays provided. Please do not block the entrance and exit routes of the car park, the main school gates (needed for emergency access) **or the property of our neighbours**. This has the potential to place our children in danger and / or cause great upset. The last thing any of us would wish to see is a child harmed because of our impatience or lack of consideration.



May I also remind you that the two disabled bays next to the school are for those cars displaying a disabled parking sticker and should be left clear – **they are used daily!** Thank you.

School Dinners

Our new Squid payment system, introduced last year, has been highly effective; at the end of the year we had a debt of just £30 rather than £700!!! Please remember that the system allows you to set an **automatic top-up**; this feature prevents you from ever getting into debt. The system sends you an email to let you know when the money has been taken from your account and can be set to a minimum of £15.

A reminder for parents of Year 3 children, that you must register your child on the system, and if you are encountering problems come speak to someone in the school office.

Universal Free School Meals

As you know the central government initiative to provide free school meals to all Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children came into force last September. This was very well received. We do still need to know if your child is having a dinner each day as we have to keep records for County **and also prepare the appropriate number of meals!**

Uniform / School Shop

School uniform must be purchased online – many of you will have taken advantage of the summer ordering and collected your orders. Orders will normally be given to your children to bring home.

The Friends' have Second Hand Uniform in the corridor by the Treatment Room, please come and look through before or after school – all items are 50p.

Printer Cartridges

Unfortunately, we are no longer able to recycle ink cartridges. Our thanks for your support with this project in the past.

Vouchers / Tokens

We will again be collecting all sorts of tokens for schools – Tesco's, Sainsbury's, Persil, Nestle. We use these tokens to purchase playground games – scoops, skipping ropes, balls etc – so keep them coming! If you counted them into 10s and stapled this would be even better!

CLUBS

Please find below information about some of our clubs that will be starting this term. Please look out for further letters regarding clubs as other clubs will be starting throughout the year.

Link to website: <http://www.ladyj.kent.sch.uk/default.cfm?pid=4474&act=disp>

Please make sure you have completed a separate permission slip for **each** club that your child would like to attend. We ask you to provide a mobile contact number; should a club be cancelled during the day we will text your mobile to let you know. All decisions will be made at the latest by 2.15pm. (Please bear with us if it is a 'weather' related cancellation, Wye seems to have its own unique weather system!!)

MUSIC CLUBS

Orchestra – Unfortunately, as Mrs Migden is not longer available to run this club we have been feverishly trying to find someone else to help. We are hoping to have something in place soon, but any offers of help or suggestions please come and speak to Mrs Royal



Choir - Will run after school on **Wednesdays** from **3.15-4pm** starting on **16th September** for Y3 upwards with Mrs Royal and Mrs Rall.

Infant Choir – Will start after Christmas and runs during lunch times for Year 1 and 2.

Recorder – will run on Tuesday lunch times for children in Y3-Y6. Run by Mrs Royal.

SPORTS CLUBS



Football – starts on **Wednesday 16th September** and runs on **Wednesdays** at 3.15-4.15pm during the Autumn and Spring Terms. **Juniors only**.

ANY PARENTAL SUPPORT WOULD BE GRATEFULLY RECEIVED AND IS ESSENTIAL FOR THE RUNNING OF FOOTBALL CLUB! WE OFTEN HAVE OVER 60 CHILDREN! IF WE DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH PARENTAL SUPPORT WE MAY NEED TO LIMIT THE CLUB TO JUST YEAR 5 & 6

Last Year's team were Kent Champions!! so no pressure on our new teams...!

Netball – After our continued success last year we are running 2 sessions of Netball.

Year 6 - start **Thursday, 17th September** 3.15-4.30pm led by Mrs Wren and Miss Law additional parental support would be welcome. We are encouraging new players, including BOYS to join this year.

Year 5 - start **Monday, 21st September** 3.15-4.15pm led by Miss K Law and Mrs Endacott additional parental support would be welcome.

Both sessions run all year round with a break in November (last club on 9th & 12th November and restarting 14th & 18th January 2016). Numbers are limited.

Gymnastics – Miss Clements will be running this new club for our Year 2 children. It will take place on Thursdays from 3.15-4.15pm in the main hall. If more 25 children wish to participate she will run one group in the Autumn term and a different group of children in the Spring term. A separate letter with all the details will be sent out shortly.

Tennis – We will continue to run our very successful lunch time tennis clubs this year – watch out for letters for your child's year group.

OTHER CLUBS

Lego – This club runs during the lunch time for Year 1 and will start in Term 2 – watch out for a letter later.

Some Dates for your Diary

Wed, 23 rd September	-	INDIVIDUAL SCHOOL PHOTOS
Thurs, 24 th September	-	INDIVIDUAL SCHOOL PHOTOS
Fri, 25 th September	-	Year 5 Cake Sale
Fri, 2 nd October	-	9.30am Reception only – Kent Messenger First Class Photo – this will be available in the local paper
Tues, 6 th October	-	Y4 Trip to Reculver
Wed, 7 th October	-	Y3 Trip to Wye Downs
Mon 12 th – Fri, 16 th October	-	INTERNATIONAL WEEK
Fri 16 th October	-	FRIENDS INTERNATIONAL EVENING followed by AGM
Mon, 26th Oct - Fri, 30th Oct-	-	HALF TERM
Mon, 2nd November	-	NO SCHOOL - Staff Development Day
Tues, 3 rd November	-	Back to School
Fri, 27 th November	-	Non-School Uniform (bring items for Christmas Bazaar)
Sat, 28 th November	-	Friends' Christmas Bazaar
Fri, 4 th December	-	6pm – Wye Village Street Party
Thurs, 10 th December	-	2pm JUNIOR Carol Service at Wye Church
Fri, 11 th December	-	6pm Friends' Christmas Disco
Mon, 14 th December	-	Friends' 'Pick a Present'
Tues, 15 th December	-	9.30am – INFANT NATIVITY (no Babies/Toddlers)
Wed, 16 th December	-	9.30am – INFANT NATIVITY (All Welcome)
Thurs, 17 th December	-	Christmas Lunch
Fri, 18 th December	-	LAST DAY OF TERM
Mon, 4th January 2016	-	Back to School