



LEY HILL SCHOOL Headteacher: Nigel Hoff

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—enjoyment—engagement—growth—

17<sup>th</sup> October 2016

## NEWSLETTER 2 Academic Year 2016-17

### Data and external validation visits

The Government are very keen on analysing school performance by using academic attainment and progress data. This is used to assess the school's overall effectiveness and the value for money that it is providing to its stakeholders.

This year's data set is highly encouraging. We have published the data on the website under the OFSTED tab <http://leyhillschool.org.uk/ofsted>

I am currently working in collaboration with the Headteacher of Our Lady's Primary in Chesham to look at standards of teaching and learning in our schools. Mr Holdsworth visited our school on the 5<sup>th</sup> of October to conduct joint observations with me of all the classes. This provides me with a high quality triangulation of my own findings and leads to a deeper reflection from us all on our continued development as a school.

Mr Holdsworth had this to say in summary;

*'Thank you for making me feel so welcome this morning. You have a lovely school with really confident and well behaved children. I would appreciate it if you would pass on my thanks to them for being so happy to engage and let me know about their school. As a school, you obviously have consistently high outcomes which are a credit to all of you and demonstrates the hard work you put in.'*

### Ley Hill Challenge

The sixth Ley Hill Challenge went ahead on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> of October in beautiful weather and with a full quota of runners in both the 5 and 10 Km events. As well as having a big turn-out from the parents, thank you, and staff we also had some brilliant runners from ex Ley Hill pupils in Year 7 and 8 for the 5 KM run – great to see!

As ever we are indebted to Helen and Mark Ellis-Jones, who initiated the event in 2011, for their superb organisation and hard work in making the LHC such a runaway success. Also many thanks to Karen Perkins for organising the marshals and to the marshals themselves for giving up a Sunday morning to direct and encourage all the runners.

There is now plenty of time to get training for next year; first Sunday in October. Save the date.



## Harvest Festival

This is always our first big whole school event of the year and this year was better than ever. The children from Reception all the way up to Year 6 presented superb, thought provoking and very entertaining pieces focused on harvest and food.

The songs chosen by Mrs Mortali were a real highlight. The children really do sing superbly well and I am always very proud of all of them.

Thank you to all who sent in harvest gifts which we distributed to the local community and the Chesham Food Bank.

## Parent evenings

This terms parent evenings will be held on **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup>** and **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> of November** from 3.30pm with the final appointment at 6.30pm. The booking system will be on line and will go live on the morning of **Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October**.

## NFER parent survey

In line with our constant drive to improve we have once again asked NFER to run a parent survey for us. Last time we tried an online service but the returns were very low in number. So we will be sending home a paper based survey for you to complete. These will be coming home on **Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October** to you via your eldest child. Please take the 10 minutes or so needed to complete the survey and send it back in the envelope provided. There will also be a letter explaining the process. The deadline for returns is **Friday 11 November**. Thank you very much in advance.

## Orchestra

Orchestra is now being led by a wonderful, new teacher called Miss Emily Roe on a Monday lunchtime 12-12.30. She is looking for new members to join so if you can play any instrument and you would like to be considered for the orchestra please go to the music room on Monday and join in! If you can already play violin, flute, cello or clarinet then the orchestra needs you but also if you play piano or percussion. There is always something you can do to make music for the school. Mrs Mortali and I would love to see the orchestra grow so we can put on the best music performances ever this year! What have you got to lose? Give it a try!

## Football and Netball

The football team have played two matches of their league this term. We lost 3-0 to Chartridge and won 3-1 against Hawridge. The team played both matches with a truly outstanding attitude and they were positive in defeat and magnanimous in victory. Well done to Jonathan, Pasha, Henry, Lola, Ben, Oliver, Sean from Y6 and Jake V, Jake P, Felix and Nathan from Y5. We have a home match against Chenies next Tuesday so good luck to the team for then. Thank you to Mrs Brazier who is helping me with the coaching of the team.

The netball team coached by the fabulous Ms Foster have also been playing in a league of local primary schools. The team came third in the league which is a good result for their first season of competition. Well done to Mia, Katie, Sophie Harriet, Phoebe and Eliza from Y6 and Kiana, Fleur and Alice from Y5. They have really enjoyed the experience (although they were rained off for the final match which is a pity) and netball club will pick up again in the spring.



A big thank you also to the parents who have offered lifts and come along to support for both football and netball matches; it makes a big difference.

### **Cross country**

Our first cross country event took place on Saturday morning. We were very proud of all our runners who took part at RAF Halton. Well done in particular to Jobe Gorst who won a third place medal in his race.

### **Website and Video Day**

The school website is going through a complete rebuild at the moment and the new interface is looking highly attractive and on trend. We are hoping that the new site will be fully live by the new calendar year. Last Friday saw Jason Dinsdale director of Verbdesign.com, our website provider, leading a video shoot at the school. This footage will form the backdrop to the home page. It will be in slight slow motion and capture as many aspects of school life as possible. Mrs Lee has also been taking new photographs for the site this week.

Thank you to you all for responding to the opt out for your children to be filmed/photographed for the website.

### **Tim Peake Primary Project**

In Science this year we are taking part in the Tim Peake Primary Project. To kick off, we enjoyed a visit from Joy Stone on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October. All classes in the school were able to see the Sokol spacesuit and ask Joy questions about Tim's mission. Year 5 spent some more time on hands-on activities to enrich their current science topic on space. For more information please visit [www.stem.org.uk/esero/tim-peake-primary-project](http://www.stem.org.uk/esero/tim-peake-primary-project). Thanks to Miss Mugglestone and Dr Newman for getting the school involved with the project.

### **YEAR 6 MOVING UP TO SECONDARY SCHOOL IN 2016**

A reminder for Year 6 parents applying for their secondary school place, the online portal on the Bucks County Council website will close at 3pm on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2016.

### **Half term break**

We breakup at **normal times** for half term on **Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October**.

I wish you all a happy and relaxing half term and look forward to starting the new half term on **Monday 31<sup>st</sup> of October**.

Yours sincerely



**Nigel Hoff**  
**Headteacher**

