



## Start of Term Newsletter

A very warm welcome to our new Caterpillars who join us this term: Afifa, Evie, Milley, Sienna, Willow, Coby-Grey, Summer and Noel. Our returning Caterpillars have all settled back into the routines at nursery well and are full of beans. Here's to a fun term ahead!

### Our Theme, Stories & Rhymes this Term

Our theme for the Spring Term is The World. Here's what we have planned for the next seven weeks:

Topic	Story	Rhyme
Seasons	Goldilocks & The Three Bears	Miss Polly
Space	Whatever Next	3 Little Men in a Flying Saucer
Recycling & Our Planet	The Life of a Cardboard Box	Humpty Dumpty
Science Experiments	Monkey Puzzle	Tiny Tim

### Applying for a School Place

A reminder to parents of children who start school in September. There is just over a week left to apply for a school place. Please remember to do so by **Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> January 2022**.

To apply for a school place, or for more information on applying, please visit this [link](#) and read the [Starting School Leaflet](#) and [Application Checklist](#).

### Lunches

If your child is at nursery for afternoon sessions and you would like your child to have a hot lunch, they are available for £2.35 per meal direct from Chartwells. They are able to cater for vegetarians and special dietary requirements (medical proof required), and are managed by you from home (10 days in advance). If your child is starting school in September, this offers you an opportunity to introduce hot lunches, as all reception children are entitled to hot lunches for free.

If you would like to order, please follow this [link](#) to register, book and pay. Please put "Leechpool School" as the school name and "Caterpillars" as the class. Hot meals are not compulsory, and your child is welcome to continue to bring in a health packed nut-free lunch box.

### Big Run!

Our next Big Run! is on Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> January 2022. It's great fun, and the Caterpillars enjoy visiting Lenny the Dragon whilst walking around the big field, before cheering the big children from Leechpool Primary on as they do their laps. We'll set off to do our lap of the big field at 9am, no matter the weather, so if your child is attending nursery that morning, please make sure they are dressed warmly.

### Please Label Belongings

A reminder to all our families, please ensure that all your child's belongings are clearly labelled including bags, lunch boxes, drinks, coats, hats, and gloves. We cannot stress enough how important this is, as we have 49 children in our nursery and identifying what item belongs to which child is very time consuming.

### Illnesses

The winter months are well and truly upon us, and the usual winter germs are here. We ask for parents to be considerate to all our families when managing illnesses. If your child needs regular doses of Calpol to manage their symptoms, please keep your child at home to rest. This helps reduce the length of the illness and prevents passing the germs onto other children and staff.

As recommended by the government, please continue to carry out regular lateral flow tests and advise us of any positive results.

Stomach bugs are common this time of year. Please continue to follow the rules around vomiting and diarrhoea by keeping your child at home for 48-hours after their last episode.

### Dates to Remember:

Spring Term Start Date: Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Half Term: Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> February – Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> February 2022

INSET Day: Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Spring Term End Date: Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> April 2022

## Changes to the Leadership Structure at Leechpool Caterpillar Nursery & After-School Club

We are excited to tell you that Leechpool Caterpillar Nursery and After-School Club have officially moved to being under the umbrella of Leechpool Primary School and its Governing Body since September 2021. The previous Management Committee has been dissolved in line with the wishes of the old committee and all authorities have been handed over to the School and Governing Body.

Caterpillars and Leechpool Primary have a strong working relationship which ensures continuity between the school children who attend Caterpillars After-School Club and also strong transition links for nursery children moving on to the primary school.

Caterpillars and Leechpool's Leadership teams work with the Governing Body to ensure the quality of education and value for money is achieved. All decision making regarding Caterpillar Nursery and After-School Club is made in conjunction with Leechpool School and the Governors of the school. This is a positive move as it will enable future development and growth for all parties.

At Leechpool, the Governing Body is highly valued, with teamwork being a priority at all times. The Governors work with the school, nursery and After-School Club, with the aim of improving standards and striving for excellence. The governors take a hands-on approach to their role and assist with school events such as fayres, fundraising events, outings and special events. Governors also attend classes, nursery and After-School Club to monitor the impact of teaching and learning and care of the children, inset, training days and inspections.

Current parents are welcome to contact governors with any questions or general feedback. Please note that parents should always contact the Nursery & After-School Club directly with any concerns first. Likewise, we encourage any prospective parents who are thinking of sending their children to Leechpool Primary to browse through our websites and, importantly, to visit our nursery and school so you can see first-hand what Leechpool has to offer. Although we have close links with the Primary School, your child's attendance to Caterpillar Nursery doesn't influence their school allocation and it is still based on catchment area.

