

NEWSLETTER

STAY AND READ

Thank you to the parents who came along to our stay and read session. Do not worry if you were not able to make it, we will be holding another one in the summer term.



Farewell to Mrs Higgins

Last term we said goodbye to Mrs Higgins, she had worked at Leintwardine Primary School for 25 years and was a valued and much loved member of the team. She left us to go and spend time with and look after her family.

We wish her all the best and know that she will stay in touch.

If you would like to contribute to a retirement gift for Mrs Higgins please leave any contributions at the school office.

Teacher Strikes

As you will have seen in the press some teaching unions have voted for strike action, the first of which is on *Wednesday the 1st of February*.

A number of teachers will not be in school that day; it is our aim to open, albeit there may be some alterations to the provision in place due to the absences. However, if further unions join the strikes we may not be able to open fully during subsequent strike action days.

Please see additional information on the next page if you would like to know more about the teacher strikes.

Should there be any changes in school opening on future days you will be updated with as much notice as possible.



1st Saturday Toy Stall

The Toy Stall will have a rest until April First Saturday, when it will reopen along with an Easter Egg Hunt in the garden. We are still accepting toys. You can contact leintwardinecentretreasurer@gmail.com and we will arrange a time to suit you to accept them or alternatively bring them along to the February or March First Saturday and we will accept them then for you. The remaining toys are going to be car-booted and the proceeds will go to the school.

Thank you to all the families that have supported the First Saturday since August. The Toy Stall has raised £219.12 for school funds and has brought new families to the village First Saturday Market and café.

The Committee - Leintwardine Village Hall and Community Centre

Additional Teacher Strike Information

Please understand that teachers are striking against the national education policy and resourcing in schools and not against the children they work so hard for every day.

Although the strike is detailed as being about pay (and its gradual erosion over time) the reasons many teachers have decided to strike is about so much more than personal take home pay- however, the law only allows you to strike on certain issues with pay being one of them.

More often than not, a teacher's decision to strike is not based on their own personal circumstance, more the effect that these circumstances have on their pupils. Current funding levels in schools are woefully inadequate to meet the needs of society (despite the claims of real terms cash increases). For example, nationally and locally there are not enough resources or spaces to support children with the highest levels of SEND which means that many are not able to thrive in a suitable learning environment. This has a knock-on effect with resources being stretched even further when trying to support all pupils to fully reach their potential. Schools have national pay scales and are confined by the income given. When a recession and cost of living crisis hits, retail and hospitality sectors can put up their prices and then offer to pay higher wages to compensate this- schools with a fixed income can't do this

Therefore when teachers, like nurses, are striking 'because of pay' it is not very often solely because of their own take home pay. It's the impact it has on the service they can provide, that they long to provide. Having entered caring professions teachers and nurses never want to disadvantage their pupils or patients. They are not taking a day off (striking workers are not paid when they withdraw their labour) but they are left with no option to affect change. To tell those who can make the change enough is enough, we can not do our jobs any more. We need more colleagues, we need to fix the recruitment and retention crisis, we need to look after and train our workforce to provide the world class service our children deserve. Teachers do not take strike action lightly, they are opting to lose several days of pay to be able to send a message that enough is enough. I hope you understand they are doing this to protect your child's future.

Currently only one teaching union has reached the threshold for industrial action, it is likely that others will re-ballot quite quickly as it is believed the Royal Mail strikes may have inadvertently affected the results.

I aim to keep the school open to all pupils, however there is a chance that if additional unions join the strike action, this will not be possible. When making any decisions to close or partially close the school please beware there are many factors to consider. These include the health and safety aspects of a reduced staff capacity including adequate supervision, necessary first aid cover and the required safeguarding provision. I will also carefully consider the non-statutory guidance we have been issued.

With our positive working relationships in school, I anticipate being aware in advance of the plans of most of our staff and I will be able to plan accordingly and give you as much notice if your child's attendance may be affected.

Strike action is currently planned for Wednesday 1st February, Thursday 2nd March, Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th March.

Mrs Gorry