



# Newsletter

**September 2022**

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### ***A message from Mr. Lee***

Welcome to the first of this year's newsletters which will provide the school community with a brief update of recent activities, reminders about upcoming events and also a few messages from the office. They will also offer helpful tips and guidance to families on topics such as keeping children safe online, how to support your child with their learning and where to go....

September has been a very busy month as one might expect given the start of the new academic year. In addition to settling into new routines and ways of working, we have already seen Anglo-Saxons joining Year 4 for a full day of historical investigation as well as the Greeks taking over Year 5 for a day. Both events proved to be very entertaining, with positive feedback received from both children and staff.

I would like to thank all of those children who took part in the Summer Reading Challenge. Although we are still waiting from Burbage Community Library to announce the winner of the school's trophy, I can confirm that Alex Steele won the pupil's competition and received a big bag of goodies for taking part in the scheme. Well done young man! Overall 92 pupils received a certificate for taking part in the reading challenge which I am reliably informed is the best we have done for several years. Let's see if we can top that next summer!

Finally, I would like to say a huge well done to the Year 5/6 football team who represented the school at the recent Danone Cup tournament which was held at Burbage Juniors. Despite not gaining quite enough points to put us through to the next round, the team kept clean sheets in all three of their games and came away with two draws and a win. I am sure the squad will build on their experience and continue to go from strength to strength as the season progresses. We are all very proud of you!

## **E-safety**

We are all very aware of the attraction that Tik-Tok holds for children as well as the often entertaining nature of its posts. We have however been made aware of (and seen) some of our younger children appearing on this platform wearing their school uniform. Whilst the content and context of these posts have been innocent in nature, our advice to parents would be to remove or hide any features which would identify a child to a particular school. This guidance comes from the NSPCC and supports our own online safety curriculum which the children are regularly reminded of throughout the school year. For further information about keeping safe on Tik-Tok, please follow this link.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/esafety-news/tik-tok-app-safety->

## **Updated Vision & Values**

Staff and school governors have been reviewing our Vision and Values Statement and updating it to reflect the current position of the school. Within it, we have also focussed on 12 key Character Muscles that we hope will guide our children during their time at Sketchley Hill as well as underpin our vision and strategic goals for the coming years. Our Vision and Values Statement will shortly be shared with parents and we would welcome your feedback.

## **Reading at Home**

We are all aware of the benefits of being a confident reader and the positive impact that being able to read fluently across all areas of the curriculum can have. We would therefore welcome the support of all of our parents to read with their child, or encourage them to read as often as possible.



## Operation Encompass

Since 2018 Leicestershire Schools have worked alongside a safeguarding initiative which aims to improve outcomes for children and families affected by domestic violence and abuse. The initiative, 'Operation Encompass', is run in partnership with Leicestershire County Council and Leicestershire Police and has been designed to provide early reporting to schools of any domestic abuse incidents that might have an impact on a child at their school.

Recent updates to this strategy now include schools being informed of **any** police involvement with families which may affect the wellbeing of children at Sketchley Hill. We will use the information to ensure the school is able to provide appropriate support to our pupils.

The information will remain **CONFIDENTIAL** and will only be shared on a strictly need-to-know basis, for example with the class teacher. Should

## Important Reminders



Monday 3rd October	PTA Meeting at 7.00pm
Friday 7th October	Year 5 Assembly to parents and carers at 9.15am
Monday 10th October	Year 6 PGL Residential
Friday 14th October	Year 6 return from PGL Residential
Friday 14th October	School closes at 3.15pm for Half Term Holiday
Monday 24th October	School Re-opens
Wednesday 26th October	Parents' Evening for all year groups
Thursday 27th October	Parents' Evening for all year groups

## Attendance Winners

Congratulations to the following classes for earning awards for the highest attendance in the school over the past few weeks:



Week	Best FS/KS1 Class		Best KS2 Class		School Weekly %
30/8 & 5/9/22	1G	99.04%	6G	99.65%	98.20%
12/9/22	1R	98%	4R	8.62%	95.84%
19/9/22	Turtles	99.54%	4KC	100%	96.25%

## Non Uniform Birthdays!



Just a reminder that children are now allowed to wear non-school uniform if their birthday falls on a school day. Obviously for those lucky children who have a birthday over a weekend or a holiday, they will be able to wear their own clothes at home!

## Year Group Trips

Following the recent trips survey that was emailed out to all parents and carers, with specific questions for year 2 (ahead of Year 3 Beaumanor Residential) and year 5 parents (ahead of Year 6 PGL Residential) The results have shown that quite a number of parents would appreciate earlier notice for trips and earlier payment dates to spread the cost. To help facilitate this we are looking into setting a trip payment scheme up on the school gateway. This will enable parents to upload money via the school gateway at any point during the year into their child's account which would then be used for future trips. Further information will be sent out before half term.

## Harvest Festival

Many thanks to everyone who donated food items to our Harvest Festival assembly. We were overwhelmed by your generosity.

The food collected was given to the Hinckley Food Bank to help people in our local community who are homeless or on low incomes.



## Year 6 PGL Residential

Our Year 6 children are counting down the days until their PGL residential on Monday 10th to Friday 14th October. We expect to see some very tired children (and adults!) on their return. Have fun Year 6!



## Parents' Evenings

Parents' evenings for all year groups will be held in school on Wednesday 26th and Thursday 27th October. Bookings can be made from 8.00am on Monday 10th October until Sunday 23rd October at midnight. Further information including step by step instructions to book online, will be sent out via email.

## Parking Reminder

We would like to remind our parents and families again about the need to be considerate to our neighbours when parking outside school. The safety of children walking to school is the highest priority and some cars are being parked in places that put them at risk. We have noticed a few parents driving onto the staff car park to drop off and pick up their children. Please may we politely remind parents and carers that the car park is for Sketchley Hill Primary School staff and Menphys Nursery staff only.

Thank you for your cooperation.





## Cross Country

Good luck to all Sketchley Hill children that will be taking part in the Cross Country Races at Brookvale Groby tomorrow, Saturday 1st October.

GO TEAM SKETCHLEY!

## Football

We are very proud of our school's football teams, both of whom took part in cup competitions over the past 2 weeks at Burbage Junior School.

Both teams played a selection of schools from the local area and we are really proud of the way they played, conducted themselves and the amazing team spirit that was shown.

More games will follow and there will be other opportunities for our other budding footballers at training to represent the school.

WELL DONE TEAM SKETCHLEY!



## **A note from the Chair of Governors**

Through the school newsletters, we plan to share who we are, what we as governors do and what we have been involved in. In this newsletter I want to introduce you to what the governing board at Sketchley Hill do.

### **There are 3 core functions governors are responsible for:**

- Ensuring the clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction for the school;
- Holding executive leaders (Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team) to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff;
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school, making sure its money is well spent.

Governors are expected to be strategic, act as a critical friend to the school and ensure accountability in all areas.

I am in school every Tuesday should you wish to know more about the governing body.



Katherine Wilson - Chair of Governors