

Lent Rise School Newsletter

November 2019



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Your School Needs You!

It was with a heavy heart we emailed parents in September to warn that, due to lack of volunteers, it looked unlikely the PTA would run this year, so I am overjoyed parents rallied to the cause and we have a new PTA committee. In these times of stretched budgets the PTA plays a vital role in helping make the most of our resources. There are many things we take for granted that we could not provide without our PTA; the bears that welcome Early Years, discos and parties, leavers hoodies for Year 6, not to mention support with the coach to Weymouth and equipment such as our wall-bars and even the refurbished outside toilets. In fact last year the PTA donated over £8000 to the school. A successful PTA relies on the time and energy of parents like you to get involved so please come along to the meeting on 7th November at 7pm, meet the committee, make some friends and do your bit to support Lent Rise.

A message from our new PTA Chair

I am honoured and excited to serve as your PTA chairperson. I would like to thank the previous Chair, Michelle Holliday for the exceptional job she has done over the past years. I know the kids and parents loved the events and the school benefited from the numerous fund-raising drives. Thank you, Michelle!

I have lived in Burnham for over 7 years with my partner Jason, our daughter, Castielle, 2 horses and 2 small overly affectionate dogs. I joined numerous toddler groups which has built wonderful friendships and made my family feel a part of a community. I would like to continue building on this and extend that community feeling into the PTA and all those involved with Lent Rise School. Parents are vital to a school's success! Not just the PTA, every one of us makes a difference. It is easy to assume the PTA will continue as it always has, an invisible force that make things happen. This is not true. The PTA is not an invisible force that make things happen, there is a great amount of work and sacrifice that goes into making every event a success. The PTA cannot in all honesty continue as it has. WE NEEDED MORE PARENTAL SUPPORT! We need you!

I appreciate we all have various pressures in life; however, we can still all share the same objective. With your help and time, we can grow. Join the PTA and please find time to volunteer throughout the school year. I am asking you to spare 30 minutes to an hour - every bit counts! The more parents involved means a workload shared and the more vibrant and successful we become. We are all blessed with a multitude of talents and skills that can contribute to make Lent Rise Great! Please volunteer your time, donate where you can and call on your friends and family to help with sponsorships. We all have a little something to give. I am begging you to reach down and find a way to support us.

It is important to remember the school's budget is to support the curriculum. It is not for entertainment, discos, fetes and fayres! It is challenging for schools to be able to update technology or to provide additional resources! All these extras are possible due to funds raised by the PTA.

Yes, I am new to this school, new to the PTA, new to all the wants that make the lives of our children more enjoyable at school. I do not wish to see the PTA fail. Help me make sure that the PTA is a great success, so we all benefit as a Lent Rise school community. Communication is key. I promise to keep you informed on all activities and going forward there will be visibility of our goals, how we will achieve them, an update of how far we have come and how much further we need to go.

Please join the FB PTA group, read the updates on the notice board and feel free to contact us on email or drop in a suggestion to the PTA post box - yes we have one!

Get to know us. I will make myself available on most Fridays at pick-up for a chat. I'll stand at the gate - just come by and introduce yourself. Come to a PTA meeting. Talk to me, I am here to listen.

Parents are important to the school's success. Please show your support. I look forward to seeing, meeting and working with each and all of you.

Thank you

Rosanne Naicker

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October's Attendance

Our overall whole school attendance figure for last month was 97.2%. The EY/KS1 award went to class 2G who achieved 98.1% attendance and the KS2 award to 4C who achieved 99.3% attendance for the month of November.

Harvest Festival

This year's ambitious harvest festival is underway and we would like to thank all of those who donated items, funds or volunteered their time. We have already had some lovely comments from those in the community who received a package and we will shortly be taking donations to the food bank. We still need items for the Operation Christmas Child including:

- 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. The children in the after school charity club will be putting the boxes together in the coming weeks.

Christmas events

This year, the children will be taking part in celebrations with songs, poems and readings during the school day, parents will be invited to attend but please note there will be no evening performances. A letter about ticket allocations will be sent out in November via ParentMail. The dates for performances are as follows:

Friday 13th December, Yr 1&2 9.30am
Friday 13th December, EY at 2.15pm
Monday 16th December, EY at 9.30am
Monday 16th December, Yr 1&2 at 2.30pm
Tuesday 17th December, Yr 3&4 at 9.30am
Tuesday 17th December, Yr 5&6 at 2.30 pm
Wednesday 18th December, Yr 5&6 at 9.30am
Wednesday 18th December, Y 3&4 at 2.30pm

Children in Need

This year Team Pudsey will once again be selling Children in Need wristbands, Pudsey and Blush ears and some extremely cute mini Pudsey bears. We will also be holding a dress-up day on 15th November where we are encouraging our children to dress up as someone or something that inspires them. The most inspirational costumes will be awarded a voucher for the book fayre.

Book Fayre

We have teamed up with Scholastic Books to host a half price book fayre just in time for a bit of pre-Christmas shopping. The fayre will run afterschool in the corridor outside the hall from 27th November. All of the books are half the marked price and will help earn commission which we can use to buy books for the school. Please pop in and grab a bargain.

Staff News

We are delighted to share that Mrs White has given birth to a little boy, who decided to make his entrance a little earlier than planned. We are sure you will join us in wishing them well and we look forward to meeting this new member of our school family.

Crossing patrol

Our crossing patrol will be unmanned in the coming weeks so we do ask that parents and children take extra care crossing the road as we wait for Mrs Ruffle to return. If any parents would like to volunteer as a temporary crossing patrol please contact the school office.

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Peer Mentoring

We will be introducing peer mentors to Lent Rise next term. Our peer mentors are a group of children who have received specialist training to support and mentor other children. They will have special yellow lanyards to help identify them and we are setting up a dedicated space they will use to speak to individual children. The team will also be delivering assemblies and sharing their knowledge with the school. We look forward to the support they will be able to give our pupils.

Match Attax

Whilst we acknowledge that children collect and share cards such as **Match Attax** these are no longer allowed in school. Please support us with this to avoid unnecessary issues in school.

Don't let your Halloween turn ghoulish

Thames Valley Police are asking for the support of parents this Halloween to ensure everyone in the community enjoys a safe and pleasant Halloween: 'Please consider the safety of your children. Trick or Treat is really an activity for younger children who should always be escorted by a responsible adult. Ideally, arrangements should be made in advance with householders that are happy to receive them. Teenagers should know that going around in large groups can be intimidating to many residents, road users and pedestrians. Elderly and vulnerable members of the community can find Halloween a particularly worrying time when they receive repeated calls at their door. Many residents do not want to receive Trick or Treaters at this time and their privacy and peace should be respected and not result in them becoming targets for abuse and vandalism'

Buckinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service are also encouraging parents to think about the very real safety dangers that come at this time of year. They have offered the following safety advice for parents with children who will be dressing up:

- Buy from a trusted store or website.
- Fancy dress costumes should be tested for flammability. Look for the CE mark on the label
- Read all the safety information on the label and online. If it's clothing for small children, check for laces, drawstrings, and small, trailing or floaty parts.
- Is it safe? Visit productrecall.campaign.gov.uk and check the costume hasn't been recalled.
- Don't use flammable materials to make home-made costumes.
- Think carefully about the fire risks - particularly the possibility of candles falling. Flickering LED candles are safer than real candles.
- Never let children play near candles.
- Ensure that the candles are extinguished completely at night.

Trick or treating tips



When you have the right costumes, you can start scaring. Wrap up warm and stay away from candles, lanterns and bonfires.

If you're trick or treating, always:

- ✓ keep your child away from candles and open flames
- ✓ look out for trailing or loose parts of costumes
- ✓ avoid decorating your home with candles for visiting trick or treaters
- ✓ be considerate of people who may not be celebrating Halloween

Stay safe, stay spooky.



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School Choice and Pre-school Choice Survey

We had an excellent response to our request for information about school choice and pre-school choice with 121 respondents.

The main reasons given for choosing Lent Rise were: reputation, ethos, proximity to home, size and Ofsted rating

97.5% (118) of respondents did send their child to a nursery or pre-school before they attended Lent Rise School. Of these:

- 5.93% attended for under 15 hours per week,
- 33.05% (9) for 15 hours per week
- 39.83% (47) for between 15 and 30 hours per week
- 19% (21) for over 30 hours per week
- Children attended a range of different pre-school settings
- 30 parents felt an older sibling's school placement had an impact in their choice of pre-school
- 87.29% (103) of respondents thought Lent Rise School should consider providing pre-school provision in the future with the main reasons being: Easier transition for children to primary school, quality, convenience for parents and current shortages of local provision
- 12.7% (15) of respondents disagreed with their main reasons being: lack of need, space, funding, school becoming too large

E- Safety Update

Anti-Bullying Week 2019: Change Starts With Us

Anti-Bullying Week happens in schools across England each November. This year's Anti-Bullying Week has the theme Change Starts With Us and is happening from Monday 11th November - Friday 15th November 2019. We will be taking part in Odd Socks Day on 14th November. Children and staff will be wearing odd socks encourage people to express themselves and celebrate their individuality and what makes us all unique! This is not a fundraising opportunity - just a chance for all of us to share our personalities and value the things that make us different.

Cyber Bullying - Stop, Speak Support

The 15th of November marks Stop Speak Support day, part of Anti-Bullying Alliance's anti-bullying week. Today we're asking everyone to choose respect and think before you post. Together we can make the internet a better place, will you help us? The Stop, Speak, Support campaign has been created in response to 11-16 year olds saying that while they enjoy social media, games and online forums, that it is the only area of their lives that they feel does not have clear expectations or standards of behaviour they should all adhere to.

Stop, Speak, Support aims to help young people spot cyberbullying and know what steps they can take to stop it happening and provide support to the person being bullied.

https://www.stopspeaksupport.com/?utm_source=Anti%20Bullying%20Alliance#



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TikTok

TikTok is a video-sharing app where users can upload and share short videos of themselves lip-syncing to songs or acting out comedy sketches, and add special effects. They can gain followers ('fans') and browse other people's videos. The age recommendation is **13 and above**, however, you don't have to prove your age when creating an account, so younger children can still use it easily. It's most popular with under-16s. TikTok is **free to download** on Android and iOS devices (Apple phones and tablets). It carries ads and offers in-app purchases. It has about 150 million active users worldwide and is available in over 30 languages.

TikTok has a reputation for being unusually free of trolling and danger but you may have seen news reports or heard concerns about some users harassing children for nude images and videos.

What should parents look out for?

- User profiles which talk about 'trading' or swapping pictures/videos
- Use of emojis that are commonly considered to be sexually suggestive (such as the aubergine)
- Hashtags, such as #tradefortrade, which clearly suggest the user is looking to trade illicit content
- The lyrical content of some songs - parents have raised concerns that it's not always age-appropriate

Users cannot exchange images and videos via in-app messaging, but once they've made contact they move on to another platform to trade, such as Snapchat.

What safety options are available to parents?

Control who can view your child's videos

Accounts are set to 'public' by default. Public profiles can be viewed by anyone. Set your child's account to 'private' so that your child can control who sees their videos or keep them completely private. Your child will be able to approve or deny people as 'fans', and will only be able to accept messages from followers. Even with a private account, your child's profile information can be seen by all users. Make sure your child doesn't reveal personal information on their public profile. Instructions for this are here: [Setting up a private account, TikTok](#)

Restrict how your child uses the app

Use TikTok's **digital wellbeing feature** to control the time your child spends on the app and limit the appearance of content that may not be appropriate: [Digital wellbeing, TikTok](#)

Report inappropriate behaviour

Your child can use the app to report content that makes them feel uncomfortable, including accounts, videos, comments and chats. You can too. Instructions for this are here: [Report inappropriate content, TikTok](#)

You or your child can also **block 'fans'** at any time: [Delete fans, TikTok](#)

Further tips

- Download and use the app to help you understand it
- Talk to your child about what they're doing online, and make sure they know they can talk to you about anything that upsets them
- Check your bank statements regularly for in-app purchases you're not happy with, and to make sure your child isn't getting around any passwords you've set up

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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

31st October	Deadline for Yr6 parents to apply for secondary school
7 th November	7pm PTA meeting
11 th - 15 th October	Anti-bullying week
15 th November	Children in Need dress-up
18 th November	Switch-off fortnight begins
18 th - 19 th	NSPCC assemblies
November	
27 th November	Book Fayre
- 2 nd December	

2020 Residential Trip Dates

Year 5 trip to Shortenills 20th-22nd May 2020

Year 6 trip to Weymouth 23rd - 26th June 2020

Please note that all dates are subject to change.

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