



Reach for the Stars

# Leas Park Junior School

# NEWSLETTER

Week commencing 5<sup>th</sup> May 2025

Welcome to our weekly newsletter.

Last week, our School Council had an amazing time at the local Veolia waste management facility and our Footballers had another amazing win!

Our year 6 pupils have started their SATs test this week – we wish them lots of luck!

Please look out for details of our Summer trips coming out soon on ParentPay!

## School Councillors visit to the Veolia MRF!

Our School Councillors went to Veolia!

They learned about how different materials should be disposed of and sorted rubbish items into which bins they should go in. Councillors learned about how our general waste is incinerated at the ERF (Energy Recovery Facility).

They were even lucky enough to look around the MRF (Materials Recovery Facility) to learn about what happens to our rubbish once it has been recycled.



# Footballers win again! 4-2

On Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May, our football team went to play against The Flying High Academy Ladybrook. Leas Park won 4-2!

It was a tough game against a strong side but the team communicated with each other throughout and kept their heads high. They worked together and took their time on the ball, focusing on small passes. What a great result for us! Well done to the whole team.



# VE Day

VE Day 2025 fell on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May and commemorated the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Victory in Europe. It marks the day in 1945 when Germany surrendered to the Allied powers, officially ending World War II in Europe. The day is a time for remembrance and celebration, with events and gatherings taking place across the country to honor the sacrifices of those who fought in the war.

At Leas Park we took part in various activities about VE Day including creating our own flags, like the Union Jacks that would have been waved on the day! We also held a minutes' silence to remember those who fought for us, joined in with a special assembly and wrote letters to a war veteran.



## Year 6 SATs

We continue to be incredibly pleased with the Year 6 children who have worked really hard towards their SATs this week.

Thank you in advance to families for ensuring that pupils arrive in school on time and ready to go.

We will ensure they have a good snack and that pupils are calm and organised, ready to do their very best! Good luck Year 6 - we know you can do it!

## Father's Day

Calling all Dads, Grandads, Great-Grandads and Uncles!

We are holding our Father's Day Breakfasts on 12<sup>th</sup> June (Year 6), 13<sup>th</sup> June (Year 5), 16<sup>th</sup> June (Year 4) and 17<sup>th</sup> June (Year 3) this year.

Please book to come and have breakfast with your child, via ParentPay. Offer ends 30<sup>th</sup> May 2025. Due to capacity, we will only be able to accommodate one adult per child. This event is only open to pupils and their siblings who attend Leas Park.

## National Numeracy Day

On Wednesday 21st May 2025 we will be taking part in activities for National Numeracy Day and the theme this year is 'The Money Edition'.

It is really important that we equip our children to be able to deal with money practically and be able to apply it to real life situations: having money sense is a life skill that all our children will need. The children will be taking part in lots of fun numeracy activities including raps, dances, practical sessions and so much more.

## Respecting Our Community

We encourage all of our children, as part of our Leas Park Aims & Values to become polite and responsible members of both our school and the wider community in which they live. This can be demonstrated through actions like using good manners, keeping public areas clean, respecting personal space, and engaging in positive interactions.

It is important that we maintain a good relationship with our community and our children act as ambassadors for our school in the local area.

Please ensure that when your children journey to and from school, they are respecting the local community and showing consideration for others, their property, the environment and all public spaces.

# Reminders, messages and additional news – please read!!

## Waterproof coats

Please ensure your child brings a waterproof coat to school everyday, to keep them protected from the elements during our inclement English weather! All items of clothing should be labelled.

## Late collection

If you are aware that you are going to be late to collect your child at the end of the school day, please let us know in plenty of time and **before** the end of school at 3:15pm. When calls are received after the end of school, it is difficult for Reception Staff to get to the classrooms before the children have left.

## Changing dinners

Please note that the school office will need **one weeks' notice**, if you wish to change your child from school meals to sandwiches, or vice versa. Thank you.

## Pupil Information

Please ensure school have all of your current contact information up to date. If you change your name, telephone number or address, please let school know as soon as possible and ensure that we always have **at least two separate emergency contacts** for your child.

## Pupil Lateness and Absence

School starts at **08:45am**. Please ensure your child arrives on time and with all the uniform, equipment, lunch and snacks that they require for their day. If you are going to be late arriving to school, or if your child is not in full school uniform, please contact us on 01623 477629 to let us know why. If you know in advance that your child will not be in or will be late in the following day, the message system regarding pupil absence can be accessed at any time outside of office hours via our telephone number.

If your child needs to be out of school for any reason, please complete a 'Withdrawal from Learning Form' and submit to the school office asap, for authorisation at the discretion of the head teacher. These forms can be accessed via this link: <https://forms.office.com/e/v7wFmYp9J7> or paper copies are available from the leaflet stand in reception.

## Illness & Medications

If you do need to keep your child off school on a school day, please contact the school office on 01623 477629 **before 09:00am on the day they are due to be off**.

If you wish for your child to be given medication whilst at school, please complete and submit the form via this link:

[Leas Park Junior School - Permission for School to Administer Medication](#)

**All medication needs to be both handed into school and collected, by an adult.**

## Staff Car Park

Please note the staff car park is for use **by staff only**. We have very limited space and quite often staff need to leave site and return at short notice. Extra vehicles can make manoeuvring dangerous and can also mean that spaces aren't available for staff who need to be here. Thank you for your understanding.

## Nut and Fish free school

In line with NCC policy regarding nut allergies, we do not allow any type of nuts including peanuts in school - either in packed lunches or in snacks. This also includes any nut based products including Nutella, other sandwich spreads containing nuts and any cereal bars that may contain nuts.

Also we would like to remind you that Leas Park is a "fish-free" school, and as such we do not allow any fish or fish products in the children's packed lunches or snacks. Thank you for your support.

## Snacks

Children are allowed to bring a healthy snack in with them to have during break time, for example fruit or vegetables. Please do not send in grab bags/multi packs of crisps, biscuits or sweets. Please ensure any food sent in to school is both fish and nut free. Thank you for your co-operation.

## Jewellery

Children should not be wearing jewellery to school, with the exception of a watch (not a smartwatch) and small stud earrings, which will need to be removed or covered during PE lessons. This is due to Health and Safety and the possibility of loss or damage.

# Leas Park Awards



## Eco Class



### Winner of the Week:

3P

## Maths Stars



Class	Name
3B	Aubree W
	Arla D
3P	Callum-Jake H
	Theo Sakkal S
4C	Emilie G
	Ruby R
4G	Sophie H
	Patricia J
5C	Freya G
	Ella M
5H	Luca R
	Jacob S
6A	Bobby K
	Lola B
6P	Alex B
	Erin J

## Tea Party



Class	Name
3B	Grayson E
3P	Ronnie A
4C	Jonah F
4G	Kyla M
5C	Dorca O
5H	Joey W
6A	Jorgie B
6P	Reuben H

## Golden Tickets



Class	Amount collected this week	Running total so far this half term:
3B	1	5
3P	1	3
4C	1	4
4G	0	9
5C	1	7
5H	2	6
6A	0	0
6P	1	4

### Winner of the Week:

5H

### Overall winner this half term so far:

4G

## Times Tables Rockstars



<b>4C</b>	
Total:	83
Top three highest scorers:	
1st:	Adela Rhodes
2nd:	Amber Sharpe
3rd:	Alexander Parr
<b>4G</b>	
Total:	99
Top three highest scorers:	
1st:	Amelia Clark-Moore
2nd:	Nyla Bradley
3rd:	Fearne Murphy

## Reading Certificates




Class	Name	No. of reads & award given
3B	Aria C	25 reads = Bronze
3B	Arla D	100 reads = Gold
3P	Reuben M	75 reads = Diamond
4c	Charlie M	75 reads = Diamond
4C	Emilie G	100 reads = Gold
4C	Darcy G	150 reads = Platinum
4G	Athena-Rose D	25 reads = Bronze
4G	Sophie H	50 reads = Silver
4G	Patricia J	25 reads = Bronze
5c	Coen D	150 reads = Platinum
5c	Bree M	150 reads = Platinum
5C	Sam O	50 reads = Silver
5C	Ava D	100 reads = Gold
5C	Devon T	250 reads = Emerald
5H	Daisy M	200 reads = Ruby
5H	Sophie S	200 reads = Ruby
5H	Jaxson J	100 reads = Gold
5H	Pyper T	250 reads = Emerald
5H	Millie S	50 reads = Silver
6P	Jasmine I	75 reads = Diamond

Thumbs Up!			
	Class	Name	Amount awarded
	3B	Cody B	75
	3B	Grace B	75
	3B	Louie B	100
	3P	Joshua L	75
	3P	Ellis N	75
	3P	Harrison P	75
	3P	Arthur S	75
	3P	Kristens V	75
	3P	Eden B	100
	3P	Heath R	100
	4C	Amber S	100
	4G	Jasmina B	50
	6P	Bernice T	100
	6P	Isla G	100
	6P	Jonah R	100
	6P	Joshua J	100
	6P	Kai R	100
	6P	Nicola S	100

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# Well done everyone!

Book Vending Machine	
	
<b>Lower School Winner</b>	
Class	Name
4G	Joseph C
<b>Upper School Winner</b>	
Class	Name
6P	Ivy G



Shout Outs				
	Class	Name	Pronunciation	Reason & From
	Year 6	Year 6		For all your efforts building up to your SATs next week. We are all very proud of you and are sure that you will give it 110% next week.
		Football Club		For a great game against Flying High Ladybrook, we won 4-2! They were a strong side but the team communicated well and it paid off! Fantastic team work and sportsmanship.
		School Councillors		For your enthusiasm and participating and for representing Leas Park brilliantly during our Veolla trip. The staff, Miss Ryan and I agree that you were a credit to our school!
	4G	Annie B		For writing a beautiful letter to veteran, Mervyn Kersh. I was moved by your words and I know he will be too when he reads your reply. From Miss Greaves.

## Attendance Awards

The Attendance Award for w/c 05/05/2025 goes to **Class 3P** with **99.3%**

Please follow this link to our current Attendance Policy for more information: [School Policies | Leas Park Junior School](#)

The whole school attendance this academic year to date is 95.4% - the national target is **96%**!

**Please help support us in raising our attendance!**

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about IN-GAME CHAT

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Video games are continuing to grow in popularity – including, of course, among children and young people – and the emergence of gaming communities has been accelerated by the inclusion of chat functionality across many different titles. While in-game chat isn't inherently a bad thing, it can create some concerns about online safety and the people that children might be interacting with.

### DIFFERENT TYPES OF CHAT

There are a number of ways that gamers commonly chat with one another online. As the name would suggest, in-game chat happens within the game itself. There's also party chat: a group voice conversation that console users can have with anyone on the same platform. This tends to be more commonly used by players who already know each other. Finally, many gamers – especially on PC – will chat via a third-party app such as Discord.

### CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

Whether it's text- or voice-based, in-game chat is frequently open to all players to use. Many games default to making it an opt-in function, but some don't: meaning a child could start seeing messages within the game from people they're playing with, regardless of whether they know those individuals or not. While most strangers won't necessarily have ill intent, there are some who may behave inappropriately when chatting to a child – intentionally or otherwise.

### DANGER OF GROOMING

It's been reported that some young gamers have encountered older players online who pretend to be a lower age to manipulate children, sending gifts in exchange for chatting and sending photos. Just as on any messaging platform, it's good to advise young people to avoid speaking to strangers; emphasise that they shouldn't accept gifts from anyone online that they don't know.

### BULLYING AND ABUSE

While some in-game chat can turn toxic because of how a match plays out, others turn that way because of people who engage in trolling – in essence, behaving in an offensive and abusive way simply to cause pain or get a rise out of whoever they're talking to. These 'trolls' often lean on racial slurs, anti-LGBT sentiment and other hateful rhetoric; they normally feel most confident preying on younger, more impressionable gamers.

### POTENTIAL FOR PRIVATE CHAT

If a player would like a re-match with a stranger after meeting them in the game, they can send a friend request, or use the party chat together in the future. For the most part, this is harmless – but it might lead to messages being exchanged in private. This could then escalate to the sharing of private information, and potentially attempts to manipulate or scam younger players.

### COMPETITIVE ATMOSPHERE

Certain games are very competitive, and players can sometimes get upset if they feel a teammate is underperforming, an opponent won unfairly, or they're just a bad loser. This can lead to unpleasant messages that stray away from playful 'trash talk' and wander into the territory of bullying. Some players have been known to get incredibly abusive in situations like this, and the impact of this on a young gamer's emotional wellbeing could be severe.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### LOCK-DOWN IN-GAME CHAT

In-game chat can often be disabled in the game's settings. This allows children to play without risk of contact from strangers – but it will need to be done in each individual game. Text chat appears in the corner of the screen in many titles, so it's normally easy to take a quick glance and see what's being said. With voice chat, explain to children what behaviour is inappropriate, so they can spot the dangers themselves.

### REPORT POTENTIAL OFFENDERS

Most games offer a robust means of reporting other players, so you can flag an account as potentially harmful. This normally leads to the account not being matched with yours in the future and, if that person's conduct breaks any of the game's rules, they may be banned from playing entirely. This is done within the game itself, so each title has a slightly different process, but these tend to be designed for simplicity.

### CONSIDER OTHER CHAT OPTIONS

If a child wants to play with people they know, consider using party chat or a third-party service like Discord. This allows everyone involved to chat on a private server and even enjoy each other's company while playing different games. It's also far more secure, as anyone looking to join will need to request and be granted access – normally by whoever is hosting the chat.

### COMMUNICATION IS KEY

Make sure children understand the differences between being competitive and being abusive. Talk about what constitutes an unusual or inappropriate behaviour from strangers online. Be clear that if anything ever concerns or worries them, they should tell a trusted adult as soon as possible. Empower children to identify the risks of in-game chat for themselves and reassure them they won't get in trouble for seeking help if anything goes wrong.

### Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is the Editor in Chief of CGRecon and has been working in the games media industry for five years. He's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his work has been published at sites including IGN, TechRadar, and plenty more.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at [nationalcollege.com/guides/in-game-chat](https://nationalcollege.com/guides/in-game-chat)



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# Dates for your Diary

Please see below our main 'diary dates' so far for this academic year. We hope this will help with your diary planning.

**\*\*Please note these dates are subject to change and if this should be the case we will give as much notice as possible\*\***

## **Inset Days:**

Monday 28th July 2025

Tuesday 29th July 2025

**w/c 12th May 2025** – Year 6 SATs week

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May** – National Numeracy Day – fun activities in school

**Friday 23rd May 2025** – Seaside Theme Day – come to school dressed in seaside/summer themed clothes

**Friday 23rd May 2025** - LAST DAY AT SCHOOL

**Monday 2nd June 2025** - FIRST DAY BACK AT SCHOOL

**w/c 2nd June 2025** – Year 4 Multiplication Times Tables Check

**Friday 6th June 2025** - Year 3 Parents' Grammar Workshop - 9:00 -10:00am (details to follow)

**w/c 9th June 2025** - Year 4 Multiplication Times Tables Check – mop up

**Thursday 12th June 2025** - Year 6 Father's Day Breakfast

**Friday 13th June 2025** - Year 5 Father's Day Breakfast

**Monday 16th June 2025** - Year 4 Father's Day Breakfast

**Monday 16th - Wednesday 18th June 2025** - Year 6 Kingswood residential trip

**Tuesday 17th June 2025** - Year 3 Father's Day Breakfast

**Tuesday 24th June 2025** – Sports Day – Lower School 09:30am, Upper School 1pm

**Tuesday 10th July 2025** – Year 2 Parents Welcome Meeting (invite only)

**Wednesday 11th July 2025** – Year 2 Parents Welcome Meeting (invite only)

**Wednesday 16th July 2025** – Summer Fayre – 3:15pm

**Friday 18th July 2025** – Reports home

**Tuesday 22nd July 2025** – Year 6 Leavers Presentation – 6:30pm

**Wednesday 23rd July 2025** – Whole School Picnic – 11:45am-1:15pm

**Friday 25th July 2025** - LAST DAY AT SCHOOL

**Monday 28th July 2025** – Inset day - School closed to children

**Tuesday 29th July 2025** – Inset Day - School closed to children

