

Newsletter 1 September 2026



Welcome Back

Welcome to our first newsletter of this academic year! We hope that you have had an amazing summer break although it seems a long time ago now. Hello to our new families!

School staff were eager on our two INSET days to get back to the routines we know so well and to welcome the children back. I certainly missed being at school and it has been so lovely to see all of the children learning and enjoying themselves.

We have a geography theme for our class names: Capital cities.

Nursery- London
Reception- Cardiff
Year 1- Belfast
Year 2- Edinburgh

A massive thank you for your support at the beginning of the year. We really appreciate your patience as we get back into our routines. I appreciate those parents and carers who have not parked across from the school at drop off and pick up making school safer on the road and the pavement outside of school.

We also appreciate your patience with us at pick up whilst staff get to know parents, grandparents, carers and any other adults collecting. Please let the office know if your child is being picked up by someone new and give the person and office a password of your choice.

Thank you to the Key Stage One parents/carers for supporting our ethos around children waiting on the concreted area before school. This ensures a calm, purposeful start to the day so that staff are able to focus on learning and support children effectively.

Please remember if you have any queries, you can contact the office or speak to your child's class teacher at the end of the day. If parents need to go to the office between 8:45am and 8:55am whilst children are entering, we request that parents let the member of staff know at the bottom of the ramp so they can inform the office. Our school office opens at 8am every day.



Summer Projects

Over the summer, an incredible amount of work has taken place. For those of you who were at school last year, you'll remember me saying that we were taking the time to plan changes to our hall. We have had the kitchen units and all of the storage removed so now we have purpose-built storage, a new sink area, new flooring, cladding across the walls and repositioning of the projector and screen to make the hall more user

Before



friendly. We are loving it! Thank you to our Trust, Tapestry Learning Partnership for helping our vision come to life! A massive thank you to the awesome Mr Hallam, our site manager for all of his hardwork over the summer making school ready for September.



Now



Online Safety

With more and more children accessing devices and technology, it has become crucial for us to teach children how to stay safe online. Please feel free to use our Laceyfields' poster at home with the simple phrase: **stop, close, tell** to protect children from anything that might pop up or be unsafe. Hopefully children using devices will only access children appropriate material; however, we are finding games such as Roblox have inappropriate content on them. I am also aware that recently some of you have been sharing your concerns about smart TVs and ensuring that children cannot access YouTube. I would advise that YouTube kids is supervised as myself and some members of our community have had concerns about what is being placed on there. Thank you for sharing concerns and helping us as a community to keep children safe.

Be safe



Staying safe online

If you see or hear something online that upsets you:

- **STOP** – Stop what you are doing. Do not click on the page or reply to any messages.
- **CLOSE** – Close the laptop/device. Put your device down.
- **TELL** – Tell a trusted adult





STOP



Close



Tell

Keep personal information safe- do not give it out!

Don't talk to strangers even if they are friendly.

Tell an adult if something makes you feel worried or uncomfortable.



Friends are people we know in real life.



Behaviour and Attitudes- We are very proud of our children's learning behaviours. The staff work hard to ensure that the children feel a strong sense of belonging and plan fabulous learning opportunities, which support children's behavioural choices.

Our children love our Dojo systems for rewarding them for applying our school rules and values. We capture children's voice on matters which we call Pupil Voice. We found that children across the school were confident at remembering our school rules and could talk about them. It was impressive last year to hear our nursery children using them too. When we started to ask the children about our school values, the Key Stage One children (Years 1 and 2) generally could remember most of them, but we felt the Early Years children needed a hook to remember them- see image. We decided to use our oak tree logo and start at the roots where the rules are at the bottom of this poster. As the children grow and develop skills, they can move up the tree. The children came up with the animals and the

alliterative phrases. Creative cockroach, collaborative cow and respectful rhino are some of the suggestions that didn't make the final cut, but it was really fun to see the children trying out different ideas. Above is the final poster. Oakley is our attendance hero in the centre of the poster- see attendance section.

Behaviour and Attitudes

We aim to communicate in a way that the majority of parents find useful. Past parent surveys have shown that the majority of parents like all of the information to be in one place therefore the majority of information will be on newsletters so that you don't have to check websites, emails or other apps. Please see below what we use and why.

What?	Who is this for?	How and why?
Tapestry	Early Years parents and carers.	Mrs Worthington in the office sets this up for individual parents. Staff use this tool to record a few observations throughout the year. You will be able to log on and see the observations. If your log on isn't working or you have not received one, please pop into the office.
Arbor App	All parents and carers	You will need to download the app onto your mobile phone. Any messages for parents will come through the app. It was decided over the past couple of years that parents on the whole would prefer to get rid of our texting service due to the cost and invest those funds back into children instead. We do not use the messaging service on the app currently. We have one system that is monitored throughout the day- emails. If you are struggling with Arbor, please let us know. We have some parents who have volunteered to be Arbor experts and support you.
Class Dojo	All parents and carers	Mrs Worthington sets this up at the beginning of the year from new starters. A letter with a QR code will be send home for you to set yourself up or you will receive an email. Rewards system for children to collect points and for parents to check on the points of they wish. There are also other free resources you can use with your child at home. If this is not working for you or you have not had a letter, please pop into the office.
Newsletter	All parents and carers	This will come to you approximately once a month. You will receive a paper copy, which will come home with your child and an electronic copy which will be emailed to you. This will include all important diary dates and anything that we need/want you to know about.
Website	All parents and carers	There is a lot of information on the website that we are very proud of. Please go and have a look. I particularly like the video of our school- Bird's Eye View filmed with a drone. Diary dates and term dates can be found on the website as well as newsletters.

Staffing

We are delighted to announce that Miss McPherson our lovely teaching assistant has recently got married and will now be known as Mrs Bates. We would like to wish her and her partner every happiness as they begin this exciting new chapter.

After an incredible 26 years at Laceyfields, we are saying a fond farewell to Mrs Stone our Early Years teaching assistant, who has decided to move on from her teaching

assistant role. Mrs Stone has been a much loved and valued member of the school community for many years and her dedication, care and contribution to the children at Laceyfields will be greatly missed. We are incredibly grateful for everything she has done. We wish her well in the next chapter of her journey.

We also congratulate Mrs Gilhooley, who has been our much-loved SENDCO. Mrs Gilhooley will now be leading SENDCO across our trust and will still be very much working at Laceyfields with an experienced Trust SENDCO called Mrs Powlson. Mrs Powlson and Mrs Gilhooley have been working together last half term and this half term to ensure a smooth transition.

We welcome Miss Eley to the Laceyfields' Family as part of her teacher training. Miss Eley will be predominantly working in Year 2 with Mrs Hooton and Mrs Bates. She will be spending time getting to know the school, our children and our staff and gaining valuable experience alongside our experienced teaching team. We are pleased to have her with us and hope she has a wonderful time.

School life- organisation

Just a reminder of what your child will need each day:

- Waterproof coat
- Water bottle
- Optional snack- school provide free fruit for all children. Snacks need to be fruit, veg, cheese, meaty stick, cereal bar etc.
- Reading book for Year 1 and 2. Reception children are given a book during the second autumn term.
- Woodland clothes on their Woodland Day. Please ensure that these are as plain as possible. We have noticed that when children arrive to school with characters on their tops, it often distracts themselves and others from their learning. There will be opportunities on non-uniform days to wear these types of clothes.
- Library book on their library day

The most helpful thing that you can do overall is ensure that your child's belongings have their name in. Whilst children are learning routines such as getting ready for home time, it can be very difficult for children and staff if we have items that have no names in. We also appreciate how much these items cost and want to ensure that all items go back to their owners.

Thank you for your support.

Learning Maps

As part of our curriculum, we carefully plan the progression of learning so that each day builds on the previous day. There are some main threads to our teaching and learning that we share with you on your child's learning map.

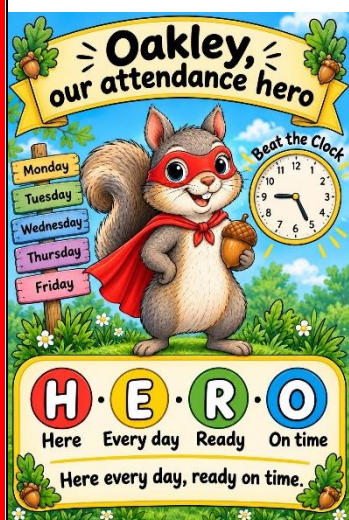
These are:

- **Substantive knowledge (the facts that they need to know)**
- **Key vocabulary (words that we introduced through stories and specific subjects and reteach checking what children can remember)**

- **Enrichments (experiences to aid their learning)**

Your child should have come home with their Learning Map. If you need a copy, please ask your child's class teacher. The Learning Maps are displayed outside of the glass corridor in the display cabinet.

Attendance

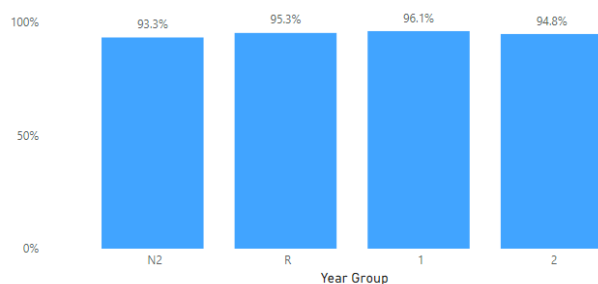


It has been such a great start to the year, and I wanted to say a massive thank you to ensuring your children arrives on time. Our ten-minute window for arrival is 8:45-8:55am. We have a huge clock on the front of the building as children love checking if they have beaten the minute hand. If children 'Beat the Clock, 'by arriving on time, they receive a Beat the Clock Dojo. For us, we want all of our children to be happy and feel confident. Children report that arriving late can affect them for a whole session or even the whole morning. It is hard when children feel unsettled due to being late. Each time a child is late, it also impacts negatively on the running of the office as the office staff will need to leave their station to support children going into class. Our target for good attendance is for our overall attendance to be 96% or above. We understand that there will be occasions where children are too poorly to come to school. Please call the office by 10am if this is the case.



Current attendance: **Well, done Year 1 - BELFAST CLASS** for your strong attendance so far this term. Each week the winning class receives the golden cup and a reward. The winning class of the term receives an Attendance Champion Tea Party.

% Attendance
BY YEAR GROUP



This chart shows current overall attendance starting with Nursery to Year 2.

Leave of absence forms need to be filled in for any appointments, holidays etc that are during term time. Holidays are not authorised and the government expects schools to issue Penalty Notices for unauthorised absences for those children who are statutory school age missing 5 or more sessions identified as unauthorised. We will inform you if this is to happen. The local authority leads on this once we have applied and the money that is taken from parents/carers goes to them.

Where possible appointments should be made out of school hours or later in the afternoon so children can access as much of their learning as possible. Because teaching and learning is carefully planned out in a progressive manner, just missing one session/one day can impact a child's learning.

Governors

We have an exciting opportunity at our school. We have space for two parent/carer Governors. We have four meetings a year to support and challenge school so please get in touch if you think this is something you could help us with.



**TAPESTRY
LEARNING
PARTNERSHIP**

BECOME A TAPESTRY GOVERNOR

*We need your time and your skills
to secure their future.*



**STRONG GOVERNANCE.
STRONG SCHOOLS.
BRIGHTER FUTURES.**



MAKE AN IMPACT
Help shape the strategic direction and improve outcomes for every child.



USE YOUR SKILLS
Share your expertise, ask the right questions and support strong decision-making.



ACT WITH INTEGRITY
Uphold high standards, follow the governance code of conduct and lead with integrity.



BE PART OF SOMETHING THAT MATTERS.
Be a Tapestry governor. Be the difference.



- ✓ Your community.
- ✓ Your school.
- ✓ Your impact.

Diary dates

Please see below for our term dates and/or our website, where all newsletters are stored. You can also find key dates in our calendar on the website. These dates are subject to change and more may be added. We will always endeavour to let you know dates as soon as we can.

Term dates for 2026-2027:

Autumn 1: 8th September (Nursery 10th Sept)- 23rd October
Autumn 2: 2nd November- 18th December
Spring 1: 5th January- 12th February
Spring 2: 22nd February- 25th March
Summer 1: 12th April- 28th May
Summer 2: 7th June- 26th July

INSET days:

Friday 27th November
Monday 4th January
Friday 25th June

Colour code: Nursery (London), Reception (Cardiff),
Year 1 (Belfast), Year 2 (Edinburgh) Whole School

Reception parents/carers: Over the next couple of weeks, children will be participating in a National Reception Baseline Assessment- please see separate letter handed out at the beginning of term. This can also be found on our website under the 'Parents' tab.

October

Children will be taking part in activities for **Black History Month**. We want to celebrate diversity in all we do every day; however, this is a great opportunity to have a deep dive into some inspiring individuals.

Tuesday 13th October- Early Years (Nursery and Reception) walk to Marpool Church. Please see separate letter.

Wednesday 21st October = **Autumn Fayre**. Due to the heatwave in the summer term, we felt that it wasn't safe enough to have a Summer Fayre, so we postponed it. We invite you into school, after school to explore the school, seeing staff in the classrooms and you will get to visit our new hall! Children will be having some enterprise sessions to generate funds for the school as well as goods, games and fun. We will let you know nearer the time of what there will be on offer.

November

Monday 2nd November- **Relationships Day**- The theme for this half term is: What makes a good friendship and how to resolve conflict? We will also cover safety during Bonfire Night.

Tuesday 10th November- **Remembrance Day**. Key Stage One children (Years 1 and 2) Will be walking up to the memorial park to mark this special occasion with one minute of silence. Please let Key Stage 1 staff know if you would like to join us on the walk.

Monday 16th November- Friday 20th November- **Anti-Bullying Week**. We invite the children to wear odd socks on the last day of this week.

December:

Dates to follow for Christmas Disco, Christmas singalongs, Christmas crafts, Christmas performances, a visit from Santa, Christmas dinner and a Christmas party.

Kind regards,

Miss Rogers and the Laceyfields' Family