Liden Academy Newsletter
2026 – 2027 Term 1



Principal's Message:

This term is almost at the end with Autumn finally arriving after such a hot and dry spell.

From September, we have introduced a mixed year curriculum for the first time. It is fair to say that teachers are implementing and adapting well to the slight change in teaching approach that has been needed as well as planning. This will be a key focus for the school this year.

I am delighted to say that we have been able to offer 2 new, amazing enrichment activities this Autumn. The first is a fencing club. Our first group to experience this are children from year 3 and 4 on Friday mornings. As you can imagine, the children have thoroughly enjoyed learning how to duel using swords. This sport is coached by Neil Bromley, who has been teaching fencing for many years, and runs several fencing clubs throughout Swindon. If there is enough interest, we hope to provide an afterschool fencing club in the near future. Please watch this space.

The other activity is the Great Athlete fund raiser that occurred in early September that all year groups took part in. Children completed a high energy fitness work out with the Paralympian Katrinas Hart as well as a short question and answer session. (Please page).

To enable the school to up with its maintenance programme and areas that we wish to improve for the OPAL initiative of outdoor play, we have established a link with the Community payback team. They have been busy painting fences and recently cleared away unwanted undergrowth from the forest area, nearest Bumblebees, for the OPAL den building area to expand.

The OPAL project continues to go from strength to strength. This term has seen the introduction of den building under the trees that has truly captivated their imaginations of castles and hide outs.

Unfortunately, the annual firework event will not be taking place this year. This is a combination of factors including huge increase in cost and changes in terms and conditions that make the event untenable.

Finally, I wish to say a huge thank you to Mrs Avram teaching assistant for her throughout her time at Liden. Also, to Mrs Walker, our admin assistant, who is leaving at the end of this term. Both will be missed. We are currently in the process of interviewing for 2 office roles and will update you shortly on whether we have appointed in term 2.

Jeff Mason

Attendance Updates:

We would like to welcome Miss Moreton to Liden Academy who is covering as Attendance Officer while Mrs Robinson is on maternity leave.

Overall attendance is at 95.9% - great news!

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

Kind Regards,
Miss Moreton
Attendance Officer

School Policies:

Recently we have updated several school policies as behaviour, school uniform and our school online safety. These can be found using this link: **Policies - Liden Academy**

Fundraising updates:

Great Athletes – Est. £2800
Red, White & Blue Census Day – £102.80
Harvest Festival – Thank you for all your generous donations. They will be going to Gorse Hill Baptist Church 'Boxes of Hope' that will help many families in need.

Upcoming diary dates:

Monday 2nd November – First day of school
Thursday 19th November – Reception Open day 9.15am-2.15pm
Monday 30th November – R-Y6 Flu Vaccinations
Tuesday 1st December – Rags 2 Riches drop off

Events from this term

Great Athletes

In September, we were excited to receive a visit from Paralympian Katrina Hart, as well as fellow athlete Nerys Pearce. Thank you to everyone who supported our school by raising sponsorship - we have totalled over £2800 to spend on outdoor PE and play equipment.











Fencing

A selected group of our Year 3 and 4 pupils have benefitted from an 'Introduction to Fencing' at school. Over the last few weeks, they have gained confidence and new skills. We are very proud of them!









