



Lyttchett Matravers Primary School and Preschool

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Headteacher: Matt Vernon

Deputy Headteacher: Laura Dominey

Assistant Headteacher: Amy Foster



Friday 2nd October 2026

Dear Parents / Carers,

Safeguarding of children will always be an absolute priority at school as everyone has the right to be safe and protected from any potential harm. When serious incidents occur in any school, there are always lessons to be learned and opportunities to strengthen the systems that exist.

The tragic case of Benedict Blythe is absolutely heart breaking but has led to the introduction of 'Benedict's Law' to all primary schools where it quite rightly a statutory duty to have a whole-school allergy policy, complete staff training and provided access to emergency adrenaline auto-injectors. At LMPS, this has been comprehensively completed and detailed care plans are in place for any children with a specific allergy or medical condition.

This also led to further discussion in and around safety regarding food and choking. Please do think about this when preparing packed lunches. Food such as grapes and cherry tomatoes are the perfect size to become lodged in a child's throat and pose a direct safety risk unless cut into small pieces. Other foods such as cherries and popcorn can also pose a risk. Under no circumstances should any food containing nuts be brought into school – this would be a direct and serious risk to the children with severe allergies to nuts at school and potentially other children without an allergy diagnosis.

Thank you for helping to keep all children at school safe. With warmest wishes as always,

Mr Vernon, Headteacher

In this week's newsletter...		
Upcoming events: ➤ Open Day Events for Reception entry in September 2027: 14th October @9:30 and 18:00 ➤ Mufti day to support Hamwic Foundation: 23rd October ➤ Children In Need: 13th November ➤ PTFA Halloween Disco: 16th October ➤ Anti-bullying week: 16th – 20th November ➤ PTFA Fireworks Evening: 5th November	Safeguarding: • 'Urbexing' • Hamwic Online Safety Hub • Operation Encompass	Governorship: • Introducing the new Chair of Governors
	Other items: • Applying for school places for Year 7 in September 2027 • Parking in the local area • Half Term Holiday Club • Attendance	





Open Day for children starting school for the first time in September 2027

We will run two open day sessions on 14th October for any prospective families with children who will be 4 years old in September 2026. The first will be at 9:30am and then there will be an evening event at 18:00. Key staff will be present to answer any questions that families might have and to discuss how we support the children to 'Thrive Together'.

Mufti Day

On Friday 23rd October we will be holding a Mufti Day in support of our Trust charity, The Hamwic Foundation. Details of how to donate will be provided closer to the time as this will be via an online donation.

Children In Need

Our Pupil Voice group have agreed to support Children In Need by asking children to wear a spotty item of clothing on 13th November in return for a coin donation. All money raised will go directly to the charity.

Halloween Disco

There are still tickets available for the disco!

Anti-Bullying Week – 'Break The Silence'

Anti-Bullying Week 2026 will take place from Monday 16th to Friday 20th November. The theme for this year is 'Break The Silence', which encourages children, young people and adults to start conversations about bullying, speak up, listen and take action together. The campaign aims to reduce barriers to speaking out about bullying and to create a culture of kindness and support.

The week will begin with Odd Socks Day on Monday 16th: we would like the children to show their support to stop all bullying by wearing odd socks with their school uniform. The odder socks, the better! Bright and colourful or patterned and plain, this will show being unique is something to be celebrated as well as acceptance and respect for others.



Fireworks Night

We are looking forward to the second PTFA Fireworks Evening on 5th November. Tickets are now available for purchase.

A poster for a fireworks night event. The background is dark red with many colorful fireworks exploding in the sky. In the top left corner, there is a circular logo for Lytchett Matravers Primary School Parent Teacher Friends Association. The text is in white and yellow. A red arrow points from the ticket prices to a QR code on the right.

 **THURSDAY 5 NOVEMBER**
LMPS PTFA PRESENTS
FIREWORK NIGHT
**FOOD VANS, HOT & COLD DRINKS, SWEETS,
ICE CREAM, TREATS AND LIGHT UPS AND
MORE!**
GATES OPEN FROM 4.45PM
FIREWORKS AT 6.30PM
LYTCHETT MATRAVERS PRIMARY SCHOOL
**PLEASE BE ADVISED THERE IS NO PARKING AT
THE SCHOOL, PLEASE RESPECT OUR
NEIGHBOURS DO NOT BLOCK DRIVEWAYS OR
PARK DANGEROUSLY**
NO SPARKLERS PERMITTED
£7.50 ADULT
£5.50 CHILD
£22.50 FAMILY
(2 ADULTS & 2 CHILDREN)  
www.pta-events.co.uk/lmpsptfa



'Urbexing'

We have been alerted by the police to a growing trend for children and young people partaking in urban exploring, or "Urbexing", a practice whereby abandoned or derelict buildings are entered without permission. This is usually filmed and shared amongst children or posted on the internet.

The illegality of these actions mean that any incident should be reported directly to the police: it places all those involved in highly dangerous situations with potentially life-altering implications.

The following link is to an educational resource which highlights the dangers of urban exploring that can be used with adult supervision: [Crime | Dorset Nexus](#)

Hamwic Online Hub

Please do access the Hamwic Online Hub to find out a wide range of information in relation to supporting children to stay safe online. Recent additions to the site include information about AI and protecting your identity when online: [Online Safety Hub - Hamwic Education Trust](#)

Operation Encompass

Operation Encompass is a partnership between schools and the police that enables rapid notification and information sharing if police attend a domestic abuse incident involving a child. We have multiple staff trained to engage in this initiative so that we can respond swiftly to support any child who has been affected.



Governor Update

Mrs Hesketh's has now completed her time as a school governor. We thank her for all that she has done in this role, particularly in supporting children with SEND.

We now have a new Chair of Governors, Mrs Hannibal, who has taken the reins

from Mr Dorrell and Ms Knudssen who served so well in a joint chair role last year and (currently) remain on our board of governors. Mrs Hannibal is very well known to the children through her reading support and has also recently interviewed children for the House Captain positions. Welcome to the role!



Dorset Schools Admissions

For families with children in Year 6, please remember that **31st October** is the closing date for applying to secondary school. Children do not receive automatic places at any secondary school and all children must apply.

The closing date for applying for a primary school place for any child who will be 4 years old in September 2027 is 15th January 2027. We offer tours every Tuesday morning for any potential parents – please book at the office. We will also be holding our Reception Open Events on 14th October at both 9:30 and 18:00 – no booking required!

Dorset residents apply online at:
dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/apply-school-place
or call 01305 221060



Scan here



Parking Around School

Please make sure to not only park considerately in the village but also to manoeuvre your car with care and attention for all members of the community. Young children can become invisible to drivers of cars, particularly large SUVs, due to their height and we have had some concerning near misses reported to us. Let's make sure that we all look out for each other and stay safe.

Half Term Holiday Club

Stars Holiday Club will be running during the half term break again – you can book your space now!

Home - Stars Holiday Club

Attendance

We are still currently meeting our attendance target of 96% across the school, although there has been a slight drop off since our last newsletter.

Next week is our first review of attendance where we will identify and communicate to specific families if a concern about attendance rates is present.

Congratulations to Dragonfly class for having the highest attendance over the past 2 weeks.

