

Lytchett Matravers Primary School and Preschool

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Headteacher: Matt Vernon

Deputy Headteacher: Laura Dominey

Assistant Headteacher: Amy Foster



Friday 9th January 2026

Dear Parents / Carers,

Happy New Year! As we step into 2026, we are filled with excitement and optimism for the opportunities this year will bring. A new year is more than just a change in the calendar - it's a chance for fresh starts, renewed goals and meaningful growth for our students and school community.

Our first assembly this term focussed on the theme of fresh starts. We shared how to be successful in setting resolutions for personal growth by being realistic, celebrating all successes - no matter how small - and not being defeated by any small failures. We also discussed how the brain is set up to release positive, 'feel good' chemicals when experiencing new things (one of the reasons why we love receiving presents) but this also occurs when we learn new information. We should all strive to learn and grow, not only because it is good for our development but also because it feels good to learn!

This time of year is a wonderful time to encourage children to set positive intentions, embrace challenges and celebrate progress. Whether it's trying a new activity, making new friends or developing new skills, every step forward is a success worth acknowledging.

Our staff is committed to creating an environment where every child feels valued and inspired to reach their potential. We have exciting events and learning opportunities planned for the coming months and we look forward to sharing these with you soon.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support. Together, I am sure that we can make 2026 a year of growth, joy and achievement for all.



With warmest wishes as always,

Mr Vernon
Headteacher



Mrs Smith

Mrs Smith will be leaving us at the end of January to start her retirement in the heart of the Welsh countryside. She has been a wonderful support for so many children over her years at LMPS and has inspired a love of nature and the outside for so many of our children. Her kindness, compassion and understanding of others is nothing short of outstanding and we will miss her presence greatly.



Miss Winkworth

Miss Winkworth has now moved on from the school to pursue therapeutic work with adults. She offered our children amazing support, particularly in relation to physical movement, always with complete positivity and warmth for all. We wish her all the best in her future endeavours but will continue to check in with her as she runs her yoga class in the hall one evening per week!



30 Years Service

We celebrated Mrs Blake's 30 year anniversary at LMPS this Tuesday. Not only is it rare to achieve this time period within any organisation, but to do so with such high levels of impact over such a period of time is truly exemplary. Everyone who knows Mrs Blake understands that she at the heart of our community and the level of care and attention for all does not go unnoticed. Thank you!

Online Safety

A reminder that there is an Online Safety Parent Workshop being held on **15th January** from **7-8pm**. Please register your place by clicking on the link below:

[HET Online Safety Workshop 15th January 2026](#)

This training is being run by a specialist in the area and we know it will be both engaging and insightful for parents to attend about an area which continues to present a multitude of safeguarding concerns and considerations.

Parent Survey

If you haven't already, please scan the QR code to complete a very quick parent survey.

We are trialling using a few, shorter surveys this year to gain feedback over a wider range of dates and to make the surveys more accessible.

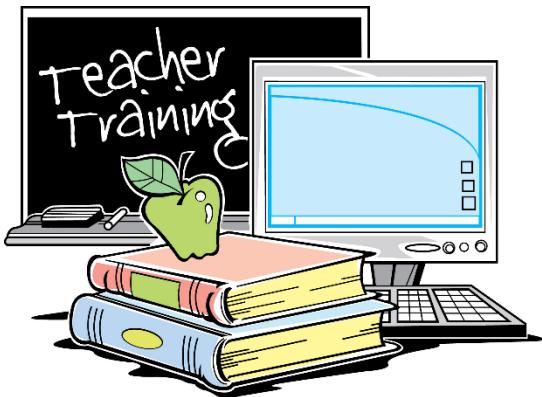


INSED 2026-2027

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.



Fundraising For The Royal Legion

Thank you for your support for the poppy appeal this year. We raised £429.82 in total which was a third of the total amount for the local area!

Attendance

We know that lower attendance %s in some classes does not mean that there are not lots of children in those classes with excellent attendance! The table below shows attendance in a different way – the number of children with attendance at or above 95% currently. Well done to Merlin class for such an impressive total!



Class	Number of children with attendance at or above 95%	% of children with attendance at or above 95%
Honeybees	23	79%
Ladybirds	22	73%
Butterflies	16	73%
Dragonflies	17	71%
Nightingales	20	67%
Skylarks	23	77%
Kingfishers	26	84%
Woodpeckers	23	77%
Puffins	21	66%
Swans	28	90%
Buzzards	21	66%
Ospreys	21	64%
Kestrels	23	79%
Merlins	31	97%
Total	315	76%