

Lytchett Matravers Primary School and Preschool

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Headteacher: Matt Vernon

Deputy Headteacher: Laura Dominey

Assistant Headteacher: Amy Foster



Friday 23rd January 2026

Dear Parents / Carers,

One of the greatest strengths of our school is how the whole community – staff, parents / carers, other professionals and local people – work together to ensure that the children that come to LMPS *Thrive Together*. We are fortunate to have staff that work tirelessly to teach the children to the best of their ability and parents who support them to do so.

We are so grateful for these positive relationships that exist between home and school which allow the children to feel a consistent level of support. This provides security and stability where pupils understand appropriate boundaries and school expectations, ensuring a positive attitude to learning, positive attendance and improving learning outcomes.

Although infrequent, we have over the past weeks had times where a small number of parents / carers have not maintained the expectations for appropriate communication with members of school staff. Whilst we understand that incidents reported by children can provoke an emotive response and we welcome all feedback, it is essential for all concerns to be raised in a manner that will best support the children.

At worst, a child witnessing their trusted adult from home being aggressive and confrontational to a member of school staff is confusing and undermines a child's sense of security. This will directly affect the child's ability to succeed, as well as being upsetting for the member of staff. It is for this reason that we have an expected code of conduct for all visitors to the school:

[Parent-And-Visitor-Code-of-Conduct-Policy-September-2024.337514206.pdf](#)

By maintaining these expectations, we can all support the children to feel supported and to achieve their full potential. Where they are breached, we will respond accordingly, including enforcing bans on individuals from school site where necessary.

With warmest wishes as always,

Mr Vernon
Headteacher



Staffing Changes From February

At the start of February, there will be some changes to staffing placement as below. The children will be informed of these changes, which will be managed by the school staff.

- Mrs Murphy will be moving from the Year One team to work in Preschool.
- Mrs Reighard will be supporting Reception children, moving across from Preschool to do so.
- Mrs Wells will move from teaching support in Year 2 to being a teaching assistant in Year 1.
- Mrs Sawyer will move from teaching support in Year 1 to Year 2.
- We welcome Mrs Fox-Forkin to the teaching assistant team for Year 1.

Support For Parents

The Educational Psychology and Specialist Teacher teams are offering a free information session for parents and carers about autism. This is being offered free of charge to all parents / carers, not only those who have an autistic child. Please find attached to this newsletter a flyer with all relevant information. If you would like to attend, please click on the link on the flyer to book your space.

Dogs In School

We would like to remind all families that dogs are not allowed on school site and this includes dogs being carried through school site. This is due to respecting members of the community who may have a fear of dogs as well as due to relevant insurance and health and safety grounds.

Water Bottles

We welcome all children bringing water bottles into school to stay hydrated during the day. However, as part of our ongoing commitment to promote healthy lifestyles, we ask that these bottles only contain water and not squash please.

Fundraising

We are all very proud of our Year Three pupil who has been running 2 kilometres every day throughout January to raise money for Sands Baby Loss Charity. These efforts were picked up by Hot Radio, with a special mention being broadcast on national radio and a follow up interview booked. If you would like to support her to raise money for such a just cause, please follow the link below:

https://fundraising.sands.org.uk/fundraisers/ameliacorbin/run-2k-a-day-january-challenge?fbclid=IwdGRjcAPS9GZjbGNrA9L0W2V4dG4DYWVtAjExAHNydgMGYXBwX2lkDDM1MDY4NTUzMTcyOAABHrXdPkMiXviYZM5D3WIJaD_whn9tvVIONqiraLYM7HqD1q0h5ZV7zMxvVthc_aem_hXDxDXIQ_IQVHiji8c-GA

Skiing Achievement

Congratulations to our pupil in Year 4 who won a silver and gold medal racing in the Val d'Isère race club in France in the Christmas holidays, skiing a slalom and giant slalom race.



Dodgeball

There is a new, **free Dodgeball Club being held** at Lytchett Minster School, which is open to **all children in the local area** on Saturday mornings. The club is designed to give children the opportunity to try out a new sport in a fun, friendly, and inclusive environment. It's a great way for children to stay active, build confidence, make new friends, and most importantly, have fun — **completely free of charge**.

We have attached a flyer to the newsletter with further information.

Artz+ Sports Club



We have also attached a copy of the February half term Programme on behalf of Dorset Council's Artz+ Sportz+ team. It includes some exciting new events as well as the sensory/swim sessions which are always popular.

These activities provide wonderful opportunities for children with special educational needs and disabilities and their siblings, as well as much appreciated respite care for parents. Activity bookings initially close on Wednesday 28th January, so please act quickly to get your places!

Online Safety

We have been alerted to a concern in relation to a new pop-up embedded into Roblox, where it asks the child to download an app called 'Pollybuzz' (or 'Pollyfuzz' in some spelling cases).

At the moment, this new app isn't covered by the Online Safety Hub. We have raised this with them so hope that their safeguarding review appears very soon.

In regards to the 'Pollybuzz' / 'Pollyfuzz' app, this is what we know at the moment:

- On face value it seems quite simple where children are asked questions, and it generates an Artificial Intelligence 'friend'.
- This starts off quite innocently but then begins to show extreme content (including suicide, self-harm and pornography).



Please maintain vigilance in relation to this as well as other online behaviours, making sure supervision and the right parental controls are in place. For example:

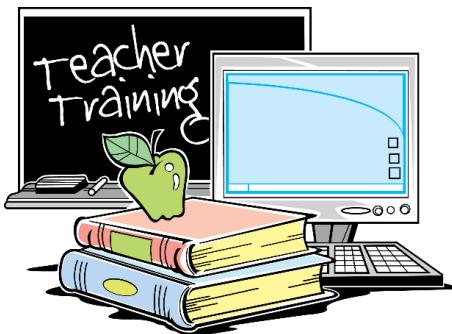
- Remind your child about not clicking on pop-ups in games and not downloading new apps without your knowledge or agreement.
- Remind your child about talking to an adult straight away (or another trusted adult, if appropriate) if they see anything online that is worrying or inappropriate.
- Remember that parental controls do not stop all pop-ups, so you need to always keep a close eye on what your child is doing and seeing online.
- Adding the appropriate Parents Controls to online apps, including Roblox: [Parental Controls Overview – Roblox Support](#)
- Talk to the school safeguarding team if you need any help or support with managing your child's online safety.

INSED 2026-2027

A reminder that our INSED days for next year will be on the following dates. Following the parent survey to gain information about where to place training days to support holidays to be taken outside of term time, we have opted for two days after the Summer Term half term break.

Tuesday 1st September 2026
Wednesday 2nd September 2026
Monday 4th January 2027
Friday 5th March 2027
Monday 7th June 2027
Tuesday 8th June 2027

There will be one more INSED date to add to these six, which we will communicate once confirmed with Hamwic Education Trust.



Attendance

Persistent absence is determined when absence for a child drops to 90% or lower. At LMPS, currently 6.9% of children fall into this category. We track all children's attendance, sending out communication to parents / carers on a 4 weekly basis to inform and support children to come to school regularly. If you would like support with attendance, please do get in touch with us through the school office.

Over the last two weeks, Swan class had the highest rates of attendance – congratulations for taking the crown from Merlin!

