



EVERYONE COUNTS 'Our school is a welcoming, inclusive community where everyone counts'



Our Value for this Half Term:

Respect

& we have been

Celebrating Trinity

As we move into the first week of the summer holidays, we hope you have all had a chance to relax after what has been another busy and successful end to the school year. The final few weeks are always full of exciting events and special memories, and this year has been no exception!

Two of the highlights of our final week were the beautiful Year 6 Leavers' Service at church, where we celebrated our Year 6 children as they prepare to begin the next stage of their journey at secondary school, and the Year 6 Leavers' Party and Afternoon Tea. It was wonderful to see so many families join us for an afternoon of celebration, complete with a bouncy assault course, chocolate fountain and, of course, the traditional adults versus children rounders match! It was a lovely way to mark the end of our Year 6 pupils' time at Lea, and we wish each and every one of them every success and happiness for the future.

As another school year draws to a close, we would like to thank all of our parents, carers and PTFA members for your continued support throughout the year. Your encouragement, generosity and willingness to get involved make such a difference to our school community. We would also like to thank our wonderful staff for their hard work, care and dedication in ensuring that every child enjoys a happy, nurturing and enriching experience at school.

We hope you all have a wonderful rest of the summer holidays and enjoy spending time with family and friends. We look forward to welcoming everyone back for the start of the Autumn Term, including our new Reception children and their families, on Thursday 3rd September.

Mrs Vines and Mr Manning

WHAT A BUSY TERM IT HAS BEEN!

AMONGST OTHER EVENTS:

- * Year 6 pupils attended the annual five-day residential to London, along with children from Gorsley school. Year 5 spent 3 days at Whitemoor lakes and Year 4 had a fun-packed day at The Wilderness Centre. [Please visit the class pages on our website to see photos.](#)
- * Several play sessions took place, for our new Reception children, allowing them to get used to the classroom and meet new friends. An Induction meeting for their parents/carers, enabled them to meet Mrs Cook, the class teacher, and ask any questions they may have.
- * All children enjoyed their 'move-up afternoon'. For some this just involved a new teacher, for others a new classroom and a new teacher. Year 6 pupils attended taster days at John Kyrle High School, and Five Acres - with Dean Magna offering a full week - to prepare them for the transition to Secondary School.
- * For their end-of-year play, Oak Class performed 'Alice in Wonderland', firstly to the whole school, followed by two amazing performances to parents and carers, over two evenings. [Please view photos on the Oak Class page of our website.](#)
- * Parents/Carers were invited to a special Graduation Ceremony where our Gateway Nursery rising 5s were congratulated and presented with a scroll, in their beautiful gowns.
- * We managed to dodge the days of extreme heat to enjoy a lovely sunny Sports Day and Family picnic; whole school trip to the beach and attend the Herefordshire Summer Games!

CLASS NEWS!

Below you will find links to the website news pages for each individual class; including Forest School and Nursery. These pages will be updated regularly, to enable parents to see more of what their child/children have been doing in school; we are able to upload far more content this way, than via our newsletter. We hope that you will still enjoy seeing what the rest of the school have been doing too!



Investing in Our School Environment

We are committed to providing the very best learning environment for our children, and over the last 12–18 months we have continued to invest in both our school and nursery buildings, and outdoor spaces to enhance the experience of all pupils. This can be a challenge at time with the restraints of school budgets.

Some of the improvements completed during this time include:

- *Installation of new IT devices and infrastructure at the Nursery.*
- *Replacement of three interactive classroom screens.*
- *Refurbishment of the school hall.*
- *Installation of new cloakroom doors.*
- *Improvements to the school grounds, including clearing and tidying the wildlife/quiet area.*
- *Pruning of the willow structures and improvements to the Willow outdoor area.*
- *Cutting back overgrown trees across the site to improve safety, accessibility and appearance.*

While we are pleased with the progress made so far, we know there is always more that can be done. We are therefore delighted to share some of the projects intended for the summer break, which will further improve both our facilities and the learning environment for our children:

- ***Installation of a new air source heat pump***, funded through a successful government grant, helping to improve energy efficiency and sustainability.
- ***Removal of the ageing nursery decking*** and replacement with a safer, more suitable play surface.
- ***Reseeding of the nursery bank and hedge plants*** to improve drainage and help reduce flooding during wet weather.
- ***Repairs to the children's clamber stack*** to ensure it remains safe and enjoyable to use.
- ***New flooring in Willow Class***, creating a refreshed learning space.
- ***Repairs to outdoor structures***, including raised beds and play huts.
- ***Further upgrades to the school's network and internet infrastructure*** to support teaching, learning and communication.

We are also keen to continue improving our outdoor spaces and wider school environment. In the coming weeks, we will be sharing dates for a working party and would warmly welcome support from any parents, carers or family members who are able to spare some time. This will be a great opportunity to work together as a school community and help enhance the outdoor areas that our children enjoy every day. Further details will be shared shortly.

We look forward to welcoming the children back in September to enjoy these improvements and will continue to seek opportunities to enhance our facilities for the benefit of our whole school community.

Thank you for your continued support.

BACK TO SCHOOL Reminders

As we look forward to welcoming everyone back for the new school year, here are a few helpful reminders to ensure that children are ready for learning from the very first day. Thank you for your continued support – it really does make a difference.

* **Please label everything clearly** with your child's name, including:

- Clothing and Shoes
- Lunch Boxes/Bags
- Water Bottles
- Book Bags
- PE Bag

* **School shoes**

Children should wear black school shoes.

- Trainers are not suitable as school shoes.
- *For younger children:* Please choose velcro fastenings *rather than laces*, unless your child can confidently tie their own shoelaces.

* **Pencil cases**

These are not needed in school.

If, for any reason, your child's class requires one, the class teacher will let you know - please do not purchase one for school otherwise.

* **Book bags**

Children should bring a **school book bag** each day to carry reading books, reading records and letters. **Rucksacks are not allowed**, unless your child regularly walks to and from school (we do not have cloakroom space for them).

* **Water bottles**

Please send a **named water bottle** (not too large) into school every day. **Water only**, please. Bottles should be taken home and washed daily.

* **Lunch boxes**

Please ensure lunch boxes/bags are cleaned regularly.

* **Jewellery**

If children have pierced ears, they should wear **small stud earrings only**.

Hoops (including quick-release hoops) are not permitted.

Children must be able to remove their own earrings for PE lessons.

* **PE Days**

Children in Oak and Rowan classes should come to school **wearing their PE kit, on their PE days**.

We will confirm these days during the first week of term.

Thank you once again for your continued support and partnership. By working together and following these simple routines, we can help ensure every child has a happy, safe and successful start to the new school year.

Beach Day

We had an amazing time at the beach – the weather was just perfect!



The children enjoyed digging holes, building tunnels, boats and sandcastles. They all had a great paddle and enjoyed a delicious ice-cream.

Thank you so much to the PTFA, for subsidising this wonderful whole school opportunity.

Have you seen our rock snake?!



Over the Summer, why not decorate your own awesome rock and add to Rocklea, in Reception, when the new school term begins!"

SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding our Children

We know this is a busy time of year, but do ask you to try to keep up regular reading and simple maths activities with your children over the break and, as we approach the return in September, try to help them settle back into a routine of early nights. A gentle reminder to ensure all internet-linked devices have parental controls enabled and that children's online activity — including any chat groups — is closely monitored;

Platforms such as WhatsApp and TikTok are not suitable for children under 13 and pose a significant safeguarding risk.

Please try to also get into good habits of limiting screen time use as a family, please lead by example. 😊

The National Institute of Health notes:

*“As screen time reduces the amount and quality of interactions between children and their caregivers, it can also have an impact on language development. Contextual elements like co-viewing and topic appropriateness are key in determining how language development is impacted. Additionally, excessive screen usage has **poor / detrimental effects on social and emotional growth, including a rise in the likelihood of obesity, sleep disorders, and mental health conditions including depression and anxiety. It can obstruct the ability to interpret emotions, fuel aggressive conduct, and harm mental health and wellbeing in general.** Setting boundaries, utilising parental controls, and demonstrating good screen behaviour are all techniques that parents may use to manage children's screen usage. We can reduce the possible negative impacts of excessive screen time and promote children's healthy development and well-being by increasing knowledge and encouraging alternative activities that stimulate development, including regular involvement in conversations, encouraging clear speaking, listening and questioning.”*

A reminder that Westmercia Police run free online safety (Child Exploitation) training. Their next session for parents / carers in on **Friday 11th September @11am**

Book your free online session place at;

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/online-safety-child-exploitation-session-for-parents-and-guardians-tickets-1993604026309?aff=oddtcreator&scrllybrkr=e51c002c>

We encourage you all to try to find the time to watch this important training.

Thank you for your continued support and we hope you all enjoy a restful and safe break together.

**Online safety (Child exploitation) session
for Parents and Guardians**



Friday 11th September

School Lunches

The Autumn Term lunch menu is now available on Parent Pay. Please ensure you order by Wednesday 26th August, for meals required the first week back.

It has been necessary to increase the cost of our meals slightly; From September the cost of a Pupil lunch will be £2.85, and a Nursery meal will be £2.00. We hope you agree, that they still represent excellent value.



Wrap-around Care and Nursery Fees

There have also been slight increases to our Breakfast and After-school Clubs, and our Nursery Fees.

Nursery Fees:

Time	2 Year Olds	3 and 4 Year Olds
8.40-9.00am	£ 2.00	£ 1.80
9.00-12.00pm	£ 17.75	£ 16.85
12.00-3.00pm	£ 17.75	£ 16.85

Wraparound Care:

Time	2 Year Olds	3 and 4 Year Olds	School Pupils
7.45-9.00am	£ 7.440	6.75	
7.45-8.45am			£ 5.10
8.00-9.00am	£ 5.90	£ 5.40	
8.00-8.45am			£ 3.85
3.00-4.00pm	£ 5.90	£ 5.40	
3.15-4.00pm			£ 3.85
3.00-4.15pm	£ 7.40	£ 6.75	
3.15-4.15pm			£ 5.10
3.00-5.00pm	£ 11.80	£ 10.80	
3.15-5.00pm			£ 8.93
3.00-5.30pm	£ 14.75	£ 13.50	
3.15-5.30pm			£ 11.50
4.15-5.00pm			£ 3.85
4.15-5.30pm			£ 6.38

Goodbye & Thank You



As I come to the end of my ten years as Head of School at Lea CE Primary School and Gateway Lodge Nursery, I would just like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has been part of this wonderful journey.

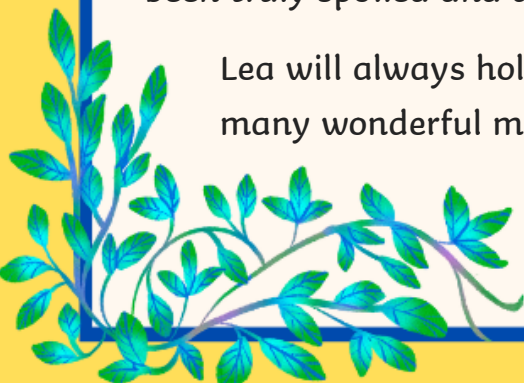
After thirty-five years in education, including fifteen years at Gorsley Goffs, I feel incredibly fortunate to have worked with such amazing children, dedicated staff, governors and supportive families. Although I know the time is right for someone new to lead the next chapter, alongside Mr Manning, and the rest of the team, it is still a very emotional time, and I don't think it has quite sunk in yet, but I wish Miss Sullivan well in her new role and I am sure she will help Lea go from strength to strength.

Throughout my time at Lea, I have tried to keep our Christian values of Courage; Respect and Dignity; Service; Compassion; Hope and Aspiration at the heart of everything we do. Alongside our school motto, *Everyone Counts*, I have always hoped that every child (and family) would feel valued, listened to, supported and cared for, and that these values would stay with them long after they leave Lea.

It has been an absolute privilege to watch so many children grow from Nursery through to Year 6, developing into kind, thoughtful and remarkable young people. I will miss the children most of all – their smiles, their laughter and the little conversations that made every day special.

Finally, thank you to all of our parents and families for your support over the years. Your partnership has helped make Lea the caring community it is today. Thank you, too, for all of your incredibly kind gifts, cards and well wishes. I have been truly spoiled and am eternally grateful for your generosity and kindness.

Lea will always hold a very special place in my heart, and I leave with so many wonderful memories. Thank you all.



Mrs Vines