



LEY HILL SCHOOL    Headteacher: Nigel Hoff

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— enjoyment — engagement — growth —

10<sup>th</sup> February 2017

**Newsletter 6**  
**Academic Year 2016/17**

Dear Parents

**OFSTED**

As you will be aware the school had its regular OFSTED inspection which began on Wednesday. We have been the subject of a section 5 inspection which means that the team have been here over 2.5 days. During this time they have gathered a huge amount of evidence to support their finding on all aspects of school provision and outcomes for pupils.

Our own self-evaluation of this is that we are a solidly Good school and we are consistently working to improve. This is backed up by the LEA school improvement advisors who visit and work with the school.

The OFSTED team made their decision today which we are very happy with. OFSTED will not publish their report for a while and the actual term they use to describe their finding remains confidential until that point. This is OFSTED standard protocol.

Obviously the whole process can be stressful for staff and I would like to thank the whole team here for their support, hard work and professionalism.

I would also like to thank the vast majority of parents who were so supportive of the team's work when they filled in the OFSTED parent questionnaire earlier this week. It made a real difference as the inspection team were able to see how much you value the school and its work with your children.

**New website**

The school has an updated website which is now live. The purposes of the site remain the same

- to provide an online prospectus for potential, new and existing parents
- to provide a window into the school and it's ethos
- to provide all stakeholders with links to LEA web content such as term dates and inspection reports
- to provide up to date information about the provision for outside agencies such as OFSTED

We hope that you like the changes we have made. There may well be glitches as we continually improve the site so please let us know if a link fails to work or if you have any suggestions to improve the site.

[www.leyhillschool.org.uk](http://www.leyhillschool.org.uk)

## **Safer Internet Day**

In our increasingly connected world it is wise to be mindful of the potential threats to privacy and exposure to inappropriate content on the internet.

Education has been revolutionised by the web. There are a huge range of incredible resources for teachers to add value to their lessons and to inspire their pupils. However, we need to ensure the pupils are aware of the dangers also present.

To that mind Mr Kilcoyne, our computing leader, led our annual internet safety assembly this week. He and some of the Year 5 pupils, discussed photography, privacy and safe use of images and video with the whole school on Monday.

Mr Kilcoyne has also ensured that there is an internet safety lesson each half term built into the computing curriculum planning.

## **Mobile phone camera use in school**

In relation to the above item I am urged to remind parents who volunteer at school that the use of mobile phone cameras is not permitted at school or during school trips. The school has provided a whole class set of cameras and an additional one for each classroom. If volunteers wish to take photos of activities they are helping with then please ask the teacher for a school camera. Many thanks.

## **Cross country**

Well done to all our runners who came out to race on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> of January at Hervines Park. It was a muddy course but at least the sun came out for most of the morning. Everyone ran really well and Jobe Gorst put in a splendid performance, achieving a fourth place medal.

The last cross country meet is ours on the **4<sup>th</sup> of March** at Lowndes Park. If you are able to help with marshalling the course please let me know via the school office. Many thanks in advance.

## **Speech Festival**

27 pupils participated in last Saturday's annual Speech Festival here at LHS. This is part of the Chesham Arts Festival which also includes music and dance events.

Our pupils delivered a range of fabulous performances across the poetry, prose, drama and public speaking classes in the competition. Between them they achieved a highly impressive 24 Distinctions and 4 Honours which is the highest standard awarded by the adjudicator for a performance. Congratulations to all performers!

Honours awarded to :

Esme & Markus\* (Y1) Isabelle (Y3) and Martha (Y6)

\* class top 3 winner

Distinctions awarded to:

Y1 Naomi, Charlotte,

Y2 Emily, Lucy, Oscar, Serena and Toby

Y3 Chloe, Emma and Katya

Y4 Sophia, Isobel, Imogen, Austen (x2) and Zach

Y5&6 Rosie, Lucy, Phoebe, Eliza, Jeannie, Cora, Kiana and Fleur

Many thanks are due to Mrs Blackwood who organises and leads this important event for the school.

### **Governors Day**

On Friday 27<sup>th</sup> of January we held our annual Governors morning. The idea here is that the Governors are able to visit a variety of classes and lessons throughout the morning and see the school and it's ethos in action. This in turn provides the Governing Body with a clear insight into learning and teaching and enables them to talk with increased authority to outside agencies about the school, pupil experience and progress.

This is followed by a lunch kindly provided by the Governors for the whole staff. It really is a fine example of how our school strives to be open to and in a process of continual improvement. If you are interested in the work of the Governing Body then please contact the chair, Eleanor Garth, via the school office.

### **Student teachers**

As part of our on-going partnership with Brunel University we have a Post Graduate student undergoing her final teaching practice in Year Four. Danielle Sasson will be under the careful tutorage of Mrs Mortali throughout her time with us and she has already made a good start to her practice.

Also we have a student from a local school who is doing an extra teaching practice in Reception this term. Gemma Wildman will be with us for four weeks beginning on the 6<sup>th</sup> of March.

### **Parents' Evenings**

The parents' evenings for the spring term will be **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> and Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> of March** from **3.30pm to 6.30pm**. The booking system will go live on **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> of March at 9am**.

### **Year Two Assessment Meeting for Parents**

There will be a meeting for Year Two parents on **Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> beginning at 6:30pm** in the main hall. The meeting is for Mrs Blackwood to brief you on the national assessments that the Year Two pupils are required to complete during the summer term. We will take you through the process, how the grades are assigned and what they mean; there will be an opportunity to look at some example materials and to ask questions.

### **Friends of Ley Hill School**

Upcoming events organised by the Friends of Ley Hill School:

- Mother's Day Secret Room – Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> and Friday 24<sup>th</sup> of March
- Easter Bunny visit –Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> of March

### **Fun Raising**

Recently we have raised £177.77 for Children in Need and £155.79 for Save the Children (Christmas Jumper Day). Thank you to everyone who participated and helped raise money for these important charities.

Yours sincerely