

# Lent Rise School Newsletter

October 2019



Issue 87  
Page 1

## Mrs Watson's Welcome

We have been absolutely inundated with beautiful images of the tomato and pumpkin plants that the children have been growing at home this summer. I am so proud of how the children have nurtured their plants and the fruits of their labours are such a visual reminder of how hard work comes to fruition. Well done to you all!



Lent Rise School, Coulson Way, Burnham, Bucks, SL1 7NP 01628 662913  
office@lentrise.bucks.sch.uk www.lentriseschool.co.uk

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Registered office: Lent Rise School, Coulson Way, Burnham, Bucks, SL1 7NP



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Issue 87  
Page 2

## Secondary School Provision

You will no doubt be aware that E-Act Burnham Park Academy closed at the end of last Academic year due to the number of students entering Year 7 significantly decreasing over the last 4 or more years making the school unable to offer a viable secondary curriculum.

This is a sad end to a school with over 50 years of history that has served the Burnham community well for much of its history. At the present time Burnham students will either go to Burnham Grammar School or will go to a secondary school in Slough, Maidenhead or Bourne End Academy, which is also run by E-Act. Many of these schools offer an excellent education, however, as building programmes in Slough and Maidenhead gather pace it is clear that in the near future it is likely that students from Burnham will not be able to gain places in either Slough or Maidenhead secondary schools as they will live too far away. Quite simply there is a very clear danger that children in Burnham may have very limited options for secondary education if they do not attend Burnham Grammar School.

The Trustees of Beeches Learning and Development Trust (BLDT), which is led by Burnham Grammar School, and the Governors of Lent Rise School have been greatly concerned by this situation and the potential impact on the Burnham community. Both have been jointly in discussion with Buckinghamshire County Council, who also share these concerns, and the Regional Schools Commissioner to discuss possible long term solutions. Currently we are discussing the possibility of developing a 'Through' school. If we were to pursue this proposal Lent Rise may join the BLDT; a full consultation in the future would precede any formal decision.

Discussions are at a very early stage but we do need to understand local demand and need for non-selective secondary education to support our vision. We are asking parents and members of the local community to complete the following survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Burnhamsecondarysurvey>

We are hosting a public meeting on Thursday 10th October 7pm in Burnham Library to share this information and publicise the survey. Please do not hesitate to talk to us if you require any additional information, but I would like to emphasise that discussions are at an early stage with the Regional Schools Commissioner and we will keep the community informed.

## Pre-school fact finding

We are often asked about pre-school provision in the area and so we are asking parents to complete the short survey linked below to help us understand more about this and also about parents' reasons for choosing Lent Rise School for their child.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/7FG66XS>

## Harvest Festival

As part of this year's harvest celebrations we will be collecting donations for local residents in need, Food Share and Operation Christmas Child during the week of the 21<sup>st</sup> October. We want to make this our most successful harvest ever so please do try and donate as much as you can of the following:

- Dried food (rice, pasta, cereal, tea, coffee, biscuits etc)
- Canned food / cartons (beans, soups, fruit, longlife milk or juice)
- Fresh fruit and vegetables (please bring these towards the end of the week)
- Toothbrushes, flannels/face cloth, wrapped bars of soap
- Hats, gloves, scarves, socks, (these should be new)
- Small toys and items of stationery, colouring books etc. (these should be new)
- Empty normal sized shoe boxes with lids (not those for children or boots)
- Christmas themed wrapping paper

Each Christmas shoe box costs £5 to send - if you would like to donate towards the cost of sending a shoe box you can do so through ParentPay or the school office.

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# Lent Rise School Newsletter

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Issue 87  
Page 3

## **Trips and educational activities**

When arranging educational visits and activities we consider costings and try to cover as much as possible through the school budget. As you may be aware school budgets are decreasing in real terms currently, meaning our budget is stretched further each year. As a result of this the financial viability of many educational trips and activities rely on parental contributions, as the school may simply not be able to afford these otherwise.

Guidance written by the Department for Education 'Charging for school activities' sets out that a school cannot 'charge' for any element of the National Curriculum, this includes materials for learning or educational activities. However schools can ask parents for 'voluntary contributions for the benefit of the school or any school activities'. In essence this means costly activities can be subsidised by reasonable contributions by parents to enhance the experience of learners at the school.

Of course a voluntary contribution is by definition... voluntary. The school cannot demand this payment, however if there is not enough contributed then sadly activities may not be possible to fund. We also make allowance for those who simply cannot afford to contribute and use some of our Pupil Premium funding to support those unable to pay with an additional contribution. If parents feel they cannot contribute please discuss this with Mrs Watson. Discussions take place with the utmost discretion and children are in no way singled out or made aware if their parents cannot or will not contribute. No child will be excluded from an activity due to lack of parental contribution.

There are however some activities not part of the National Curriculum and for these activities the school can ask for payment. For example PGL, trips, visitors, additional musical instrument or voice tuition, clubs that run after school that are not part of the curriculum, breakfast and after school services.

During last academic year the shortfall from parental contributions for school trips was £4000 which we made up from the school budget. This in turn means that this money had to be reallocated from other areas of school provisions.

## **Parking and Gate behaviour**

Unfortunately we have been alerted by members of our school community that inappropriate language and behaviour has been heard and observed by children and adults on their way into school in the mornings.

We do need to firmly remind all that even in stressful situations, parents should moderate their language and not behave aggressively towards others. Our local PCSO has agreed to host a project at the school to promote appropriate behaviours, particularly around parking.

Sadly we have had to sign post people to Thames Valley Police and we continually take advice and work with them. If the situation does not improve we will be forced to publish images of inappropriate parking, as other schools have resorted to doing to safeguard their pupils and parents.

## **Macmillan Coffee Morning**

The total kept creeping up and reached £90 by the end of the day on Friday 28<sup>th</sup>. A fantastic effort for a fantastic cause.

## **Jeans for Genes Day**

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September saw many of us wearing our jeans in support of Jeans for Genes day and we raised £589. This is a huge increase on last year!

## **Homework**

As more and more children complete homework online we have introduced a new email address where homework can be sent and easily collected by teachers. If you are sending in any work please use [homework@lentrise.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:homework@lentrise.bucks.sch.uk). This address should only be used for completed pieces of work, any other queries, including those about homework should still be sent to [office@lentrise.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:office@lentrise.bucks.sch.uk) and we will ensure they are passed on to the appropriate person.

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# Lent Rise School Newsletter

October 2019

Issue 87  
Page 3



## September's Attendance

Our overall whole school attendance figure for last month was 97%. The KS1 award went to class EG who achieved 98% attendance and the KS2 award to 3S who achieved a fantastic 99% attendance each, for the month of October.

## Parent Consultation Appointments

Parent Consultation Appointments will take place on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October. Appointments can be booked online using ParentMail from 10.30am on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October. Parents will be sent a ParentMail message with a link to book an appointment. Please note there will be no teacher or teaching assistant led clubs that week.

## Brexit

We have all heard plenty on the news about Brexit and we would like to reassure parents that we have planned ahead using Department for Education guidance and are confident that there will be minimal or no impact.

## Joke Book

The class joke books are now available at:

[https://www.lentrischool.co.uk/website/enterprise\\_week\\_2019/423936](https://www.lentrischool.co.uk/website/enterprise_week_2019/423936)

Thank you to everyone who donated £1 towards the enterprise project. So far this has raised £110 to be split between the children's chosen charities.

## PTA AGM

The PTA AGM will be held on

## Motorway closures

Highways England is completing a series of works to upgrade the M4 to a smart motorway. The majority of disruption will take place during weekends but should there be delays this may impact on Monday morning journeys. Please visit <https://highwaysengland.co.uk/roadworks-search> for more information.

## Safeguarding and E-safety

### Trespassing on railway lines

Network Rail have reported that there is a very high level of trespassing on railway tracks in our local area by young people. We have not had any reports of Lent Rise School children involved but safety around railway tracks is a vital message to make clear to all young people. The children at school have had an assembly about this issue and we would encourage parents to talk to children about rail track safety, particularly around school holidays when there is often a spike in incidents.

### Cyber Flashing

Cyber-flashing happens when a stranger sends an obscene picture, unsolicited, to your phone via Wi-Fi or Bluetooth. Cyber-flashing is not new - it has been possible since the introduction of Bluetooth. However, the growing trend for smartphone use among children means that there's more risk of it happening to them. It's also not just an iPhone issue. There are many file-sharing apps that make it possible .

What safety options are available to parents?

Most file-sharing apps will allow users to restrict who can send files to them via Wi-Fi or Bluetooth. Check the settings and user instructions for your child's apps, and make sure your child knows how to operate these controls. Advise your child to do this when they're not using the apps (including Bluetooth). If the apps need to be on, advise your child to use PIN protection and only allow contact from people they know.

Tell your child never to open files from someone they don't know.

Make sure your child knows how to report a cyber-flashing incident

Find out what file-sharing apps your child uses and download them. Look at the security settings and check with your child that their settings are restricting unsolicited images/files.

# Lent Rise School Newsletter

October 2019

Issue 87  
Page 3



## Term Dates 2019-2020

### Autumn Term 2019

Wednesday 4th September  
HT- Monday 28th October  
Monday 4th November  
Inset days 2nd and 3rd September

Friday 25th October  
Friday 1st November  
Thursday 19th December

### Spring Term 2020

Tuesday 7th January  
HT- Monday 17th February  
Monday 24th February  
Inset day 6th January

Friday 14th February  
Friday 21st February  
Friday 3rd April

### Summer Term 2020

Monday 20th April  
HT- Monday 25th May  
Monday 1st June  
Inset day 20th and 21st July

Friday 22nd May  
Friday 29th May  
Friday 17th July

## Diary Dates

14 <sup>th</sup> October	Flu immunisations - all year groups
16 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup> October	Parent Consultation Appointments
18 <sup>th</sup> October	Living Rainforest Trip Year 3
21 <sup>st</sup> -25 <sup>th</sup> October	Harvest Week

## 2020 Residential Trip Dates

Year 5 trip to Shortenills 20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020

Year 6 trip to Weymouth 23<sup>rd</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Please note that all dates are subject to change.

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