



# Littledean C of E Primary School Newsletter 22

Dear Parents

1<sup>st</sup> March 2024

## **World Book Day – Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

On our World Book Day we will be asking our children (and adults) to come to school dressed as their favourite book character.

Parents are invited to our parade in the hall starting at 9.00 a.m.

We ask parents to stay and enjoy a book and a bun with our children. The event should be finished by 10.30.

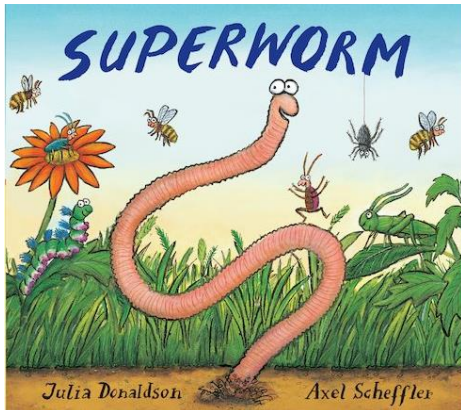
Looking forward to a great day celebrating reading and all things related to books.



## **Slimbridge Wetlands Trust**

If you enjoyed the recent visit to Slimbridge remember to log-on to the Slimbridge website using the passwords that came home for the fun nature activities to keep you busy over the holiday. Mrs Richards is looking forward to giving out lots of certificates and badges to children who complete the nature activities.

## Holly Leaves Class News



Our topic this term is minibeasts. Children will explore books around this topic including 'What the ladybird heard' and 'Superworm'. Children currently have the role play area set up as a minibeast investigation lab where they become scientists.

We are also very excited about exploring our topic in forest school now it is spring and being able to identify more minibeasts in the area.

Children in Holly Leaves are learning tricky words in phonics. You may find they come home with a wristband on that has a tricky word written on it. This will be the word they are currently working on. Please spend some time asking what the word is throughout the day.



## Comic Relief – Friday 15th March 2024

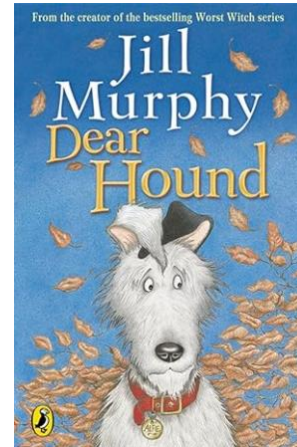


This year we ask the children to wear red on Red Nose Day, Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024. A free donation page is being set up on our online payment system [www.parentpay.com](http://www.parentpay.com). Please donate there if you feel you are able to.

## News from Holly Berries Class

In Holly Berries we are doing multiplication and division in maths and have been writing diaries in English.

We're reading books by Jill Murphy, our class reader at the moment is Dear Hound.



Zak performed 'Take me to church' on his ukulele this week to his class. Everyone enjoyed his performance.

"READING IS A PASSPORT  
TO COUNTLESS ADVENTURES."  
- MARY POPE OSBORNE



## News from Chestnut Class

Chestnut Class are finishing their history topic 'The Romans'. They have visited Chedworth Roman Villa which has brought everything they learnt in the classroom to life.

In art, they are working on abstract shape and space including sculptures.

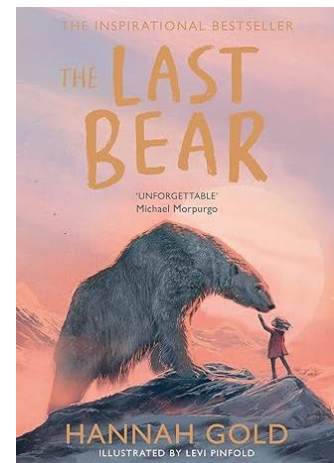
In music, they are learning the song 'Lean on Me' by Bill Withers.

Once they have finished 'States of Matter' in science, they will begin learning about 'Sound and Vibrations'.

In computing, they are using 'Logo' focusing on repetition of shapes.

RE lessons will focus on 'What kind of world did Jesus want?'.

Our focus author this term is Hannah Gold and as a class we are reading 'The Last Bear'.

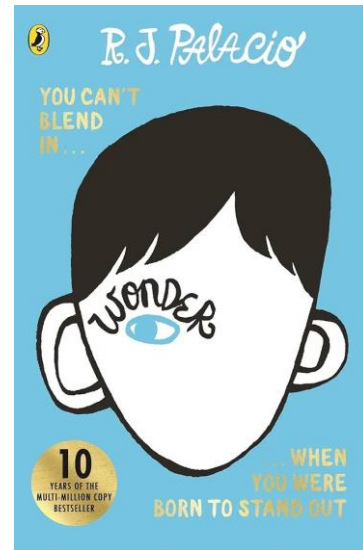


Our English lessons this term are based on a video rather than a book. They are already enjoying the video 'Pigeon Impossible' and am sure would love to share it with you at home!

We ask that children in Chestnut Class bring in junk modelling materials over the next two weeks, e.g cardboard, cardboard tubes, parcel paper, paper straws, boxes, containers, newspapers, kitchen roll. For their DT project on Abstract Sculptures

## Maple Class News

In Maple Class we are reading *Wonder* by R.J Palacio. "You can't blend in when you were born to stand out!"



This term, we are continuing with 3D modelling in Computing using the software Tinkercad. We are just coming to the end of our Science topic about evolution and inheritance - after learning about Darwin's research into finches on the Galapagos islands, we had a lot of fun investigating different types of beaks.

Our next topic will be electricity. We are excited to start our new History unit, the Tudors

Maple Class being DNA detectives



## Friends – Leap Year - Non Uniform Day

Thank you for taking part in the Friends Leap Year non uniform day, we raised a total of £71.45



## Free School Meals – Holiday Vouchers and Activities

We have been asked by Gloucestershire County Council to share the following information with you.

This Easter 2024 holiday period, Gloucestershire County Council will provide families in receipt of Free School Meals, who sign up to this offer, with vouchers to assist with food costs during the April (Easter) 2024 and May 2024 school holidays. Applications for holiday FSM vouchers for April 2024 and May 2024 (Easter and half term) holidays will be open from midday 27 February until midday on 12 March. We will be unable to accept any applications after this date. Vouchers for **both** holiday periods (1 week (£15) for Easter and 1 week (£15) for May half-term, a total of £30 per eligible child) will be distributed to families the week commencing 18 March 2024.

Please encourage families to check their junk/spam folders during this period as sometimes the vouchers end up there.

If parents have not received their vouchers by 20 March 2024, please encourage them to email [childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk) **before the end of the holiday period (07 April 2024)**.

The scheme is for children in reception to year 11 who receive Pupil Premium (benefits-related) free school meals and attend a school in Gloucestershire. **We are unable to consider college and sixth form students, nor children who receive infant free school meals (available to all children from reception to year 2) - they are not eligible for this scheme.**

To find out more about the scheme and to apply, parents can visit our [FAQs | Gloucestershire County Council](#)

**Families who have signed up previously do not need to re-register for Easter 2024 and May 2024 holiday vouchers-** they will already have been included. Families that have previously signed up will need to contact us with any changes to their circumstances (e.g. if the number of children eligible increases or decreases). To ensure we reach all those who are eligible, we are encouraging parents that have not previously signed up, to sign up as soon as they can.

Please note we check eligibility for the scheme by cross-referencing with the term-time free school meal register, so please make sure parents are registered beforehand. They can register by visiting the [apply for free school meals](#) page. If your school is one of the five that do not use this method, we will require confirmation from yourselves on the child's eligibility. You can find more information on what schools these are on the link above.

**Using vouchers** – vouchers need to be used will only be awarded once the parent has registered for the scheme and cannot be backdated. Vouchers are valid for 6 months, although should be used in the holiday period in which they are awarded. If vouchers are not claimed and have expired, they cannot be re-issued. Vouchers not received should be queried via email to [childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk) by the end of the holiday period.

**For any parents wishing to update details of an existing application, please ask them to email [childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk) so we can update their account, as details are not automatically updated.**

### Holiday Requests

We all look forward to a holiday away from home but, before you book, please remember that the Governments guidance remains very clear that we cannot authorise holiday requests in term time. Any requests submitted will not be authorised unless there are exceptional circumstances. You may also be fined for taking your child out of school during term time.



### Term Dates 2023 / 2024

These are also available on our website

[https://www.littledeanprimary.co.uk/website/term\\_dates/198634](https://www.littledeanprimary.co.uk/website/term_dates/198634)

**Term 4** Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024 – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024

**Term 5** Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024 – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2024

**Term 6** Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2024 – Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2024

**INSET Days** 4 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024

5 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2024

### Diary Dates

Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	Wellbeing Champions visit to Viney Hill Centre
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	National Allocation day for Secondary School places
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	Governors Leadership Committee
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	Parental Consultations – Afternoon
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	Parental Consultations – Afternoon and Evening
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day Parade, Book and a Bun
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	Friends Mother's Day Pop up Shop
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	Red Nose Day
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	Governors Learning Walk – Art
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	Full Governing Board meeting
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> March	Experience Easter at St Ethelbert's Church
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	Last day of term, Easter service at St Ethelbert's Church
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	Friends Easter Egg Hunt
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> April	Governors Learning Walk - PSHCE
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> April	National Allocation Day for reception pupils
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> April	Swimming session 1
W/c Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 6 SATS week
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Maple Class Visit to Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> June	Maple Class Adventure Day – Wilderness Centre