



# Liden Academy

## NEWSLETTER

Sept 2023

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### Diary Dates

- Please see page 3

### TD Days

- 1 September
- 2 September
- 2 January '24
- 28 June '24
- 25 July '24

### School Uniform

The school office has both new and recycled uniform.

PE Hoodie £12.95  
PE top £4.95  
Sweatshirt £12.00  
Fleece £13.00  
Cardigan £11.00  
Dap Bag £5.00



## Dear Parents and Carers,

This term is at an end- the weeks have passed very quickly from late summer to early Autumn. During this time, the children have settled well and have enjoyed the range of learning activities and got to know their new teachers well.

Please see below areas that you may find of interest.

#### New Staff

This year we have 2 new teachers join the teaching team. Miss Bond in year 3 and Mrs Davies in year 4. Already they have become part of the Liden teaching team very quickly and are adding valuable areas of expertise to the school.

At Liden we encourage all staff to take on new opportunities, Mrs Griffin, previously as many of you will know as a teaching assistant in Lions Reception class, has now taken on the new role of room leader in Foxes and Squirrels Nursery room.

#### Improvements to the school.

The school has had several improvements made to the building. All the classrooms have now had new double-glazed windows fitted. These will make a huge difference to keeping the classrooms warmer, just at the right time with Autumn now settling in. We have also had all classroom doors replaced with new fire doors.

We have removed the old Pagoda from the playground due to being old and needing a great deal of maintenance. Its removal has also meant that we can now go ahead and have full size playground markings for games such as netball, basketball and hockey, as well as new posts and goals for these sports. This will happen at some point this year, with the purpose to improve the quality of these games being played in PE. Further at some later stage we hope community adult sports teams will use this new outdoor sports facility.

#### School Perimeter Fence

Our school is extremely fortunate to have such a large playing field at the front entrance of Liden drive. I am delighted to say that we have now received planning permission to upgrade the perimeter fence around the playfield, entrance gates and the fence that runs along the pedestrian path next to the school boundary. This is to improve school security and unwanted traffic coming into the school site. We are currently in the process of reviewing access to the school. At a later point these changes will be communicated to parents.

#### School Support for families

As we are in the period of high cost of living with energy and food increases, the school wishes to do what it can to support families. We have a good supply of recycled good quality school uniform from the school office. For food support, families can contact **VAN** (Vulnerable Assistance Network) through Facebook. There is also **Too Good To Go** app, where families can access a range of foods from well-known companies such as Costa, at a lower cost. Alternatively, **Olio** App provide access to free food.

Jeff Mason  
Principal

## Our Guiding Gems

As part of promoting our school values we have Gem Stones for each one.

We call these **Guiding Gems'**

\* **Notice a problem and think of ways to solve it.**

\* **Be respectful, friendly and support others**

\* **Be courageous and stick with it, even if it gets tough!**

\* **Think, concentrate and try your best.**

\* **Be a good listener, be sensitive to others and share your ideas.**

\* **Work as a team**

# Other news/ celebrations..

## Volunteer helpers to listen to children read

We ask if anyone can spare some time to listen to children read or help with our school library, please contact the school office. We know this help makes a huge difference to improving children's enjoyment and confidence to read.



## Harvest festival



A huge thank you to all parents and carers who came along to our harvest festival assemblies this term (some more than once!). The amount of food donated was incredible. All the donations have gone to the Trussell Trust and local care homes who are very grateful, particularly in the current cost of living crisis. Many thanks also to Reverend Trudie for providing the assemblies.



## Football by Alex Parker

This term we have played 2 matches, winning both. The first game was against **Brookfield** and we won **5-0**. The most recent game was against **Holy Family**, which we won **7-2**. In both games, the boys were excellent – showing fantastic teamwork and concentration. It was the first ever game of football for some children, so it was excellent to see them join in and perform so well.

## Bike Ability

Year 6 have been busy in the last week of this term as part of the Bike Ability Swindon Council scheme to help children be safe on the roads.



## Dyson school STEM project



## Parent Curriculum letters

At the start of each term teachers from each year group provide a curriculum letter. This can be found by following the parent info page; [Newsletters - Liden Academy \(excalibur.org.uk\)](https://www.excalibur.org.uk)

Next term, Year 6 are extremely fortunate to be part of the Dyson school initiative to encourage children to get involved in their Science, Engineering, Technology and Mathematics (STEM) project. The children shall be investigating a Dyson Hoover, evaluating it and designing an everyday electrical device.

# School diary dates..

## Autumn Term 2

Day	Date	Month	Event
Monday	30	Oct	First day of term
Friday	3	Nov	Firework Night 5-7pm -Tickets available from school office.
Tuesday	7	Nov	Bumblebees Learning together session 9am
Tuesday	7	Nov	Foxes and Squirrels Learning together session 2.25pm
Wednesday	8	Nov	Reception Learning together session 2.25pm
Tuesday	9	Nov	Bumblebees Learning together session 2.25pm
Saturday	11	Nov	EYFS open morning 10-12
Monday-Fri	13-17	Nov	Anti-bullying week
Thursday	16	Nov	School Choir Wyvern Theatre School music festival
Friday	17	Nov	Children in Need fund raiser
Wednesday	22	Nov	Reception Learning together session 2.25pm
Saturday	25	Nov	Breakfast with Santa fund raiser
Tuesday	28	Nov	Learning Together for Squirrels and Foxes parents: 9-9.30am
Wednesday	29	Nov	Stay and Play for Bumblebees parents:2.25pm-3pm
Friday	1	Dec	Learning Together for Bumblebees parents: 9am
Friday	1	Dec	Learning Together for Foxes and Squirrels parents: 9am
Tuesday	12	Dec	Reception Christmas Nativity Tigers and Bumblebees Parents invited 9.30am
Wednesday	13	Dec	Reception Christmas Nativity Lions and Foxes and Squirrels Parents invited 9.30am
Last week of term		Dec	Christmas Panto Wyvern Theatre 10.30am Reception and Year 3 and 4 trip (To be confirmed)
Thursday	14	Dec	School Christmas Lunch
Friday	15	Dec	Christmas Jumper Day fund raiser non uniform day – Last day of term

Christmas Holiday: 18 December – 1 January 2024


## Spring Term 3

Day	Date	Month	Event
Tuesday	2	January	TDDay
Wednesday	3	January	First day of term

## Attendance Officer Update



Hello, I wanted to thank parents and carers for working with school to improve our school attendance last year. Our overall attendance was an amazing.....

95.5% 

This was just above the national average. Our persistent absence, where children miss 10% or more school days is below national average, which is excellent news.

This year we have been set 96% overall attendance, which is the pre-pandemic national average. The key point being the more your child is in school the more chance they can do well in their learning.

I am pleased to say that are new ways of rewarding children with extra gems is also working well.

As we approach Christmas, we start to get requests for holidays during term time. Unfortunately, we are unable to authorise these, which can result in fines. For further information- please see our attendance policy on our school website.

If you have any future queries, or require support, please email: [attendance@liden.excalibur.org.uk](mailto:attendance@liden.excalibur.org.uk)

# Dino mania Year 1 special..

This term, year 1 became Fossil Hunters. We found out all about Mary Anning, dinosaur fossils and how dinosaurs became extinct.

To help the children get a true flavour and broaden their understanding of this we invited Ranger Chris from **Dino mania** to come into school and hold a workshop.

The workshop involved dinosaur quizzes, live dinosaur egg hatching, looking at replica dinosaur eggs and claws, learnt about extinction and dinosaur fossils. The highlight was meeting the baby dinosaurs Trixie and Trudy, and also Nancy the Raptor.

