

ALWAYS AIMING HIGHER, TOGETHER

Newsletter 2.7 – Monday 9th November, 2015



INDIVIDUAL AND SIBLING PHOTOGRAPHS – THIS FRIDAY!

A school photographer will be coming to school on Friday 13th November to take individual and sibling photographs. Please, ensure that your child wears their full school uniform (as they should every day!) on Friday. Note that 'sibling photographs' only apply to siblings within the school.



HALLOWEEN FUN

A big 'Thank You' to our PTA for organising such an amazing Disco before half-term! The children (and parents/carers/friends) who came had a great time!

Such events are possible thanks to the generosity of our PTA members and volunteers, so we are all extremely grateful for their wonderful dedication and commitment. More volunteers are always needed, so do get in touch: contact@ptalafontaine.org.uk.



SPEECH AND LANGUAGE SUPPORT

Hulya Mehmet MRCSLT, a parent from our school and Speech and Language Therapist (State registered) will be offering a free drop-in advice clinic (a morning slot, date to be confirmed) for parents/carers at La Fontaine.

Hulya has been a practising therapist since 2001 and is a Director of the Association of Speech and Language Therapists in Independent Practice (ASLTIP).

The advice clinic will offer parents an opportunity to discuss any potential concerns about their child's speech and/or language development.

Areas that Speech and Language Therapists support include: Speech delay or disorder. Language delay or disorder. Developmental Verbal Dyspraxia. Social communication difficulties including Autism. Stammering / stuttering. Attention deficit disorder. Voice disorder. Auditory processing difficulties. Emotional behavioural difficulties linked with a speech or language difficulty. Auditory memory problems. Word-finding difficulties...and more.

Parents/carers will be seen individually (no children). The meeting will be treated confidentially.

If you would to see the Speech and Language Therapist, please register your interest with Dr Chapleau.



ADVANCE NOTICE – PARENTS' EVENING – CHANGED DATE

Originally, our Autumn Term Parents' Evening was due to take place on Wednesday 9th December. It will now take place on **THURSDAY 10TH DECEMBER** (13:30-19:00). Clubs, for those two days will be re-arranged. Details to follow.



ADVANCE NOTICE – INSET DAY ON WEDNESDAY 2ND DECEMBER

Please, remember that Wednesday 2nd December will be an INSET Day for our teachers. This means that the school will be closed. Teachers will be receiving some training on that day.

ATTENDANCE – OUR TARGET IS 97.5%

Every minute counts!		MARIE CURIE	YANNICK NOAH	ANTOINE DE SAINT- EXUPÉRY	SIMONE DE BEAUVOIR	GEORGE SAND	JACQUES-YVES COUSTEAU	TOTAL
ATTENDANCE	LAST WEEK	94.4%	97%	97.3%	100% 	98.1% 	94%	96.6%
	SINCE SEPTEMBER	95.8%	97.3%	97.6% 	96.3%	96.6%	96.9%	96.8%
PUNCTUALITY	LATE CHILDREN LAST WEEK	1	0 	3	0 	1	2	7

Attendance is monitored weekly and parents/carers whose children are absent regularly will be contacted by the school. If you have any questions, please let us know. You can also see our Attendance Policy here: www.lafontaineacademy.org/policies.



Our approach to the monitoring of attendance and punctuality is guided by government guidelines but also by our focus on the notion of Children’s Rights. Article 28 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, for instance, states that: ‘Children have the right to a good quality education. Children should be encouraged to go to school to the highest level they can.’



CHRISTMAS PREPARATIONS – HEADS UP

Last week, you received letters explaining how to book tickets for our Nativity Productions. Please, respond by **Wednesday 11th November**.

Last week, you also received text messages to ask you if you could help us decorate the school on **Friday 4th December**, from 19:00-20:30. We would like to decorate the hall, the corridors, and the school entrance (without telling the children, of course!) to surprise the children. Thanks to those parents/carers who have already offered to help!

On **Saturday 5th December**, 11:00-15:00, our PTA will hold its annual Christmas Fayre. You will soon receive updates from our PTA, inviting you to donate bottles, sweet jars, etc.

Advance notice: On **Friday 18th December**, we will invite all children to come to school wearing colourful Christmas jumpers and hats! On that day, a special Christmas lunch will be organised, as well as a Pantomime.



PARENT PAY ITEMS

Some uniform items are not available on ParentPay at the moment as we are looking to outsource the distribution of our uniforms. This issue should be resolved soon. Thanks for your patience.



TEACHERS’ WORKLOAD

The world of teaching – like many professions – is incredibly busy. Over the past few years, teachers’ workload has increased considerably. It is widely recognised that teaching is one of the most stressful professions (click [here](#) for an article about it).

As a school, we are extremely grateful for the hard work of all our staff – teaching and support staff alike.

Leaders and Governors at La Fontaine will be looking into this issue very seriously over the next few weeks and will be establishing guidelines in order to enable our teachers to thrive. Our focus will remain on the academic success and well-being of our children. We will discuss what supports this focus. Tasks and activities which do not meet our children’s needs might be reconsidered and reduced, to enable teachers to be able to focus more on their primary role as educators.

SO, HOW WAS YOUR DAY? TIPS FOR PARENTS/CARERS!

- What was the best thing that happened at school today?
- Tell me something that made you laugh today.
- Where is the coolest place at the school?
- Tell me a weird word that you heard today. (Or something weird that someone said.)
- Tell me about something you've learnt today and which you could teach me.
- If I called your teacher tonight, what would she tell me about you?
- How did you help somebody today?
- How did somebody help you today?
- Tell me one thing that you learnt today.
- When were you the happiest today?
- Who would you like to play with at playtime that you've never played with before?
- Tell me something good that happened today.
- What word did your teacher say most today?
- What do you think you should do/learn more of at school?
- Who in your class do you think you could be nicer to?
- Where do you play the most at playtime?
- Who is the funniest person in your class? Why is he/she so funny?
- Tell me something interesting someone told you at lunchtime today.
- If you got to be the teacher tomorrow, what would you do?
- Tell me about three different times you used your pencil today at school.



GROWTH MINDSET AND CHARACTER

Please, don't forget to reinforce the notions of Growth Mindset and Character at home!

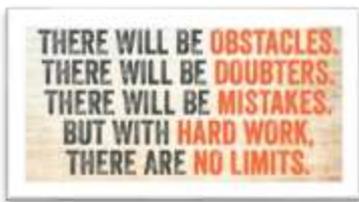


Growth Mindset
Believe that they can learn anything if they put in the work, practice, and effort to learn it.



Fixed Mindset
Think that they cannot increase their skill and knowledge in a particular area.

VS





Grit



Zest



Social Intelligence



Self-Control



Gratitude



Curiosity



Optimism

When a child says 'I can't do it!', we immediately correct them and say 'You can't do it **YET!**'.

- When you make mistakes we can see where you need help.
- Remember how challenging this was? Look how much you have grown.
- You can do it - it's tough but you can; let's break it down in steps.
- Let's think about how to improve this section/sentence/word choice...
- I am very proud of you for showing grit.
- The next time you have a challenge like this, what will you do?
- How will you challenge yourself next time?

How will you plan some activities at home for your children to show 'grit', 'gratitude', 'self-control', etc.?



SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS – FINALLY AVAILABLE ON PARENT PAY (APOLOGIES ABOUT THE DELAY!)

Kate (Paul, Maria, and Lizzie's mum) has uploaded 100s of photographs from last year on her website (www.see-photography.co.uk). She has created a private (password-protected) page which people will soon be able to access.

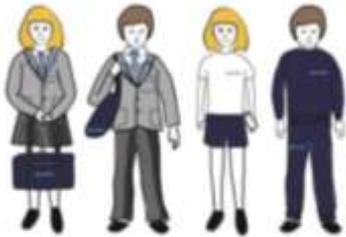
The photographs were taken by Kate, Tatyana (Daniil's mum, in Year 2), and Danielle (Dominic's mum, in Year 1) throughout last year. They are of professional quality. You will have seen some of their pictures on our Facebook page, on our website, and in our Newsletters, and I'm sure you'll agree that they are absolutely amazing!

The pictures are now available for sale on ParentPay for £15 (a price which we think reflects the amazing quality of the photographs). A glitch with Parent Pay meant that they weren't available until today. Please, purchase them by Sunday 22nd November. After 22nd November, we will email you a password to access the 100s of professional photographs on Kate's website. Obviously, this system – with the password being sent to individual parents/carers after 22nd November – relies on your honesty.



COLD WEATHER

Can all parents and carers please make sure that children are dressed appropriately for the cold weather? Please, remember to get your child to wear gloves, a scarf, and a woolly hat if necessary.



SCHOOL UNIFORM

The following is taken from our Uniform Policy:

“Our uniform policy reflects our values and reinforces our school’s culture of high expectations and academic achievement. All pupils must dress according to the uniform policy.



Our School Uniform is important to us. It is one way in which we identify ourselves as a school community and it promotes a strong, cohesive school identity which supports high standards and expectations in all areas of school life. It promotes harmony between different groups represented in the school, and it enhances security.”

Important reminders:

- Shoes worn by children need to be black.
- Flashing lights on shoes are not permitted.
- For Year 1, Year 2, and Year 3 children: ties need to be tied properly and blazers need to be brought to school every day. Children need to do the top buttons of their shirt.
- Boots can be brought to school but children need to change into their school shoes as soon as they are in the building.
- PE kits need to be complete for children to take part in PE lessons and physical activities after school. Not having a complete PE kits is a Health and Safety risk.
- Hair bands need to be white or blue.
- Single studs are allowed for girls.
- Socks need to be grey (plain).



There are still some children in Year 1, Year 2, and Year 3 who cannot tie their ties independently. Most children have learnt to do this over the past few weeks/months and it is important that those who do not know how to tie a tie yet are supported by their parents and carers to catch up.



LABELLING ALL CLOTHING ITEMS – COLLABORATION NEEDED

We need your help. There are still many children coming to school with clothes that have not been labelled properly. This is making our teachers’ lives very difficult!

If you search ‘Labelling Clothes’ on Google, you’ll find lots of online shops where you can buy labels. Many of them are very cheap (£2 for 20+ labels).

Looking after one, two, or three sets of clothes is simple. Looking after dozens is complicated! So help us make things easier.



Nick Gibb MP
Minister of State for School Reform

Sanctuary Buildings 20 Great Smith Street Westminster London SW1P 3BT
tel: 0370 000 2288 www.education.gov.uk/help/contactus

Dr Sebastien Chapleau
La Fontaine Academy
Princes Plain
Bromley
BR2 8LD

2 November 2015

Dear Dr Chapleau,

I am writing to convey my warmest congratulations to you, your staff and your pupils for the very high standard of achievement in the 2015 phonics screening check.

We want to ensure that every child develops a firm grasp of phonics which is why I so was delighted to see your results. With at least 95% of pupils at La Fontaine Academy reaching or exceeding the pass mark in the check, your school is in the top 5% of all primary schools in the country.

This year's figures show that 99% pupils who achieve the expected standard in the check go on to achieve at least the expected standard in Key Stage 1 Reading, which underlines the value of developing the ability to decode words effectively at an early age.

I am pleased to learn that you have ensured that your Year 1 children have a firm foundation in reading, from which they can develop further and become increasingly fluent readers.

Thank you for your work in this vital area of a child's early education and congratulations again to you and your staff for your hard work and professionalism.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Nick Gibb MP