



AUTUMN 1 2020 NEWSLETTER

ELLACOMBE C OF E ACADEMY & LITTLE STARS CHILDCARE CENTRE



Head of Academy Update

Dear Parents,

I can't believe that it's already the end of the Autumn 1 half term! As we've moved into October, I have continued to be impressed by our children's approach to their learning. The whole staff have noticed how much the children skip into school and are working hard in lessons. Staff have been adapting their teaching, so that any gaps in learning from not being at school, have been spotted, and lessons shaped to help children feel confident. Children tell me constantly when I see them in Worship, or with their teacher moving through the school, how much they are especially enjoying getting back into their learning, especially reading. It's been a delight to see the children using the library again with their classes after we had £2,000 of new books bought! This was a Trust investment by the Learning Academy Partnership (LAP), in quality resources, just one of the benefits of being in a Trust, which values reading so highly.

Many of you with children in Early Years have fed back how much your child is enjoying the newly designed environment, following another investment of £25,000 by the Trust. Miss Blakeley, as our Early Years and Curriculum Assistant Head, has been busy all summer turning the vision into a reality. It has been specifically designed to create a sense of wonder, give children a sense of curiosity and develop independence in their learning through play. From the bright flower beds to the exciting new vehicle zone, there is something to engage and stimulate all children. You may have noticed there is a great deal more 'grass' and natural resources to give the children the experience of being in nature. The team in EYFS are already seeing the impact of these new environment as the children have settled and become so independent in exploring in the environment already. Another example of how much the children benefit from being part of the LAP.

Mrs Semmens
Head of Academy



Together we empower excellence

Term Dates 2020/21**Autumn Term 2020**

Half Term: 26 Oct – 30 Oct 2020

End: 18 December 2020

Spring Term 2021

Start: 4 January 2021

Half term: 15 Feb – 19 Feb 2021

End: 1 April 2021

Summer Term 2021

Start: 19 April 2021

Bank Holiday: 3 May 2021

Half term: 31 May – 4 June 2021

Non pupil days: 7 June – 11 June 2021

Ends: 23 July 2021

The Head of Academy may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances.

All requests for a child to be absent from school during term time must be made in writing at least a half term in advance of the proposed absence by completing the absence request form obtainable from the academy office.

Please call into the academy office if you would like to discuss your child's attendance or any aspect of absences.

Dates we can give you so far

Friday 13th November -
Children in Need
non uniform and wear something spotty day!

Tuesday 17th November -
Relationships & Health Curriculum meeting

Wednesday 16th December -
School Christmas Dinner

Friday 11th December -
Christmas Jumper Day

REMINDER!
Deadline for
secondary school
applications is
31st October 2020



REMINDER!
All school dinners
must now be
booked online via
eduspot.co.uk

Welcome to our academy!

A warm welcome to the following children who have joined us this term so far:
Ligia, Savannah, Tristan, Sebastian, Harry, Louie, Joel, Ralph, Roxanna, Chandler, Shanaya, Bradley, Courtney, Tiffany, Araiya, Belle, Dylan, Erin, Jayne, Annalise, Logan, Isabella, Skyla, Emili, Ronnie, Darragh, Kellan, Evie, Hugo, Shelby, Riley, Charlie, Frankie, Mya, Rose, Lilly, Teyla, Ella, Max, Maddison, Jude, Jack, Sophie and Noah.



We are Ellacombe C of E Academy

Together, we stride towards a brighter future



We show love to people and things

We trust adults to support our needs

We look after our planet and each other

We have hope for our futures

We persevere, even when times are challenging

Is your child starting school in 2021?

Come and visit Ellacombe C of E Academy



Email ellacombe@lapsw.org or call 01803 293040 to book a tour

Please note: all tours will be COVID safe

Please note all tours will take place after school, wearing appropriate PPE and adhering to social distancing

Harvest

What a wonderful Harvest collection we have received again this year. Families have once again shown their generosity and compassion for others in their donations of food. Mrs Semmens was joined by Reverend Sam from St Mary Magdalene Church and Ian Williams from the Riviera Life Church for a 'virtual' Harvest Celebration at Ellacombe.

The children were really excited to see on the webcam, the large display of food that they had worked hard to collect. Usually, they would see this collection grow each day as we add to it in the hall but this year, we have had to do things a little differently. The children reflected how proud they felt that as a school family, we would be making such a difference to those in need.

With extra safety measures in place, the food we have collected has now been quarantined and safely distributed to both the churches.



World Mental Health Day

We were wowed by the children's creative wearing of Yellow on Friday 9th October as part of Young Minds, World Mental Health Day. The children were so impressive as they talked with confidence about all the ways we look after our mental health. The superheroes they created had some very creative super powers!



Super power: to make a HUG! master and he hugs the World.

Weakness: Sad people
...



World Mental Health Day 2020



Relationships & Health Education

Mrs Semmens has been working with subject leaders from right across the Trust as we develop our Relationships and Health Education (RSHE) Curriculum, which is statutory from this academic year. This curriculum seeks to help children learn about themselves and others, make connections with the world around them and have the tools to flourish in life. Having such a pool of talented leaders including Science and PE leads, along with our Trust Mental Health Lead and our Trust Year Six lead, has enabled us to draw upon a vast depth of experience and knowledge, led by Mrs Semmens with her experience. By working together, we have researched and then chosen nationally recognised resources to develop this curriculum. After half term, we will be sharing this Policy with parents and teachers, through Curriculum Leaflets. We will share the focus for year groups, along with the other curriculum areas. We will then be holding an online consultation, which we will be inviting parents to join. This consultation will take place on Tuesday 17th November (time tbc) and will provide an overview of this statutory curriculum where we will then ask parents "How do we empower you, as parents, to support your child at home with the RSHE curriculum?". There will be an email sent to out after half term with all the details.

Our curriculum is the beating heart of our academies and is rooted in John 10:10.

"I came that they might have life and live it to the full"

Our children will flourish through experiencing a knowledge-rich curriculum which is both broad and balanced and fosters a love of learning, enabling all children to make connections and be well prepared for the next stage of their education.

School Events

As we look towards Christmas, we are putting out creative thinking caps on about how we might help the children to celebrate this special time of year whilst recognising some events just won't be able to happen. We are all learning new technology or ways of doing things, like our virtual Parent Consultations' and I'd like to thank you for your support and patience whilst we have a go at things for the first time!

One event we will be taking part in and raising money for is Children in Need again this year, on Friday 13th November. We are asking children to wear non uniform, including something spotty, to school in exchange for a 50p donation towards this very worthy cause. We look forward to seeing what inventive creations the children arrive in!



Working Together to Keep Safe

As you know from the detailed risk assessment we have shared with you, we are continuing to have in place many measures to minimise the risk of transmission of COVID-19 in and around the academy. The children have adapted brilliantly to these, from regular hand washing, to eating their lunch with their class. These routines are now embedded and slick. Staff have been working incredibly hard with additional cleaning, providing the children with their own set of stationary/resources, ensuring that shared resources like the library/ PE equipment have robust additional measures such as 'quarantine periods' and extra cleaning, ensuring distancing measures during their own lunch breaks as well accompanying any children needing to walk through the school.

I'd like to reassure parents that we are continually reviewing our risk assessment, taking on board the key messages and expectations that the Government send out in their daily email to Head Teachers. Being part of a family of Schools, with the LAP, really does support this; I meet each and every week (virtually) with the other heads and leaders to share expertise and ways of working so that we are continually innovating. Torbay Council also continue to be a great support through this time and I attend (again virtually) regular meetings and briefings to share key learning and local protocols around COVID-19.

Finally, a huge 'thank you' to our families who have supported us all the way through this time. We are grateful to the vast majority of parents who are wearing face covering every day now- it really does make our staff feel safer and no doubt makes you all feel safer too.

Please note after half term the Year 1 and Little Lions pick up time will move to 2.45pm - all other times will remain the same.



Trust Additional Teachers

We are delighted to have welcomed two additional teachers, Miss McGovern and Mr Chadwick to the LAP family of schools, to support this year. They will provide capacity should teachers have to self isolate, as well as adding further support for our academies across the Trust. Both are experienced teachers and have already been busy working alongside teachers at Ellacombe in their visit last week. They were really impressed by the children's high quality Phonics and Reading learning and just how much consistency there is across the school, using RWinc Phonics and Spelling. They noticed how much the children's learning was improved during the actual lesson by the feedback the teacher gave. The sun was shining for them and they spent lots of time with Miss Blakeley and Mrs Van der Meer in EYFS. By working together across our academies, we are able to financially secure this support in this time of challenge.



Welcome

A big welcome to Miss Mallen, Mrs Brooks and Mrs Topping. Mrs Topping and Mrs Brooks will be joining our Learning Support Assistant team, bringing with them expertise in autism and cognition and learning interventions. Miss Mallen joins us as a HLTA, she is also a qualified teacher and is looking forward to contributing to our wider curriculum areas.



Welcome also to Miss Andrews, who many of you already know as a HLTA, but who is moving into the brand new role of Family Support Assistant. This is additional investment this year to support families during this difficult time. Congratulations on your new post Miss Andrews!



Welcome

St Michael's Church of England Academy



OPENING SEPTEMBER 2021

Fisher Street, Paignton, TQ4 5EW



St Michael's C of E Academy is a fully inclusive school for children aged 2 - 11 years old, where children can thrive, grow and learn.

APPLY NOW for your child's Reception place for September 2021



@StMichaelsLAP



stmichaels-lap.co.uk



01626 248800



St Michael's is proud to be a member of the Learning Academy Partnership



LITTLE STARS CHILDCARE CENTRE

Where children thrive, grow and have fun!

FREE NURSERY PLACES AVAILABLE FOR 2 - 4 YEAR OLDS, TORQUAY

Following an £800,000 investment in our local community, the newly refurbished Little Stars Childcare Centre is offering high quality childcare.

Extended opening hours from 7.30am until 6.00pm weekdays, term time, to provide wrap around care



- * Fully qualified staff committed to providing a safe, happy and stimulating environment
- * Free 15 hour and 30 hour funded places
- * Paid sessions available

Contact us to discuss your child's day care needs or to arrange a visit and find out more

☎ **01803 293040**

✉ **littlestars@lapsw.org**

Little Stars Childcare Centre,
Ellacombe Church Road, Torquay, TQ1 1LW

a member of



learning
academy
partnership



learning
academy
partnership

Ellacombe C of E Academy

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