Lytchett Matravers Primary School and Preschool

Wareham Road, Lytchett Matravers, Poole, BH16 6DY

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Headteacher: Matt Vernon

Deputy Headteacher: Laura Dominey

Assistant Headteacher: Amy Foster

Friday 6th November 2026

Dear Parents / Carers,

In March, we sent a survey to families to gather opinion in relation to LMPS having a well-being dog on site. The response to this was universally positive with 100% of respondents stating that they felt this provision would support children at LMPS.



Following this response, we are now pleased to introduce you to Brontë! We consider that she will help to support a calm and supportive atmosphere, reduce stress and anxiety for children (and adults!) and support with social interaction and communication

The decision to welcome Brontë to our community has been made with some key considerations in mind:

- She is a hypoallergenic and low shedding reducing the risk of any allergic reaction.
- When in school during holiday periods / out of school time, she has shown an excellent temperament for interactions.
- Miss Gowan is her owner and will be able to ensure complete care for Brontë during her time in school.

We have also taken several key measures to support interaction. We have a suitable place for Brontë to be during the school day, factoring that this will be quiet, calm and available. Full, formal training with a trainer specialising in school-based dogs has been arranged and will proceed on 18th November. We have a detailed risk assessment in place ahead of this and have verified insurance is comprehensive.

Whilst no-one on the survey responded with concerns about allergies, it is essential that we know of any child in the school who is either:

a) Allergic to dogs
b) Has a significant fear of dogs

If your child falls into either, or both, categories, please let the office know as soon as possible so that we can factor this into Brontë's arrival. Please also feel free to discuss any concerns that you have with a member of the leadership team.

With warmest wishes as always,

Mr Vernon, Headteacher

In this week's newsletter…	
Upcoming events: ➢ Remembrance Day: 11th November ➢ Children In Need: 13th November ➢ Anti-bullying week: 16th – 20th November ➢ SEND Evening: 18th November ➢ Christmas Fayre: 4th December ➢ Christmas Performances: 10th – 17th December ➢ Whole school Pantomime trip: 15th December ➢ INSED: Friday 18th December and Monday 4th January	Safeguarding: • Be safe, be seen! • Online Safety Hub Governorship: • Curriculum Visit • SEND Visit
• School Photographs • Mr Taylor-Clark • Free Autism Sessions • 'Rhyme Time'	• Lytchett Minster School PTA Events • Tesco Fruit • Attendance • PTFA Fireworks Evening



11th November	Remembrance Day	Children are welcome to come to school wearing their uniforms from Brownies, Cubs, Beavers, Cadets etc as a mark of respect.
13th November	Children In Need	Wear one item of spotty clothing in return for a donation to Children In Need. This could be a spotty pair of socks or a T-shirt with spots, for example.
16th – 20th November	Anti-bullying Week	Children can wear odd socks on Monday 16th November to show their support for anti-bullying. There will be a range of other activities during the week to promote this message.
18th November	SEND Evening	Our third SEND Evening will be held on 18th November from 6pm in the school hall. We have attached further information to the newsletter to confirm details.
4th December	Christmas Fayre	Please support our Christmas Fayre from 3:45 – 6:00pm!
10th December 11th December	Christmas Performances, Reception and Year 1	Reception parents: 9:30-10:30 Thursday 10th December Year 1 parents: 14:00-15:00 Friday 11th December
15th December	Pantomime	Whole School Pantomime trip
16th December	Christmas Lunch tbc	This is the preliminary date for school Christmas lunch – to be confirmed.
16th December	Performance Y2, 3 & 4	Christmas songs on the playground from 3pm for children in Years 2, 3 and 4
16th December	Year 6 Performance	Production to parents 6:30-7:30pm in the school hall
17th December	Performance Y5 and 6	Christmas songs on the playground from 3pm for children in Years 5 and 6
Friday 18th December and Monday 4th January		INSED – school closed to children
24th May – 28th May	Healthy Me Week	The children will be learning about staying healthy in body and mind. Sports Days will also be scheduled for this week.
14th July – 20th July	Arts Week	Following the success of last year's event, we have pencilled this in for the end of the summer term!



Be Safe, Be Seen!

As the nights draw in, it's essential that the children increase their awareness of road safety when it's dark. Part of this week's assembly covered some key areas that children need to think about at this time of year.

Please support this message by reminding your child to take additional care and attention when walking in the local area after dark, particularly when crossing roads. Providing them with reflective items to be able to be seen would also support their safety.



Online Safety Hub

The Hamwic Online Safety Hub is an excellent source of information on all matters related to online safety, covering the range of platforms children may have access to:
Online Safety Hub - Hamwic Education Trust

Governor Visits



As part of our ongoing 'Support and Challenge' from school governors, visits have been completed in relation to curriculum and the school's SEND provision. Successes were celebrated and areas for further consideration identified for future visits.

Free Autism Sessions

We have attached a flyer with links to free sessions that have been co-developed with parents of autistic children, a SENCo, Dorset Parent Carer Council, Specialist Teachers and Educational Psychologists from Dorset Council.

It will help you to understand what autism is and how it may impact young people and families as well as to learn some practical strategies to support an autistic child/young person. Follow the QR code on the flyer to reserve a space!

Lytchett Minster School PTA Events

The LMS PTA have kindly shared details of 3 upcoming events that families from our school are welcome to attend. This presents an opportunity to integrate into the secondary school, particularly for families with children in Years 5 and 6. Details of the events have been attached to the newsletter:
Quiz Night – 13th November
Christmas Wreath Workshop – 25th November
Christmas Fayre – 5th December

Mr Taylor-Clark

Congratulations to Mr Taylor on his wedding that took place over the half term break, meaning that he has now changed his name to Mr Taylor-Clark. We wish him and his husband every happiness for their married life together!

Fireworks Evening

Thank you to everyone who helped to support the latest Fireworks Evening to be such a success! We were so happy to witness so many smiles, 'Oooos' and 'Ahhhss' during the show! I am sure that everyone will join me in thanking our wonderful PTFA for spending their time, free of charge, to enable this and other events to happen. They are truly such a wonderful group of people!



'Rhyme Time'

Free session run every Tuesday in the library between 14:15 and 14:45 for infants aged 0 – 3 years old. Join the group to sing rhymes, make music with shakers, share stories and meet new friends! We have attached a poster with further information.

School Photographs

We are in the initial phase of consideration for school photographs for the 2027-2028 academic year and would like to gather the views of families in relation to school photographs. We would like to know:

- Ratings for current photographs
- If families would like individual / class photographs and the regularity for this
- Whether families would prefer digital or physical images
- Costing consideration

Please complete the following short form to share your consideration – there are only 6 questions to answer!

School Photographs 2027-2028 – Fill in form



Tesco Fruit

Thank you to the local Tesco for providing us with fruit on specific days, free of charge, for our children to enjoy at break time. The Key Stage Two stall always 'sells out' in minutes!

Attendance

Congratulations to Skylark for having the highest attendance for the last two weeks! Only 0.1% higher than Swan – so close!

